

PRESS RELEASE

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Thurrock ECO Stars celebrates 50th member

The Thurrock ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme is celebrating its 50th member with the sign up of Greenergy Flexigrid, who have been awarded a top rating of Five Stars.

The free scheme was first launched by Travel Thurrock in April 2012 to encourage fleet operators – of all sizes – to improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and emissions – all helping to improve local air quality. Since then just over 2000 vehicles have been signed up to the scheme which offers recognition and provides practical tailored guidance on environmental best practice with each member receiving a star rating for their fleet.

Greenergy is the UK's largest supplier of road fuel and third largest private company in UK, supplying over a quarter of all road fuel sold. Flexigrid is Greenergy's in-house haulage fleet with 101 trucks nationally and 15 driver depots throughout the UK, the largest of which is based in Thurrock.

The ECO Stars assessors were impressed by the high standards Greenergy Flexigrid had achieved with a strong focus on environmental impact, fuel management and operational efficiency.

Steve Willis, ECO Stars Fleet Consultant said:

“Through their skills development initiatives, Greenergy Flexigrid has incorporated its own driver training assessments which include an eco-driving module. The operation benefits from having the latest telematics and routing systems installed in its vehicles, producing a dashboard of performance indicators which drives further improvements.”

Ross Monkhouse, Fleet Asset Manager for Greenergy Flexigrid said:

“We are proud to have been awarded five stars – the highest ranking – under the Eco Stars Recognition Scheme for our commitment to maximising fuel efficiency and reducing carbon emissions through the introduction of new trucks and technology to monitor fuel usage.”

Thurrock is part of the Thames Gateway national growth area with the potential for increased traffic growth and CO2 emissions from freight transport. For this reason Travel Thurrock adopted sustainable freight as a core element of its Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme.

Ann Osola, Head of Planning and Transportation at Thurrock Council said: “We are delighted to reach this milestone in a little under three years. Our roadmap to improve transport performance and reduce costs and carbon emissions is providing a better environment for our community.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

- **Save up to £2,300 per vehicle in fuel costs**

By implementing the key measures recommended by the ECO Stars scheme, a typical HGV operator could expect to reduce fuel consumption by a minimum of 5% in the first year. Based on 80,000 miles per year at 8mpg and an average of 1 GBP per litre of diesel, there would be a saving of the equivalent of £2,300 per vehicle. For an operator with 10 vehicles this equates to a saving of one whole tanker of diesel!*

*Figures from Department for Transport Freight Best Practice Programme

- **1- 5 Star rating**

Each member of the Scheme gets a Star rating based on an assessment of how 'clean' their vehicle fleet is and the best practice they demonstrate in key areas of:

- Fuel management
 - Developing driver skills
 - Vehicle specification and maintenance
 - Use of IT support systems
 - Fleet performance monitoring
- ECO Stars was originally set up in 2009 in South Yorkshire and has since expanded to run in York, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Mid Devon, Nottinghamshire, Dundee, North Lanarkshire, Warrington, Sefton, Thurrock, Fife and South Lanarkshire. There are also further schemes in Europe as part of an EU project.
 - The ECO Stars scheme is managed in Thurrock by specialist transport consultants, Transport & Travel Research (TTR) Ltd.
 - It was set up in April 2012 and is part of the Travel Thurrock Smarter Choices initiative which in turn has been facilitated by the council's successful bid for funding under the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
 - Member types cover all types of vehicle fleets – specialist logistics companies, bus and coach, vans, public sector and other companies where distribution or commercial transport forms part of their business.