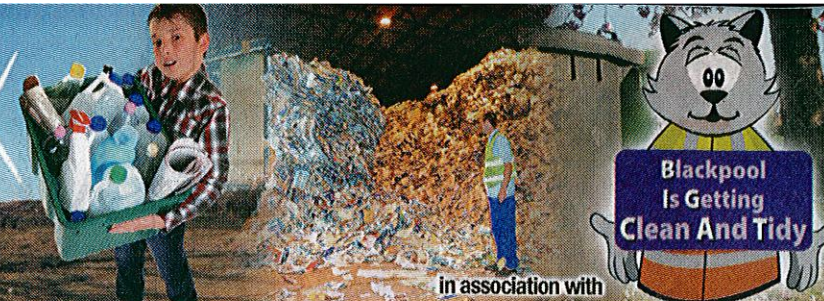


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Firms beat economic gloom by going green

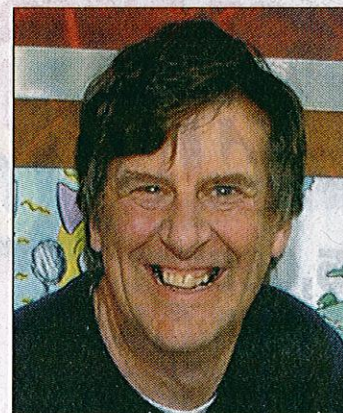
FYLDE coast companies can buck the economic downturn by helping the environment.

From efficient lighting to voltage reduction, there are plenty of ways businesses can slash energy costs by reducing carbon emissions.

It is estimated UK businesses lose two per cent of annual profit through inefficient management of energy, water and waste.

Dave McGrath, sustainability manager at the Solaris Centre, says business can check their water and electricity metres and bills to ensure they're not throwing water down the drain.

He said: "Look at the rate of use and find out if there are ways to cut back. There is often some in-



GREEN BOOST: David McGrath and (right) Impact! Directors Peter Lambe, Jane Barlow and Sean Egan with some of the lighting products

vestment but it will create savings in the future if the recession is going to last.

"Fit aerating taps, turn off lights when you leave the office, switch off illuminated signs and use timers on equipment."

One local electrical firm, DES Group, has seen the light and is now helping others to save money and the planet.

The Poulton-based contractors have launched Impact Energy Saving Solutions Ltd to show them how to make green improvements.

Bill Dugdale, Impact managing director, said: "Businesses can realise significant and long-term savings by reducing emissions from their workplace."

"The world is changing and the transition to a low-carbon economy will be one of the defining issues of the 21st Century."

The Government has set a target to cut emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

But local firms have already joined the green mission.

Impact is devising energy solutions for Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust and Fleetwood College.

It has already come up with a £3m, three year saving solution to Poulton-based building materials supplier Tarmac Ltd.

Sean Egan, director, said: "As energy prices continue to escalate and firms are pressured into attempting to reduce their carbon footprint, there has never been a better time to launch Impact."

"It makes the cost of energy improvements easy to finance for business owners because energy savings often completely offset the cost of the improvements."

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