9 countries taking part in European-wide energy saving competition

In an effort to reduce carbon emissions and support the EU's drive to address the causes of climate change, organisations from 9 European countries are leading by example and addressing the energy consumption of their own public sector buildings. By taking part in the save@work competition the participating buildings will be pitted not only against each other but against those taking part in 8 other European countries.

The EU set itself a package of binding legislation to ensure it meets its climate and energy targets by 2020, setting out 3 key targets:

- 20**%** cut in **greenhouse gas** emissions (from 1990 levels)

- 20% of EU energy from **renewables**

- 20% improvement in **energy efficiency**

The save@work initiative aims to help the EU meet these targets. Funded as part of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, the save@work project is taking place in 78 cities, with 180 public sector buildings, over 9,000 employees and looks to save 3,100 tonnes of CO2.

Starting on 1st March 2016, employees from the participating buildings will be following an action plan of their own devising to encourage colleagues to reduce their energy usage by making small changes to their everyday workplace energy consuming behaviours.

This project, which is designed to be fun as well as beneficial, is about engaging with staff and enlisting their help to reduce the carbon emissions of their building by learning about how much energy they use and how they use it.   Under the guidance and encouragement of their in-house Energy Team, staff are given the help and support they need to make a difference be it turning off the printer before they go home or changing the settings on their computer. These are small changes to our everyday working energy consuming behaviours but when multiplied by all the people taking part, they can have considerable impact.

-ENDS –

The save@work initiative is funded and supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. Participating countries include Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, UK
www.save@work.eu

http://europa.eu/about–eu/basic-information/symbols/flag/index_en.htm