

# Stem Project Conference deemed big success

The one day cross border Environmental Conference organised by the STEM Project has been deemed a huge success by its organisers. The event, held in Armagh City Hotel, attracted over 200 delegates from a range of public and private organisations.

Marketing Officer, Anne Greene commented: "The conference was organised in response to the needs of both private and public body organisations. The main message we wanted to drive home to delegates was that regardless of the size of their organisation, their activities are likely to still have an impact on the environment.

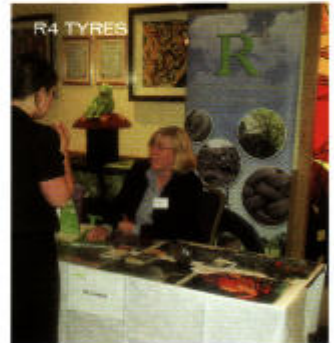
"If we all manage these impacts then collectively we can make a difference. An Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a tool for businesses to assess, monitor and control their environmental impacts. As a Project, we felt the best way to get this message across was through real life case studies."

The STEM Project is part funded by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme and coordinated by the East Border Region Environmental Working Group. It aims to promote the wider use of Environmental Management Systems within Councils and Businesses.

STEM has worked with nine cross border Councils and over 160 businesses in helping them implement an EMS. All the participating Councils plus Southern Group Environmental Health Committee have successfully attained ISO 14001:2004 in one or more departments. In addition to this success, over 50 businesses have been certified to a recognised EMS with many more planned for certification over the coming months.

## Experience

STEM drew on this vast experience at the recent conference by inviting two representative Councils, Ards Borough Council and Monaghan County Council, to talk on how, through the support of STEM, they tackled the EMS process and the benefits it has delivered to their organisation. Similarly, two very diverse businesses, Craigavon based company, Norman Emersons and Louth based business, Morgan Ocean Fresh Fish, provided delegates with practical examples of the



benefits of implementing an EMS in their business.

The Conference also boasted an impressive exhibition area offering delegates the opportunity to browse exhibitor stands displaying an array of environmental solutions from consultancy services to tyre recyclers.

With environmental issues rising to the top of many board room agendas, the STEM Project Conference came at an opportune time and succeeded to deliver a Conference unique in nature, it not only served the needs of public and private bodies but also give a balanced overview of the



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DELEGATES AT THE STEM  
CONFERENCE