



16 September 2009

Dear Member

Welcome to the third edition of LSA News, a quarterly source of comment and updates on issues relevant to the LSA Principles.

LSA membership continues to expand, and we now have 126 members. Recently joined members include Baker & McKenzie, Brodies and Manches LLP. LSA members now represent a quarter of solicitors in private practice in England & Wales. As ever I encourage our new members to use the [LSA Carbon Protocol](#) to measure their firms' carbon footprint and identify priority areas to cut carbon emissions and costs.

Hot Topic – measuring performance against the LSA Principles

The LSA is carrying out an assessment of members' performance against the [LSA Principles](#) and we are asking all members to complete a brief [self-assessment survey](#). Members are asked to report back on how they have implemented each of the principles so that the LSA can identify solutions and develop further tools and resources to support our members.

Information from submitted assessments will be collated in order to produce an annual report on behalf of the LSA membership. *Please submit this self-assessment by 2 October 2009.*

Hot Topic 2 – environmental management systems

Implementing an environmental management system can generate significant improvements in carbon strategy, and performance for law firms.

William Richardson and Charlie Curtis from Green Element have written an [exclusive comment piece](#) for the LSA, outlining key issues for the legal sector.

Green Element was commissioned to interview LSA members to find out what benefits they have achieved and recommendations on best practice for the implementation process.

LSA Update – forthcoming tools and events for members

Regional forums

The Legal Sector Alliance is hosting a series of regional events throughout October to showcase the business benefits of taking a proactive approach to climate change, with a focus on key climate impacts and opportunities for law firms. The events will include:

- An update on recent and forthcoming LSA initiatives and the LSA Carbon Protocol footprinting tool - highlighting the benefits of climate collaboration for businesses of every size and structure.
- Case studies from law firms and expert guest speakers to highlight the business and cost benefits of acting on climate change.
- Engaged discussions to explore climate opportunities for law firms.

Attendees will also be invited to discuss how future events can best serve the needs of your firms, to ensure that the LSA continues to focus on the topics most relevant to regional issues. The events are being kindly hosted by Bond Pearce and DLA Piper in Plymouth, Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield. More details can be found on the [LSA website](#).

Employee engagement and legal technology

Forthcoming new resources on the LSA website this Autumn include an employee engagement toolkit specifically relevant to the legal profession to enable law firms to easily assess where they are on their employee engagement journey.

IT and Legal technology is a key area where law firms can save money and reduce their carbon footprint. The LSA website will soon include expert guidance on best-practice in this area, including forthcoming blogs by IT experts.

Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who might find it of interest.

All ideas and feedback are very welcome, please email me at:
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Kind regards,

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