



Energy Challenge

General Briefing sheet (Activity 3)

A local small garden centre which specialises in bedding plants and supplies hanging baskets and filled pots to the public as well as maintaining the local community gardens has decided that they are unable to expand the business further as the owners' son does not want to work in horticulture and has recently accepted an offer from a large garden retailer to sell as a going concern. They have been trading for 50 years.

Currently the site has water and electricity to the main building and a couple of large greenhouses. There is car parking space for some 30 vehicles. There is good access from the main road. Whilst the current garden centre grows a lot of plants from seed this has dwindled because of heating costs. The centre has a lot of used plastic pots discarded from making up the pots and baskets.

The directors of the large garden retailer have plans to expand the site by increasing the products it sells and make the centre a 'go to destination' and build a café/restaurant.

The retailer has asked four of its departments to consider how to make the centre environmentally friendly and more energy efficient.

The departments are:

- Marketing
- Distribution
- Property
- Human resources