

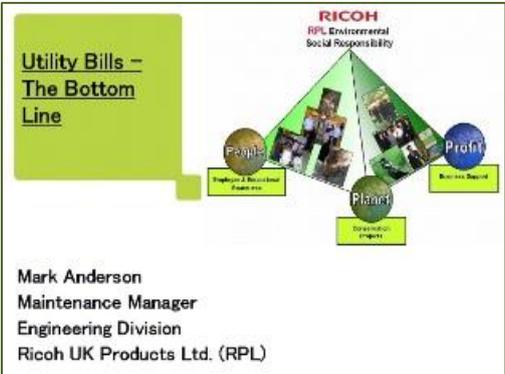


The focus of this event was on understanding utility bills and identifying ways of reducing these overheads that any company incurs. Mark Simmons, BESST Vice-Chair / Simmonsigns chaired the event and welcomed the speakers and guests.



L-R: Mark Simmons, Mark Anderson, Rob Cain, Ed Horgan, Robert Stuart & Glen Collins

The event began with a presentation by Robert Stuart, Knowledge Transfer Manager, University of Wolverhampton who talked to delegates about Smart Grids, and how all households will be fitted in the near future with Smart Meters which will enable better understanding of power usage. Smart Grids enable consumers to understand peaks and troughs in usage and can look at demand monitoring, how electricity is used around the home, how to distribute when needed and turn down when power is not required for one specific area/item.



The second presentation was given by Mark Anderson, Maintenance Manager at Ricoh Products UK, who explained how the cost of utility bills caused him to questions how much was being spent on water, particularly surface water drainage charges. Ricoh were approached by Cadantis, who then began working with them to challenge their water bills and eventually led to Ricoh receiving a substantial refund from being overcharged. Ricoh are now investigating implementation of a retrofit Sustainable Urban Drainage System on site

Mark's presentation was followed by Glen Collins of Cadantis who gave a clear and concise overview of how they can help with forensic bill investigation for overcharges from water providers. Glen talked about some of the legalities of claiming money back from these companies and the statute of limitations that can apply.

With the burden of proof of falling on the consumer to prove their charges are incorrect and should be adjusted, Cadantis were able to step in and help Ricoh claim back £250,000.00 and continue to achieve year on year savings.



Ed Horgan, Briar Associates - with a presentation that was themed 'Understanding Energy', Ed talked to delegates about some of the drivers for energy management, which include rising energy costs, complying with legislation and continuing environmental issues. Ed also covered some of the basics on how to work out power usage and understand what ratings people were being charged for electric and also to ensure they are on the optimum electricity tariff

Rob Cain, Business Support Officer for Telford & Wrekin Council, updated attendees on the Council's recently launched Switch & Save programme <http://apps.telford.gov.uk/switchandsave/>

All of the presentations delivered at the event can be viewed in the download library





Top Ten Tips from this event:

- 1) Ensure you understand your bills – if not – ask !
- 2) Monitor your usage – consider half hour metering from your supplier
- 3) Investigate peak usage – particularly in business ‘off peak hours’
- 4) Bring in forensic bill investigators if costs seem excessively high
- 5) Challenge your utility providers!
- 6) Remember your Back to Basics campaign ..
- 7) Energy prices are low at the moment but set to rise as we move out of the recession so buy now and buy long. (worried about this one as it’s based on opinion)
- 8) Build an inconsistent power supply in to your business continuity plans.
- 9) Focusing on any expenditure (gas, electric, water or waste removal) will identify opportunities to remove cost.
- 10) Commercial buildings for sale or rental will need to achieve an energy efficiency rating of E or better by 2018.

For further information on any of the environmental topics discussed please contact the BESST Coordinator Jaclyn Kitson on 01952 567578 or email jaclyn.kitson@telford.gov.uk