



REFURB
PROJECTS
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TRADITIONAL WINDOW MAKER GOES GREEN



Adrian Thompson, MD of Refurb-a-Sash.

“Over 80 per cent of people believe that climate change is having an impact on the UK right now and yet 40 per cent of us are doing nothing to reduce our energy use.” - Phillip

Sellwood, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust

One company doing something about it is Refurb-a-Sash in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Wood off-cuts are used to provide heat for the factory.

Adrian Thompson, Managing Director of Refurb-a-Sash comments – “As a small manufacturing business working in a mixed residential / industrial area we are acutely aware of our immediate impact on our neighbours and therefore treat our environmental responsibilities with great seriousness.”

Refurb-a-Sash is a specialist joinery making & installing bespoke sash & casement windows for London’s period properties, many situated within designated conservation areas. These high quality traditional windows are made from selected timber from renewable sources and use the latest glass technology to save heat and reduce noise.

But the real impact that Refurb-a-Sash is having on the local community is in its innovative approach to recycling and the manufacturing process itself. Instead of countless skip lorries removing waste to landfill sites the wood off-cuts are recycled to provide heat for the factory.

This simple measure provides innumerable benefits. It keeps skip lorries and their carbon emissions away from the

immediate area, reduces noise pollution and improves road safety for residents. It reduces energy consumption through eliminating the need to use fossil fuel to heat the factory. Of course, it also eliminates dumping re-usable waste into expensive landfill sites which in turn spoils the environment and landscape.

Adrian further explains – “Going ‘green’ is high on the political agenda of both national and local government and we have received a lot of support for our initiative. The specialised equipment we use for this recycling process has been part funded by the Carbon Trust. The economics for us becoming ‘green’ were overwhelming. We have reduced our gas bills to zero and reduced the number of skip lorries by over 50%. The resultant reduction of noise and carbon emissions has made a positive and significant impact on the area and in particular to the local residents.”

Although Refurb-a-Sash is a small business it is determined to do more for conservation. Adrian again – “As a lot of our work is local we will be going ‘electric’ for a number of our small fleet of cars and vans. The great thing about going ‘electric’ is not only that it helps the environment, it makes good business sense. So for us going ‘green’ is a decision based on a sound financial justification.”

The Refurb-a-Sash initiative has significantly improved the local environment for residents and made a contribution to reducing the overall carbon footprint of the Royal Borough. It also demonstrates that going ‘green’ can translate to helping even small business become more efficient and highly effective.

Web: www.refurbasash.co.uk



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◀ Typical upgrade sash bay window – timber double glazed sashes.