The Green Agenda in Facilities Management

Initial Findings to Asset Skills Research

About this Research

The Asset Skills Insight Team surveyed 30 FM professionals at the recent Facilities Show in Birmingham (which took place between the 15th – 17th May 2012) on the importance of the green agenda to their business and the industry as a whole.

Asset Skills is currently in the process of pulling together a thought-leader Insight Paper on the Green Agenda to be published later in the year, but were keen to share these initial findings with its stakeholders.

Key Findings

Green issues are important to FM organisations

- A total of 53% of respondents believe that green issues are very important to their organisation, with a further 43% stating that they were quite important. Just 3% of respondents said that green issues were not very important.

Green issues have grown in importance over the last 18 months for a significant number of FM organisations

- 67% of respondents stated that green issues have become more important to their organisation over the last 18 months.

Financial savings are the main factor that would motivate FM organisations to be more sustainable in the future

- In terms of the factors that would motivate them to be more sustainable in the future, financial savings were identified by the vast majority of respondents (93%); followed by environmental benefits (67%); legislation (47%); and own personal motivation (33%)*.
  **Note that numbers do not sum to 100%, multiple responses were allowed.*

There is currently a gap in the skills necessary to support the green agenda across FM organisations

- When asked whether they felt that their staff had the skills necessary to support the green agenda, 40% stated that staff had most of the skills. However half of respondents (50%) stated that their staff had <u>only some</u> of the skills necessary.

For those in FM the green agenda is here to stay

- When asked whether they agreed with the statement that the 'green agenda will **not** be here in the long term, and is **unlikely** to be relevant in 10 years', respondents **disagreed overwhelmingly** (37% disagree; 50% disagreed strongly), indicating that the green agenda is very much here to stay.

- 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'the FM industry's next generation of workers are likely to work far more sustainably than the current generation'.

More information on what the green agenda means to the FM industry would be of benefit

- 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'more support and advice is required around green issues to help raise awareness and compliance'.
- 74% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'there is currently a lack of clear understanding of what the green agenda means to industry'.

To help secure contracts and new business, FM organisations need to demonstrate that they use sustainable working practices

- 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'evidence of sustainable working practices play a role in the ability of businesses to secure contracts'.

New working practices and equipment are likely to be introduced as a result of the green agenda, this will inevitably have implications for skills and training

- 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'the green agenda is likely to lead to the introduction of new working practices and equipment'.

Economic conditions are having an impact on those in the FM industry to work more sustainably

- 77% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

Most in the FM industry think that the benefits of working sustainably are obvious

- 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the following statement 'personally I think the benefits of working sustainably are obvious'.

Greater funding is needed to assist businesses in their drive for greater sustainability

- 67% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

Most people in the industry work sustainably because they are forced to do so rather than because of any perceived benefit

- 53% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

About Asset Skills

Asset Skills is one of 21 Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) that have been established by the government to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK.

SSCs are independent employer-led organisations that cover different business sectors of economic or strategic significance.

Asset Skills represents five sectors in the UK: property and planning, housing, facilities management, cleaning and parking. Business in these industries share the goal of ensuring the environment in which we work, live and play is developed, managed and maintained to the benefit of all.

About Insight on Demand

Insight on Demand is the research and market intelligence consultancy division of Asset Skills.

Insight on Demand specialises in providing value adding and insight generating research and evaluation services. We employ dedicated consultancy and research professionals, whose expertise is in independent, insightful and high impact research, offering actionable advice and recommendations based on a robust and rigorous evidence base.

Please contact Michelle Jay (Head of Programmes and Consultancy) for more information or to discuss you research requirements (mjay@assetskills.org).

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