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## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER SPECIAL 2011

As promised in the last monthly (May) client newsletter, I have now had a chance to have a 'crack' at environmental issues we have to face as part and parcel of our health and safety commitment in the work place. (In other words I am waiting for a new project to start – so got bored!)

Issues of the 'Environment around us', caused by human influences, are vast and include major headings such as:

- **Climate Changes** – ocean rises, Global warming, oil and fuel extraction
- **Conservation** – extinction of plants, insects and animals, poaching
- **Renewable Energy** – wind farms, energy conservation
- **Health** – including air quality, asthma, poisons
- **Pollution** – land, light, noise, water and air
- **Waste control** – litter, landfill, recycling, incineration

There are others, of course, including mining, over fishing, pesticides, nuclear subjects, soil erosion, intensive farming, organic issues against modified.....visit Wikipedia, I just have and the list goes on and on.... and on!

However, the bullet point headings above can be affected directly by the way we do go about our businesses and in the management of our work places; time is running out for 'Mother Earth' (21.12.2012!!) and time has probably already run out for the Human Race in reality!



### HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS

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Let's take each 'heading' and consider our management at the present time and how we really can (or cannot!) make a direct influence on our environment:

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Straight away we can not only affect the subject but make savings ourselves – heating and lighting control, prudence (Gordon Brown move over!) in using oils, water, air conditioning – obvious really!

Turn the heating down by just a couple of degrees; time controls of advertising lighting: have them turned off for just an hour extra over night – you will not lose any trade but will save money'; recycle and filter workshop oils, ensure good bunding to catch any leaks rapidly, manage air conditioning so that offices are only cooled when absolutely necessary – the UK may be warming up but do we honestly need and require so expensive air controlled temperatures for most of the time?

*Due to a water shortage in Ireland, Dublin swimming baths have announced they are closing lanes 7 and 8.....*

## CONSERVATION

How can we influence here?

Consider recycling – paper, the infernal plastics, glass for starters – our Councils now get fined for land fill so have issued, some for a number of years, separate receptacles for recycling waste – but we can do so much more in the workplace by good management controls and some re-thinking of working practises (include florescent tubes, batteries, used oils and re-use of water).

We at Explorer Associates make every site / work inspection report with as many photographs as possible since a 'picture speaks a thousand words' – EVERY report has photos of bad or thoughtless storage, most showing waste in the workplace, often full waste bins, stacked car batteries, waste oil canisters with no collection point..... look around you – YOU can influence conservation issues and make your own operation more efficient.



Compared with Petrol.....



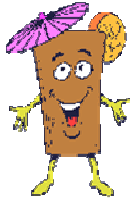
Think a gallon of petrol is expensive?



This makes one think, and also puts things in perspective.



Diet Snapple 16 oz £1:29 .....£10:32 per gallon.



Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz £1:19.....£9:52 per gallon.



Ocean Spray 16 oz £1.25 .....£10.00 per gallon.



Brake Fluid 12 oz £3:15 .....£33:60 per gallon.



Vick's Nyquil 6 oz £8:35 .....£178:13 per gallon.

And this is the REAL KICKER.



Evian water 9 oz £1:49 .....£21:19 per gallon.

£21:19 for WATER and the buyers don't even know the source.

(Evian spelled backwards is Naive.)

You don't even want to compare it with perfume or after shave.

Ever wonder why printers are so cheap?

So they have you hooked for the ink. Someone calculated the cost of the ink at .....(you won't believe it ,but it is true .....

£5,200 per gal...(five thousand two hundred pounds)

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

The wind, rain, sun and geothermal heat (underground heat extraction!) enter this heading and, again, we can have an impact here and make our work place more efficient at the same time!

Solar is obvious and should be considered – yes, the initial installation and plant costs a lot – but after that the returns are amazing and, in some types, actually enable you to sell power back into the national Grid – I like the idea.

Drainpipe catchment devices diverting rain water into butts are excellent and cost little; recycling of water and even the 'brick' in the cistern is a saver and not a stupid gimmick – the savings go through to your pocket as well as helping to save the World – give yourself a medal!

Dear Mr. Cameron,

Please find below our suggestion for fixing England's economy.

Instead of giving billions of pounds to banks that will squander the money on lavish parties and unearned bonuses, use the following plan.

You can call it the Patriotic Retirement Plan:

There are about 10 million people over 50 in the work force.

Pay them £1 million each severance for early retirement with the following stipulations:

1) They MUST retire.

Ten million job openings - unemployment fixed

2) They MUST buy a new British car.

Ten million cars ordered - Car Industry fixed

3) They MUST either buy a house or pay off their mortgage - Housing Crisis fixed

4) They MUST send their kids to school/college/university - Crime rate fixed

5) They **MUST** buy £100 WORTH of alcohol/tobacco a week ..... and there's your money back in duty/tax etc

6) Instead of stuffing around with the carbon emissions trading scheme that makes us pay for the major polluters, tell the greedy bastards to reduce their pollution emissions by 75% within 5 years or we shut them down!

Job Done! Next?

## HEALTH

Air quality and asthma – directly linked and proven!

How many times I have 'peered' into workshops to see, or rather not see, into a scene from Hell itself – dust and wood dust suspended in the foul air, fumes from grinding, particles from sanding, grime and muck sent explosively around by casual use of air guns, drilling, painting and on and on and on?

Why can't the work crew see what is entering their lungs with every breath, how come the management seem to ignore or not think of the consequences of the lack of action to supply clean and breathable air?

How often have I observed exhaust fumes from buses, coaches, cars, vans and even construction plant in confined work shops and work sites cocking up the whole atmosphere yet mechanics and site operators continue to cough and splutter in the immediate area?

When you DO 'pull them out' and make them look back into their working area – what do most do? Agree with you and light up a cigarette whilst you go off to tackle the manager!!

Pollution through noise, through glaring light on computers, in not providing correct personal protective wear when handling chemicals, in not protecting eyes EVERY time a bench grinder is in use – all health environmental issues that can, and MUST, be addressed immediately – you just don't have any excuse not to!!

We are all guilty of not seeing the obvious at times – very often indeed – and I strongly recommend that you set a note in your diary, weekly, to take 5 or 10 minutes out of your routine to 'do a walkabout' and just observe the workplace you control – include the loos, windows, outside access and escape routes, the workbenches, aisles and stores, state of the emergency exit signs, lighting, cleanliness in the canteen / kitchen, 'blind spots' open to fall and crash hazards.....5 or 10 minutes that could save a nasty accident, a falling out with the Environmental Officer or an HSE Inspector, an improvement notice or worse – a prohibition notice closing you down until you rectify the problem.



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