

## Countdown Northlands

## Target Sustainability Programme

### About the Company

Countdown Northlands is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located within the Northlands Mall in Papanui, Christchurch. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Northlands joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2010. The Target Sustainability Programme supports businesses to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

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

Countdown Northlands 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 33% (75.4 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced overall electricity use by an estimated 2.5% (74,810 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$7,466 per year.**
- **Reduced lighting electricity use by an estimated 5% (54,600 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$5,460 per year.**
- **Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 1.5% (19,650 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$1,950 per year.**



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### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Northlands reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 33% (75.4 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

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

- Ensured that the waste service provider recorded the weight of waste sent to landfill so the store could measure the improvement made through implemented initiatives.
- Implemented an organic waste collection system for butchery and deli waste. 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 paper. The store has installed paper recycling collection units throughout the office area.
- 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.
- Sending all of its own branded bakery products that are not sold by the required date to 0800 HUNGRY, a Christchurch based food charity.

<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 2013/2014 period, which is the period when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented. The 2013/2014 annual estimates are based on 6 months of real data and 6 months of extrapolated data.

## Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Northlands reduced its overall electricity use by an estimated 2.5% (74,810 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$7,466 per year.

Countdown Northlands implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Implemented a half lighting policy between 12am and 2am for all lights in the main retail area during the shelf stocking time period. This initiative corresponds to an estimated lighting electricity saving of 5% (54,600 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$5,460 per year (based on installed lighting capacity in the main retail area).
- Ensured staff used the blinds on the coffin freezers and vertical chillers to reduce refrigeration load after hours. This initiative saved an estimated 1.5% (19,650 kWh) of refrigeration demand saving an estimated \$1,950 per year. 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.
- Repaired a light switch in the meat cold store. Previously the cold store light was on continuously, increasing lighting electricity use and refrigeration load from the heat from the light. This initiative saved an estimated 560 kWh (\$56) per year.



Organics recycling bins © Copyright



Polystyrene recycling collection cage © Copyright

## Summary

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

*“Being part of Target Sustainability helped us focus our thinking on energy efficiency and waste minimisation. We have managed to make considerable improvements and achieve some good savings in those areas, while minimising our environmental impact.”* Leon Jarden, Countdown CODB Manager.

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

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