

## Countdown Moorhouse

## Target Sustainability Programme

### About the Company

Countdown Moorhouse is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at the corner of Moorhouse Avenue and Madras Street, Christchurch. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Moorhouse 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 Moorhouse'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 Moorhouse 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 42% (92 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced lighting electricity use by an estimated 15% (80,400 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$8,000 per year.**



Countdown Moorhouse © Copyright

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Moorhouse reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 42% (92 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

Countdown Moorhouse 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 and deli waste. This reduced the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill by 4.6 tonnes in the first 5 months. The reduction is estimated to be 11 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 and checkout receipts. The store has installed paper recycling collection units throughout the office area and at the customer service desk in the main retail area. This reduced the amount of paper waste being sent to landfill by 8.7 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 14.9 tonnes per year.

- 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 4 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 7 tonnes 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.
- Allowed customers to take cardboard boxes.

<sup>1</sup> The calculations are based on figures supplied by the waste collection service provider and compare the period 2009/2010, which is the period when the organisation joined the programme, 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, unless otherwise specified (e.g. organic waste).

## Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Moorhouse reduced its electricity use for lighting by an estimated 15% (80,400 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$8,000 per year. The estimated savings are based on the calculation of electricity savings given the current lighting configuration.

The savings were achieved by implementing a half-lighting policy between 11pm and 7am for all lights in the main retail area.



Cardboard boxes available to the customers © Copyright

Countdown Moorhouse also implemented a policy to use the night blinds on the chillers during the night. This initiative saves electricity by minimising the cooling losses from the chillers at night.



Polystyrene recycling collection cage © Copyright



Organics recycling bin in the butchery © Copyright



Paper recycling bins at the point of collection © Copyright

## Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Countdown Moorhouse 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 helped the Moorhouse store to identify, and make the team more aware of, waste generation and energy consumption. The waste reductions and improved energy efficiency will have long-term financial benefits to the store as well as supporting the Canterbury environment and infrastructure.”* Leon Jarden, Countdown COB Manager.

Countdown Moorhouse 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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