

## Countdown Northwood

## Target Sustainability Programme

### About the Company

Countdown Northwood is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at 1 Radcliffe Road, Northwood Supa Centre, Christchurch. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Northwood 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 Northwood'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 Northwood 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 27% (23.3 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced lighting electricity use by an estimated 5.3% (18,000 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$1,800 per year.**
- **Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 2.9% (19,700 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$2,000 per year.**



Countdown Northwood © Copyright

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Northwood reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 27% (23.3 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

Countdown Northwood 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 has reduced the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill by 6 tonnes in the first 5 months. The reduction is estimated to be 14.4 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. This reduced the amount of paper waste being sent to landfill by 2.1 tonnes in the first 5 months. The reduction is estimated to be 5 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 1 tonne in the first 5 months. The reduction is estimated to be 2.4 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.

<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 5 months of real data and 7 months of extrapolated data.

# Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Northwood reduced its electricity use for lighting and refrigeration by an estimated 37,700 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$3,800 per year.

Countdown Northwood implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Implemented a policy of switching off all lights in the main retail area for three hours a day over and above the store's after hours half lighting policy. This initiative corresponds to an estimated electricity saving of 18,000 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$1,800 per year (based on installed lighting capacity in the main retail area).

- Repaired and replaced damaged night blinds on the upright freezers to reduce cooling losses from the freezers during the night. This initiative corresponds to an estimated electricity saving of 19,700 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$2,000 per year.

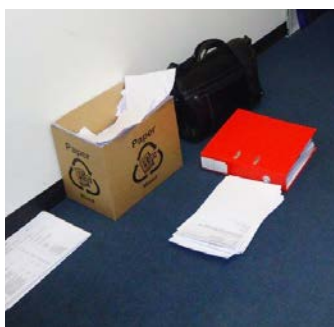
The estimated electricity saving is based on electricity use calculations that take into account parameters such as temperature differential between the refrigerator and the surrounding ambient temperature, size of refrigeration area and heat infiltration coefficient to determine heat transfer loads.



Organics recycling bin in the butchery © Copyright



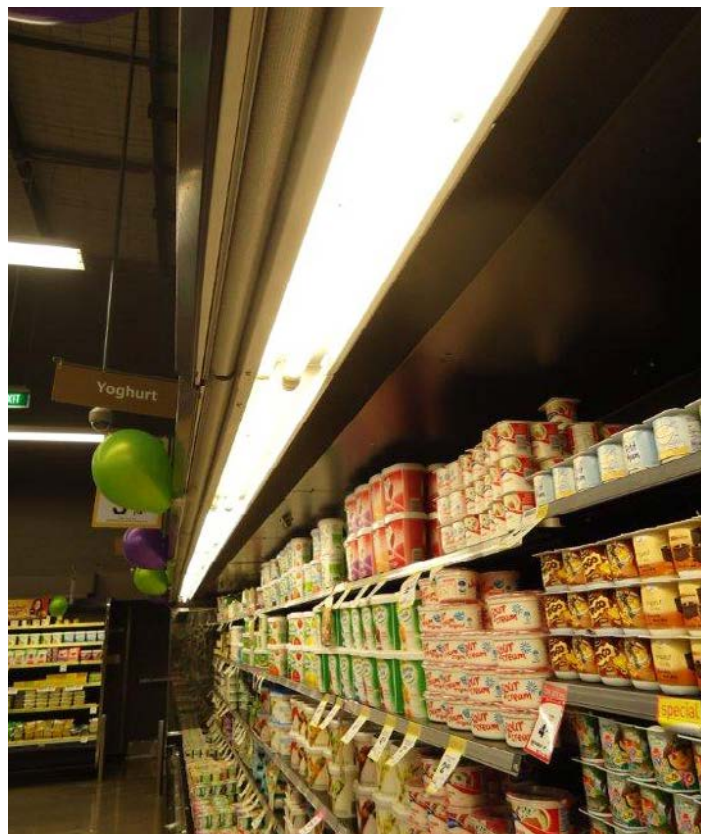
Organics, paper and co-mingled recycling at the point of collection © Copyright



Paper recycling in one of the offices © Copyright



Polystyrene recycling collection cage © Copyright



Repaired night blinds on a freezer © Copyright

## Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Countdown Northwood 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 gave direction to the store on where it could be more efficient in waste recycling and energy consumption. The initiatives on reducing waste and the focus on energy use will continue well into the future and the long-term results of this will benefit the store and the community in which it operates.”* Leon Jarden, Countdown CODB Manager.

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

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