

CASE STUDY



Countdown Rangiora

About the Company

Countdown Rangiora is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at the corner of Queen and Victoria Streets in Rangiora. The store sells general supermarket goods.

Introduction to the Project

Countdown Rangiora 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.

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

Countdown Rangiora implemented a range of projects to reduce waste sent to landfill and to improve energy efficiency.

Target Sustainability Programme

Key Achievements

- **Reduced waste sent to landfill by an estimated 41% (15.7 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced overall electricity use by an estimated 4.1% (58,600 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$6,900 per year.**
- **Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 4.5% (28,800 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$3,400 per year.**



Countdown Rangiora © Copyright

Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Rangiora reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 41% (15.7 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)¹.

Countdown Rangiora implemented the following initiatives to reduce and recycle waste:

- Ensured that the waste service provider recorded the weight of waste sent to landfill and recycling so the store could measure the improvement made through implemented initiatives.
- Implemented an organic waste collection system for butchery waste. A commercial collection service provider is taking this waste to a meat rendering plant.
- Improved the organic waste collection system for bakery and produce waste, that is collected by a pig farmer, through staff being more pro-active in diverting this waste away from waste sent to landfill.
- Implemented a plastic recycling collection system to recycle polystyrene, coreflute boxes and plastic strapping.

- Improved the co-mingled recycling collection system in the staff cafeteria for plastic containers, glass bottles, metal cans and paper through staff being more pro-active in diverting this waste away from waste sent to landfill.
- Minimised wastage by improving its “reduce to clear” policy and practices. This was achieved by improving stock control and “reduce to clear” pricing systems.
- Improved and expanded its Food Bank collection system for food items that are not saleable (i.e. damaged packaging) but are still good for consumption.

¹ The calculations are based on figures supplied by the waste collection service provider and compare the period between July and December 2009, which is the period when the organisation joined the programme, and the period between July and December 2013 when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Rangiora reduced its overall electricity use by an estimated 4.1% (58,600 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$6,900 per year.

Countdown Rangiora implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Replaced the dairy refrigeration units with units that perform more efficiently using less energy to satisfy cooling requirements. This initiative corresponds to an estimated electricity saving of 28,800 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$3,400 per year.
- Replaced damaged night blinds on the vertical chillers to reduce the cooling losses from the chillers during the night. This has reduced electricity use by an estimated 13,900 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$1,700 per year.
- Removed 10 halogen lights from the bread display area. This has reduced electricity use by an estimated 4,750 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$570 per year.



New dairy refrigeration units © Copyright



Repaired blinds on the vertical chillers © Copyright



Organic waste bin in the butchery © Copyright



Plastic recycling collection unit for polystyrene, coreflute boxes and plastic strapping © Copyright

Summary

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

“Participation in the Target Sustainability Programme has helped Countdown Rangiora to take action on a number of waste minimisation and energy efficiency initiatives. These actions enabled the store to reduce cost and minimise their environmental impact.” Leon Jarden, Countdown CODB Manager.

Countdown Rangiora plans to continue to look for ways to reduce and recycle waste and to implement further energy efficiency projects.

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