



the sunday times 60 best green companies

60 **Big Yellow Group PLC**
Developer and Operator of Self Storage Services

Environmental Impact	Low
Staff numbers	252
Gas	0.48 MWh (+0.6%)
Electricity	12.7 MWh (-1.1%)
Water	3,900 m ³ (+11.1%)

Big Yellow, the self-storage company, has stocked up on the latest technology and delivered ecofriendly ground source heat pumps to its newest stores in a bid to cut its electricity bills.

The new pumps, in storage facilities in Kennington, southeast London, and Bromley in Kent, will replace the need for gas-fired boilers.

Staff say that James Gibson, the chief executive, is committed to the environment. They say he puts environmental considerations high on his list of priorities (a positive green score of 66%) and encourages people to think about energy saving at work (65%)

Big Yellow believes that installing motion sensors in its storage facilities could produce savings of 30% and the introduction of LED lighting could reduce bills by 70%. Since 2007, the company has introduced two micro wind turbines and 10 solar panels in its facilities.

New stores will be fitted with solar panels as part of a strategy to generate between 30% and 60% of electricity from solar energy, depending on available roof space, an increase from the current 10%.

Employees are aware of the company's desire to cut its energy use and say their department



Big Yellow Balham Store, London to Brighton bike ride for Cancer Research UK. Employee bicycle ownership has increased by 8% since introducing our cycle to work scheme in January 2010



Paul Donnelly, CSR manager: "A Green roof provides additional insulation, wildlife habitat, rainfall retention, and local cooling in the summer"

is regularly audited and assessed for its environmental performance (62%). They feel their firm always does what is best for the environment (66%).

The company has a comprehensive travel plan to ensure employees can choose the most ecofriendly methods of transport for work. A bicycle purchase scheme offers between 30% to 40% of the cost of a bike.

Car share schemes are encouraged as is the use of a train travel card for area meetings and conferences. Central office staff have the option of logging in to the network from home and loans are offered to staff for season tickets on public transport.

Staff are aware of the company's environmental policies (78%) and say facilities like showers for people who cycle, walk or run, are excellent (56%).

The company operates a Bright Ideas scheme, which encourages staff to submit suggestions to improve the firm's environmental performance, and are given



Big Yellow's Twickenham store is one of eleven solar PV installations. Since 2008, we have generated 255 MWh of solar energy representing about 64% of the total renewable energy generation

rewards if their ideas are implemented.

Employees do not think environmental stuff prevents them getting on with their job (82%) and they understand fully what their carbon footprint is (59%).

The company's green strategy has been driven by the potential risks of climate change to its business from flood damage to its storage units and their contents and storm damage to roofs and outer walls.

bigyellow.co.uk



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