

## Profile of a Green500 Diamond award winner

Addison Lee joined Green500 in February 2008.

On joining Green500, the company underwent a carbon opportunities appraisal to help develop its carbon reduction action plan and to focus on key issues around carbon management. Once the action plan was prepared, Addison Lee sought internal commitment to the recommendations outlined in the plan – a crucial step that ensured senior management buy-in to the project.

## Green500 action plan

Addison Lee already had an environmental strategy in place and the company was making good progress. However, the Green500 action plan helped to identify areas where the company could significantly reduce its carbon emissions and, in some cases, actions required little or no cost.

Green500 actions identified:

- Undertaking an Energy Saving Trust 'green fleet review'
- Developing a robust system for monitoring fuel consumption and benchmarking performance
- Investigating opportunities for new-to-market technologies, including bio-fuels
- Senior management and board members taking an active role in carbon management
- Developing and publishing an environmental commitment document
- Monitoring energy consumption in energy intensive activities, including ICT
- Implementing a staff awareness campaign through internal publication
- Communicating environmental commitment through corporate PR
- Implementing a 'green procurement strategy'
- Server 'virtualisation'
- Configuring IT equipment to switch off automatically
- Ensuring that heating and air conditioning operate around building occupancy
- Double glazing the first floor

## Actions

The company had a good internal environmental system in place and this helped it to immediately start addressing the carbon reduction initiatives outlined in its action plan. Taking this proactive approach helped Addison Lee to schedule actions into existing time and finance commitments and gain momentum. Providing evidence to senior

management of savings, both financial and carbon related, helped to secure support for more difficult to implement actions.

## Awards judging:

When the judging panel reviewed the evidence submitted, it highlighted:

- Addison Lee initially installed A-rated windows on the first floor and immediately noticed a 5% reduction in heating costs. On this saving, Addison Lee fitted the entire building. With new windows, the company was able to review the ambient temperature in the building and reduce it by 1-3 degrees. This helped it to reduce its heating load by 16%.
- Addison Lee achieved combined savings by undertaking an Energy Saving Trust 'green fleet review' and the implementation of fuel monitoring and benchmarking systems. As a transport company, fuel is a necessary cost, but it now monitors total fuel consumption and is able to calculate the efficiency of individual fleet vehicles.
- Planning for the future is essential for all businesses. Addison Lee has now developed an energy management policy that will help senior management plan for the future and ensure that environmental performance improves.
- Working with suppliers and staff is an important element of any environmental improvement plan. Addison Lee recognised the importance of engaging staff, suppliers and clients in its efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The company is in the process of implementing a green procurement strategy to help the business make the right choice when procuring products or services.

“Joining Green500 was the perfect scheme to join; the people were incredibly helpful and professional. Their assessment covered all areas, and highlighted even the feeblest, to us, issues that they thought were salient when targeting carbon emissions. The energy breakdown enclosed in the report was a real eye opener and the action plan drafted by them really helped in setting the company’s directions and adjusting operational targets.”

**Lee Wickens, CSR and Quality Manager**