

Scottish Business in the Community
Mayday Summit Scotland and Wales – Nov 7, 2007

Brendan Dick, BT Scotland – speech notes

Why did BT become a May Day company?

Doing nothing is not an option, not just for ourselves but to ensure that all of us have a chance of a future that is bright for generations to come, both economically AND environmentally.

BT has been engaged in emissions reduction for many years and reporting on its performance for more than a decade. As consumer of 0.7 per cent of the UK's electricity, with engineers clocking up 100,000 miles a day in their vans on Scottish roads, our activities have the potential to make a big impact.

Our programmes aren't just about us, they are about working across our end to end supply chain, helping and persuading all organisations we source from to 'go green'. For example, our £10BN investment in what will be the world's most advanced core network (known as 21CN) clearly requires a vast amount of new technology; we are working with our suppliers to ensure that this next generation of capability does more, but with much less carbon footprint than the technologies it is replacing.

Since 1996, we have reduced emissions by 60 per cent, recently picking up the Dow Jones sustainability index award for the seventh year in a row. But we need to do more!

The May Day Summit was a focal point for an ongoing process which gives the business community focus and the opportunity to share good practice and raise the bar in a competitive spirit. It sets the example and provides incentive for others to get engaged.

BT progress since May

1. New challenging objective set of 80 per cent reduction by 2016.
2. Launched programme to operate 25 per cent of our current electricity needs from wind power by 2016. It is a tough challenge but our plans to generate from turbines on BT sites will help us attain a secure supply of energy going forward.
3. Major corporate push on flexible/agile working:
 - Our Global Services sustainability practice has launched a carbon impact assessment service to help large corporates and public sector organisations reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint.

Scottish Business in the Community
Mayday Summit Scotland and Wales – Nov 7, 2007

Brendan Dick, BT Scotland – speech notes

- We are helping our small business customers to reduce their carbon footprint and understand how sustainable business practices can deliver benefits to the environment and their business.
- Businesses and consumers can calculate their footprint and find out how to reduce it at www.btplc.com/climatechange
- We saved £238m last year using conferencing.
- And £70m in property costs through flexible working.
- The Scottish Government made an election manifesto pledge to promote more home and flexi working in the public sector and encourage the private sector to follow suit. This is still something we need to see evidence of progress on!

Make the mantra: “Work is what you do, not where you go.”

4. Data Centres

- We have 5600 exchanges and 107 data centres – the latter consume a high proportion of BT’s energy. For every 1 kilowatt used to run a computer, you need 1.2 kilowatts of power to cool it. With fresh air cooling as pioneered by BT, refrigeration becomes unnecessary for a majority of the year, reducing those costs by approximately 85%.
- BT also runs its servers hotter, extending parameters to between 5 and 40 degrees Celsius, further reducing cooling costs.
- Use of DC power straight to computers, at much lower voltages, has cut power consumption by 40%.
- A typical 2000 square metre data centre uses eight mega watts. An equivalent BT 21CN data centre uses 3.2 megawatts.
- Virtualisation is an emerging technology that uses idle network power to use resources more efficiently. BT’s main project in this area to date reduced a 1500-server data centre down to just over 100, saving £600,000 per year.

5. Employees: 104,000 in the UK, 8,500 in Scotland.

- We are holding global roadshows to tell employees what we’re up to and how they can get involved.
- 60 BT carbon clubs in the UK – self run by employees online.

Scottish Business in the Community
Mayday Summit Scotland and Wales – Nov 7, 2007

Brendan Dick, BT Scotland – speech notes

- Living Lightly Day September 07 – BT people have made more than 8000 pledges to take personal action.
- Employee discounts – range from green power to recycled trainers.
- Double whammy at home and at work - 80 per cent of employees say they have already adopted green practices at home.

Summary

Individual companies such as BT are already doing a lot to reduce their emissions. The May Day summit brought focus and helps those companies to share their practices and challenge each other to do more.

The last six months have seen key developments for BT in employee engagement, data centre activity, agile and flexible working, carbon practice activity and energy generation.

Businesses should always remember it is not just good to do – it saves money and helps the bottom line as well as the planet!