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PRAXIS STAFF STAY GREEN

ONE local company is taking extra measures to stay environmentally friendly.

For the Praxis Group, which won a 'Keep Guernsey Green Award' last year, eco-friendly initiatives remain very much part of daily routine in the office.

The financial services company currently employs over 95 members of staff, all of whom have been supplied with a 'bag for life' to discourage them from using plastic carrier bags.

'We have all heard about the island-wide initiative to reduce the 10 million plastic bags used in Guernsey each year,' said Simon Thornton, managing director of the Praxis Group. 'Staff members were each issued with a recyclable shopping bag to give them the option of not using plastic bags and it seems to be working.'

Made from natural fibres, the bags are biodegradable and compostable. Staff have also been given shopping list note pads made from obsolete stationery, whilst recycling bins to collect lunchtime rubbish, such as cans and plastic, have been installed in our office.'

Other green initiatives include recycling of all printer cartridges and cardboard, old IT equipment is sent for refurbishment or recycled, and suppliers are asked to use environmentally friendly materials in packaging and to cut down on volumes of packaging wherever possible.

A team of senior managers meet regularly to monitor progress and review suggestions made by staff to improve the Group's energy efficiency or waste management and highlight problem areas.

'Working towards the Keep Guernsey Green Award last year demonstrated just how simple and easy incorporating recycling into everyday life could be. Most of our staff have increased their environmentally friendly endeavours at home as a direct result,' said Mr Thornton.

Achievement of the Keep Guernsey Green Award is a public acknowledgement of the contribution

an organisation makes in helping Guernsey maintain a healthy, clean environment by operating according to best practice in waste management, waste minimisation and recycling.

'We are proud to have won the Award but we didn't want to stop there or in any way get complacent. Recycling and considering the environmental implications of our actions in the office have now become part of our daily routine. The initiatives have been simple to introduce and easy to sustain. It is important to respect and conserve our environment as much as possible – Guernsey is a beautiful place and as long as everyone does their bit to sustain it then it will remain one.'