

Countdown Colombo

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

Countdown Colombo is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at 219 Colombo Street in Beckenham, Christchurch. The store sells general supermarket goods.

Introduction to the Project

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

Key Achievements

- **Reduced waste sent to landfill by an estimated 22% (31.7 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 6.1% (50,700 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$5,100 per year.**



Countdown Colombo © Copyright

Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Colombo reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 22% (31.7 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)¹.

Countdown Colombo 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, deli, produce and bakery waste. This has reduced the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill by 17.7 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 30.3 tonnes per year. A commercial collection service provider is taking this waste to the composting facility operating in Christchurch.
- Implemented a paper recycling collection system for non-confidential office paper. The store has installed paper recycling collection units throughout the office area. These collection units are then emptied into a bin at a central point for collection by a commercial recycling collection service provider.
- Implemented a co-mingled recycling collection system in the staff cafeteria for plastic containers, glass bottles, metal cans and newspaper. This reduced the amount of co-mingled recyclable waste being sent to landfill by 560 kg in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 1 tonne per year.
- Implemented a plastic recycling collection system to recycle polystyrene, coreflute boxes and plastic strapping.
- 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 2011/2012, which is the period that has seen a significant increase in sales that is still on-going, and the 2012/2013 period, which is the period when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented. The 2012/2013 annual estimates are based on 7 months of real data and 5 months of extrapolated data.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Colombo reduced its electricity use for refrigeration by an estimated 6.1% (50,700 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$5,100 per year.

The savings were achieved by installing lids on the coffin freezers which saves electricity by minimising cooling losses from the coffin freezers.

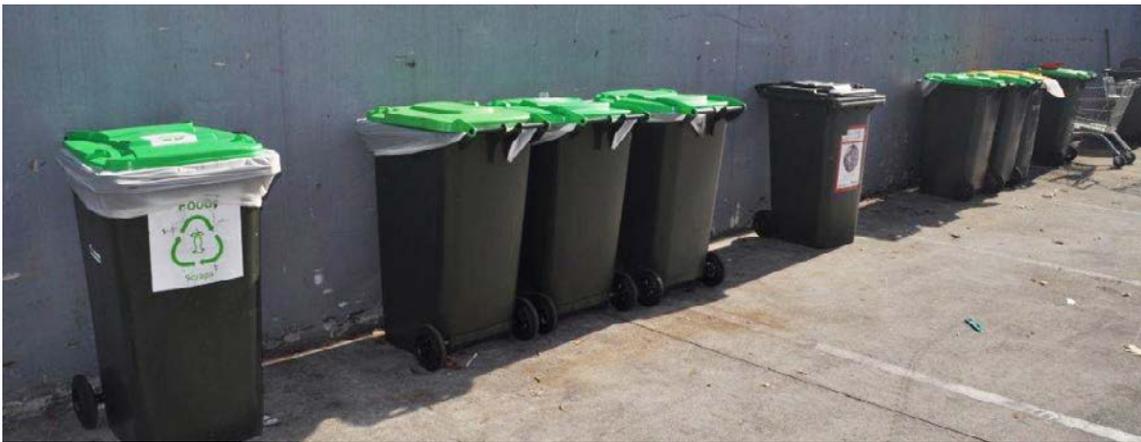
The estimated electricity saving is based on electricity use calculations that take into account parameters such as temperature differential between the refrigerator and the surrounding ambient temperature, size of refrigeration area and heat infiltration coefficient to determine heat transfer loads.



New coffin freezer lids © Copyright



Co-mingled recycling in the staff cafeteria © Copyright



Emptied organics recycling bins used in the deli, butchery, produce and bakery areas © Copyright

Summary

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

“The Target Sustainability Programme has helped us to both identify, and make our team more aware of, waste generation and energy consumption in our business. This has assisted us to focus on ways that we can reduce waste and improve our energy efficiency in the areas that we have control or influence over.” Andrew Gibson, Countdown Colombo Store Manager.

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

Want more information?

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