

## Press Release

For immediate release

---

Date 28 September 2009

### Headline    **Mediation service recognised for achieving green goals**

North East Mediation service UNITE were delighted to pick up a top environmental award on Thursday. The Middlesbrough-based firm won the prestigious Green Business Award at the 2009 Middlesbrough Community Environment Awards. The event, in its third year, was held at Middlesbrough College and was attended by businesses, community groups and schools.

UNITE mediator Mike James, who helped to write UNITE's Environmental and Recycling Policy and who has been involved in driving it forward said 'It's still sinking in. We won the Gazette's Champion Community Business Award in 2004 and last year we were finalists in the North East Business of the year Awards, so to now go on to win the Green Business Award 2009 is absolutely fantastic. It shows that all of our hard work has been worthwhile and we hope that other businesses will be inspired to do what we have done.

'Our 'green goals' now are to build upon this success, to make our business even more environmentally sustainable and to help other businesses become greener.

'For example, we've arranged for a demonstration of a driving simulator that shows drivers how to drive in a way that reduces petrol consumption and therefore reduces carbon emissions. Of course, it will save money as well!

'We're inviting other businesses and community groups to get involved in this so that the environment gets the maximum benefit.'

UNITE have been working in partnership with Middlesbrough Environment City who organised the awards. Dr Mark Fishpool, Director of MEC said "The Community Environment Awards celebrate the excellent work that is taking place in Middlesbrough to protect and improve our environment. UNITE have been exemplary in their approach. They have introduced a range of environmental projects into their own work, including recycling, sustainable transport and Fairtrade. They have also encouraged others to make a difference, leading by example".

The 16-year-old not-for-profit company and registered charity have taken a number of steps towards greater environmental sustainability over the past year. These include recycling all of their paper, glass, plastic and tin cans, buying only recycled paper and environmentally-friendly cleaning products, disposing of unwanted items through Freecycle, implementing a policy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and buying a





UNITE  
Southlands Centre  
Ormesby Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS3 0HB

Tel: (01642) 311633 (01642) 327583  
Fax: (01642) 324606  
Enquiries: [enquiries@unite-mediation.org](mailto:enquiries@unite-mediation.org)  
Website: [www.unite-mediation.org](http://www.unite-mediation.org)

bike for staff to use for commuting to work as part of UNITE's commitment to reducing their carbon footprint.

Helen Lowrie, Chief Executive Officer of UNITE said 'The inspiration for furthering our green credentials originated in my studying for the Diploma in Management Studies at Middlesbrough College. Our tutor, Paul Stone, took us through the subject of Corporate Social Responsibility. We had an assignment to write and a presentation to prepare and this really inspired me. Why shouldn't a charity like ours do things to help other charities and seek to have an influence beyond our usual sphere? So, for example, in the past year we've raised money for Wateraid, Zoe's Place and Macmillan Cancer Support. I'm very grateful to Middlesbrough College, Paul Stone and Middlesbrough Environment City.'

---

**End**

**Contact**

Mike James  
Press Officer

**Tel:** 01642 327583 ext 329  
**Email:** [mikejames@unite-mediation.org](mailto:mikejames@unite-mediation.org)  
**Website:** [www.unite-mediation.org](http://www.unite-mediation.org)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

UNITE Limited | Registered in England and Wales | Registration Number 2854345 | Registered Charity Number 148284  
PATRONS: Dr Ashok Kumar & Judge Michael Taylor