



Energy and climate change  
Air and water quality  
Risk management and due diligence  
Resource efficiency and  
waste management  
Sustainable transport  
Innovation and knowledge transfer  
Sustainability

*Case Study:*

Helping UK Industry Save  
Over £1 Billion Through  
Improved Resource  
Efficiency - Envirowise



# Resource Efficiency

## Case Study: Helping UK Industry Save Over £1 Billion Through Improved Resource Efficiency - Envirowise

### Background

*Governments across the UK recognise that there is a need to move to a more resource efficient and low carbon economy. The Waste Strategy for England 2007, for example, stated, 'As a society, we are consuming natural resources at an unsustainable rate... Our aim must be to reduce waste by making products with fewer natural resources... We must break the link between economic growth and waste growth... Waste is a drag on the economy and business productivity'.*

*Although most UK businesses are becoming aware of their environmental impacts and responsibilities, many do not know what steps they should be taking and where to find information and guidance.*

### Issue

A lack of clear direction and guidance for businesses is a major barrier to the UK's resource efficiency targets and progress towards a low carbon economy. Envirowise is the programme that fills this knowledge gap.

Envirowise delivers a valuable Government-funded programme of free, confidential advice to UK businesses that enables them to both increase their profitability and reduce their environmental impact.

Envirowise is funded across the UK by Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and Invest Northern Ireland. AEA has been the lead management contractor for Envirowise since the programme began in 1994. We work with a range of partners in each country to create delivery teams with the right technical skills and local knowledge.

### Results

Independent impact assessments have clearly demonstrated the positive impact and achievements of the Envirowise programme across the UK.

The most recent impact assessment in 2006 demonstrated how the programme, in that year alone, helped UK businesses make costs savings £163M; waste savings of 550,000 te; raw material savings of 84,000 te; and water savings of 17.5M m<sup>3</sup>. This represents a significant contribution to achieving UK Government targets for cutting water

usage and waste sent to landfill. In 2006, the estimated total annual carbon benefit from reduced direct energy use and the embedded carbon benefits of using, processing and wasting less resources was approximately 0.5M teC.

Since 1994, Envirowise has helped UK industry save more than £1 billion.

### Solution

The Envirowise programme provides a range of information, advice and support services to UK businesses of all sizes and types and in all sectors. A free telephone Advice Line and the comprehensive website give business users immediate introductory information. More specialist services are provided to meet particular sector, geographic or individual company needs, including topic specific guides and case studies, site visits, workshops, on-line toolkits, events and supply chain partnerships.

### Customer Quote:

*"The key contribution from Envirowise has been a fresh pair of eyes on the process and their experience in how to communicate and really how to encourage and empower our staff in aspects such as waste minimisation and water minimisation."*

### Mark Bartlett

Environmental Manager, Ginsters

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