

GREEN ENERGY BUSINESS GEARS UP FOR GROWTH

Energy efficiency specialist, Green Home Systems, is preparing for a period of rapid growth. On the back of heightened awareness and activity in the green economy, and to meet the increased demand for its services, the company has expanded to new larger premises in Irvine and made significant investment in its staff and facilities.

Green Home Systems' mission is to eradicate fuel poverty and end climate change by making communities energy efficient and carbon neutral. It does this by installing thermal insulation, smart heating systems, renewable technologies, and electric vehicle charge points in properties throughout Scotland, and it works alongside

national utility companies to help them meet their energy efficiency targets.

The green energy business was established in 2014 and to date has installed over 10,000 energy efficiency measures, lifted 7,000 households out of fuel poverty and prevented more than 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere. It is able to offer Whole House Retrofit which is a complete approach to making homes more energy efficient by mapping out a journey for each property that includes strategies for improving insulation, ventilation and heating efficiency.

The company recently bolstered its senior management team with two new appointments: Alastair Macphie as Finance Director and Steven Porch as Operations Director. Managing Director, Steven Easton, said, "I am delighted with the appointment

of Alastair and Steven. They both bring considerable experience for the development of a fast-growing business and will play a key role as we expand across the UK. Our relocation to Irvine along with significant investment in the business has created a strong platform for us to grow, and we look forward to meeting the dual challenge of climate change and fuel poverty."

"One of our main barriers to growth has been the lack of applicable green energy skills in the wider economy, and to address this we are launching the Green Home Skills Academy which will allow us to expand our workforce by offering structured training alongside workplace experience. This will make us ideally placed to attract new recruits from out with the industry who are seeking to start a new career in the green economy."

Creating green homes for a green future

Thermal insulation
Smart heating
Renewables
Electric vehicle charging



Green Home
Systems

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COUNTDOWN TO COP26 – THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON CLIMATE ACTION

In November Glasgow will host the UK's largest ever international summit. With over 30,000 delegates taking part, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will see political leaders, climate experts, campaigners and government officials from across the globe agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.

A key discussion topic for the conference will be the urgency of moving towards a global zero-carbon economy and to demonstrate how countries, organisations, and individuals alike can adapt to climate change by making the transition. In addition to the negotiations, countries, international organisations, and other delegates will get the opportunity to share knowledge, highlight diverse climate change issues, and display their own actions towards climate change.

There are multiple ways to get involved, whether directly attending the conference as a representative, or working on tackling climate change closer to home, and in the run up to the summit, organisations, civil society groups, schools and individuals across the UK are being urged to take initiatives towards tackling climate change in their local areas. Businesses are being encouraged to join in the #RaceToZero campaign, an initiative of science-based targets to support regions, cities, businesses, and investors to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

COP26 will provide an excellent forum for Scotland to demonstrate its green credentials on the world stage and Ayrshire Chamber intends to use it as a platform to develop and support green initiatives and awareness throughout Ayrshire, including hosting our very own Ayrshire COP26. If you would like to get involved or have an event proposal please contact us or Ayrshire Chamber Board Member, Steven Easton via enquiries@ayrshire-chamber.org

£20,000 GRANTS AVAILABLE TO HELP AYRSHIRE BUSINESSES CUT ENERGY BILLS

Ayrshire businesses could receive up to £20,000 to introduce energy-saving measures.

Zero Waste Scotland's Energy Efficiency Business Support Service offers free and impartial advice to small and medium-sized organisations (SMEs) to help them cut their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions.

The service also provides access to the Scottish Government's SME Loan Scheme, which is now available interest-free with up to 75 per cent cashback thanks to an injection of £4m. The loan is administered by Energy Saving Trust.

Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said: "It is vital, particularly at the present time, for businesses to make the most of every penny they spend. Cutting down on energy use could make a positive difference to many organisations' bottom line and it will also help in reducing their carbon footprint.

"The amount of funding is limited, so I would urge eligible businesses to get in touch and see what we could do for them."

The SME Loan can be used for the installation of renewable heating systems, such as solar, heat pumps and biomass, and many energy efficiency measures, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning and building fabric.

SMEs are able to apply for an interest-free loan and receive a



IAIN GULLAND
Zero Waste Scotland CEO

75 per cent cashback grant of up to £10,000 towards the cost of a renewable heating system. They can also receive a further 30 per cent cashback grant, also up to £10,000, for other energy efficiency improvements.

With the support of the Energy Efficiency Business Support Service, more than 400 businesses have been helped with identified savings of £3,800,000 and 8,200 tonnes of CO2 emissions, the equivalent of 1,700 cars being driven for a year.

Businesses should contact the Energy Efficiency Business Support Service for a free energy assessment and advice about applying for a loan.

Visit www.energy.zerowastescotland.org.uk. Alternatively, contact their advisors by calling 0808 808 2268 or emailing EnergyEfficiency@zerowastescotland.org.uk