

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA is a hardware and building supply retailer supplying both the residential and commercial market and is located in Ferrymead, Christchurch.

Introduction to the Project

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2009. The Target Sustainability Programme supports businesses to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA's objective at the time of joining the programme was to reduce waste sent to landfill and to become more energy and water efficient.

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA implemented a range of projects to reduce waste sent to landfill and to improve energy and water efficiency.

Key Achievements

- **Reduced waste sent to landfill by an estimated 18% (9.8 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced lighting electricity use by an estimated 46% (138,544 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$18,000 per year.**



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Waste Reduction Initiatives

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 18% (9.8 tonnes) per year¹.

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA implemented the following initiatives to reduce and recycle waste:

- Implemented a waste potting mix collection system which is collected by a landscape gardener for compost. Previously this waste potting mix had been sent to landfill.
- Implemented a programme to reduce the quantity of broken stock through staff education to prevent damage that can result from unloading trucks using mechanical means such as forklifts. Stock with damaged packaging is freed from the packaging and sold via non-traditional avenues e.g. online auction websites.
- Implemented a wood waste collection system. Plywood pallet tops are donated to local community groups to use as materials. Untreated wood waste is made available for free to the public for use as firewood.
- Implemented a green waste collection system for plant waste which is collected and composted in Christchurch.
- Implemented an organic waste collection system in the staff cafeteria. The waste is sent to a worm farm in the garden centre.

- Implemented a collection system for empty plastic milk bottles, which are collected by the milk supplier at the time of their next delivery. The milk supplier takes the plastic milk bottles to their depot for collection by a recycling collection service provider.
- Installed a public co-mingled recycling bin at the entrance to the store.
- Implemented a procedure for management to check monthly waste collection invoices to monitor waste management costs. Management also regularly check for contamination of the recycling receptacles. This demonstrated that there was significant management commitment to the recycling initiatives thereby encouraging further efforts to improve recycling results.

¹ The calculations are based on figures supplied by the waste collection service provider and compare the period for the year from June 2010 to May 2011, which is the period when the organisation joined the programme, and the year from June 2012 to May 2013, when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented.



Worm farm for staff food scraps
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Untreated firewood collection unit © Copyright



Milk bottle collection crates in the staff cafeteria © Copyright

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA reduced its electricity use for lighting by an estimated 46% (138,544 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$18,000 per year.

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Replaced all the 260 metal halide 400W highbay lights, in the store and trade warehouse, with energy efficient T5 216W highbay lights. The electricity saving was determined by comparing lighting configuration before and after the lighting refurbishment and calculating the difference in installed lighting capacity based on 2,896 operating hours per year for the lights at an average electricity cost of \$0.13 per kWh.
- Tuned the building management system so that the lights will turn off when there is sufficient lux levels at ground level in the retail aisles.

Water Efficiency Initiatives

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA implemented the following initiative to increase water efficiency:

- Installed low water flow tap fittings in all the bathrooms and installed a low water flow fitting in the shower.

Ferrymead Mitre10 Mega could not identify which water meter was theirs so they did not monitor water use and water savings could not be quantified.

Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA has implemented a range of projects that have resulted in a significant reduction in waste sent to landfill and an improvement in energy and water efficiency.

“Participation in the Target Sustainability Programme helped to focus our attention on the sustainability of our business and, with the assistance of the consultant, we identified areas which would deliver us both a more sustainable and lower cost operation.” Ian Nouwens, Operations Manager, Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA.

Ferrymead Mitre10 MEGA plans to continue to look for ways to reduce and recycle waste and to incorporate energy and water efficiency measures into any replacement building.

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