

PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESS GIFT FOR MORE THAN 450 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRMS

6 AUGUST 2007

Recycling staff now trained to work even greener, joined the party to celebrate today's first anniversary of Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed.

Nottingham City Council's waste management team is one of over 450 organisations from across the county to benefit from Train to Gain during the past year. The service aims to help companies identify and fill skills gaps within their workforce. It offers them the chance to use the skills of a specialist Skills Broker to improve their business performance by training their employees. More than 2,700 employees from across Nottinghamshire have accessed training worth almost £4 million during the past 12 months.

Speaking from their Eastcroft depot, Jason Martyn, domestic waste manager explained how the training came about. He said:

"We're delighted to be involved on the first anniversary of Train to Gain. Our trade union rep, Jon McHale, suggested the scheme as a way to help increase our staff's practical knowledge about recycling and climate change and also improve customer service skills. We then contacted South Nottingham College, who are a Train to Gain provider, to help us draw up a training plan.

“Thanks to Train to Gain and the NVQ in recycling and customer care, our staff are more knowledgeable and customer focused. The service was tremendous and the teaching was fantastic. It has really helped build morale among staff and we’re even on our way to meeting our 25 per cent recycling target for year ending 2007 – and this training has certainly played a part with this. We have also had less customer complaints, thanks to an even higher level in customer service.”

Almost 90 employees are on their way to benefiting from the training, including Ian Wilson, who said:

“I have enjoyed my time doing the NVQ. IT has helped me become more customer-focused and I understand a lot more about recycling.”

Neil Fowkes of South Nottingham College, which are contracted to deliver training under the Train to Gain service which is supported by LSC funding, said:

“ It’s been over 30 years since some employees have been in the classroom, so it’s great that its been treated with such enthusiasm and everyone has got so much out of it.

“The training has proved such a big success, as it’s been a three-way partnership between the college, on behalf of Train to Gain, the City council and the trade union. It has grown from ten employees doing the NVQ initially, to now more than 90 employees being trained up.”

Louise Benson, Partnership Manager at Learning and Skills Council Nottinghamshire, said:

“All companies in Nottinghamshire can access the Train to Gain service either by taking the Skills Pledge - a campaign to inspire people to improve their skills - or by contacting the Train to Gain helpline direct. Developing skills across the county is vital if we are to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being.”

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs of recycling staff at Nottingham City Council celebrating the Train to Gain birthday are available. Contact Jo Sheppard at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
2. Train to Gain is a service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
3. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.
4. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in December 2006, warned that the UK must 'raise its game' on skills at all levels if it is to sustain and improve its position in the global economy. The Skills Pledge fulfils a key recommendation made in the review, at the heart of a new 'deal' where employers will be able to shape the skills system to meet their needs, in return for prioritising skills training at all levels.
5. The Skills Pledge is a voluntary commitment by employers to increasing the skills of their workforce for the benefit of the business.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER
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