

AuCom Electronics Ltd

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

AuCom Electronics is a specialist in the design and manufacture of soft starters, motor control centres and medium voltage switch gear.

Introduction to the Project

AuCom Electronics joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2009.

The Target Sustainability Programme supports business to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

AuCom Electronics objective at the time of joining the programme was to reduce their waste sent to landfill and to become more energy and water efficient.

AuCom Electronics implemented a range of projects to reduce their waste sent to landfill and to improve their energy and water efficiency.

Key Achievements

Reduced waste sent to landfill by 40% per year (74 tonnes)

Saved \$8,440 in waste management costs per year

Increased cardboard recycling from 12 tonnes to 24 tonnes per year

Sent polystyrene packaging to the supplier for recycling

Saved \$1,615 in energy costs per year (7,020 kWh)



AuCom office © Copyright

Waste Reduction Initiatives

AuCom Electronics have achieved the following waste reduction results:

- Reduced waste sent to landfill from five skip bins emptied a week to two skip bins emptied a week - a reduction of 40% (approximately 74 tonnes a year).
- Reduced waste disposal costs by \$8,440 per year.
- Increased cardboard recycling by 100% from 12 tonnes to around 24 tonnes a year.

AuCom Electronics implemented the following initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste:

- Returned clean polystyrene packaging to the supplier for recycling.
- Used the Christchurch City Council co-mingled recycling collection system.
- Set up separate collection units for plastic, polystyrene and cardboard.
- Set up a process to return poster boxes to the supplier for reuse. This process saves an estimated 450 kg of cardboard per year.



Cardboard cage © Copyright

- Installed additional recycling collection units and located these units where recyclable material is produced.
- Implemented a process to send all electronic waste to a scrap merchant.
- Installed under desk paper recycling boxes to all office desks.
- Improved signage at waste and recycling collection units ensuring consistent signage and messaging.
- Colour co-ordinated waste and recycling collection units for easier recognition by staff.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

The main use of energy at AuCom Electronics is electricity. The following energy efficiency initiatives were implemented:

- Reduced the overnight temperature of the solder machine from 265°C to 120°C, saving 7,020 kWh per year (approximately \$1,615) – over 10% of the machine's annual usage.
- Installed motion sensors on the store room light, so the light isn't left on for extended periods.



Solder machine © Copyright

Water Efficiency Initiatives

AuCom Electronics implemented the following initiatives to increase their water efficiency:

- Changed the urinal flushing frequency on two urinals from eight flushers per hour to four flushes per hour. This saves an estimated 2.52m³ of water per year.
- Installed a trigger nozzle on the hose to reduce water use.
- Installed a timer on the irrigation system to ensure water is used efficiently. The timer is set to allow watering for 10 minutes, three times a week over summer and no watering occurs over winter.



Metal recycling collection units © Copyright

Summary

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

“Target Sustainability has highlighted that we discard so much waste that is wanted by others. We have reduced our waste overhead by more than 30% with a few simple recycling steps, and it is not hard to implement.” Dominic Van Berlo, Manufacturing Services Manager, AuCom Electronics.

Want more information?

Visit www.target sustainability.co.nz



Timer on the irrigation system © Copyright



Poster boxes stacked ready to be returned to the supplier © Copyright