

# Case Study: Bio Bubble Ltd

Sustainable Business Awards Winner: Environmental Innovation & Technology Award 2007  
**Business Sector: Sewage processing plants**

## Company Background

Bio-Bubble has been in operation since 1989 and specialises in the supply of high quality waste water treatment systems for domestic and industrial use. Based in Emsworth in South East Hampshire, the business employs nineteen people.

Continuous and on-going research has seen Bio-Bubble develop the Advanced-Aeration system which imparts considerable improvements to wastewater using the carbon in the sludge to enhance the process, whilst excessively reducing the overall energy input.

***“I was most impressed with the holistic nature and success of Bio-Bubble’s system and the business’ consideration and action on many of the sustainable business criteria the assessors were looking for”***

**Awards Assessor**

## Summary of Key Achievements

Low waste, low energy treatment plants	
High quality discharge of sludge can be used as fertiliser	
Encouraging employee development	
Use of micro-biology instead of chemicals	
Increase in market share and further potential for growth	

**KEY**

Economic Achievements

Social Achievements

Environmental Achievements

## Environmental Innovation & Technology

Bio-Bubble’s unique treatment plant produces treated water and sludge of a very high environmental standard through an eco-friendly, low waste producing system.

Using microbiology and advanced aeration instead of chemicals, the Bio-Bubble system treats both liquids and solids thus saving on the expense of regular tanking and dramatically reducing waste. This innovative system produces odourless semi-solid matter which is of such a high quality it can be used as fertiliser without any further treatment.

Energy use of the Bio-Bubble system is much lower than traditional systems and Bio-Bubble boast that their carbon footprint is a massive 90% lower than other waste plant systems.

## Environmental Achievements

The waste water biological treatment plants produced by Bio-Bubble are both flexible and adaptable in their technological range. Bio-Bubble has produced plants for individual homes through to commercial units to cover a whole town.

Bio-Bubble’s high level of monitoring and control reduces the likelihood of failing discharge consents and unauthorised discharges, even under traditionally problematic circumstances such as during storms.

Key environmental achievements include:

- Operates to the highest environmental levels
- Treats all waste – both liquid and solids
- Discharge can be reused for irrigation and ponds
- Low running costs and energy consumption
- Minimum land use – unobtrusive installation

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Bio-Bubble innovative treatment plants are much more environmentally sustainable in their method of treatment than traditional systems. In addition to their technological achievement, the business attempts to be sustainable in all aspects of its work. The tank's pipes for example are usually made from reconstituted plastic and the unit casing is made from part-recycled stainless steel. The company refurbishes and repairs kits where possible and take back redundant kit for reuse and recycling.



An example of a Bio-Bubble plant

## Social Achievements

The business encourages staff development and offers employees additional specific training as required by contractors along with on-going industry training. Bio-Bubble always has at least one apprentice employee who they allow to take day release for college and other training.

The business strives to build a happy and fulfilled work force through creating a pleasant working environment, and encouraging employee suggestions and involvement in business strategy and operations. The company operates an equal opportunities policy and permits flexible working hours and locations.

Bio-Bubble aims to procure as many resources as possible from local businesses and considers the impacts of the products they buy.

The business often gets involved in the local community and has been involved in recent activities such as sponsoring days out for underprivileged children. Bio-Bubble is regularly involved in fundraising for the clean water charity WaterAid.



Example of a Bio-Bubble domestic unit

## Economic Achievements

Bio-Bubble has been operating successfully for 15 years and employs 19 local people. Over the years, the business has seen its market share grow and installed in excess of 200 units.

The business has developed a very strong reputation and earned high profile customers including housing associations and councils, the National Trust, the MOD and RSPCA.

Bio-Bubble exports its product to the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland where water use and economy are paramount. This export market still has much potential for growth.

Recent growth in the single and small units is expected to expand. Payback time for these units can be as little as five to six years, further increasing interest and demand for the product.

Bio-Bubble has a policy of continuous development that to date has five separate patents to protect the unique advantages gained.

Environmental Innovation and  
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