

## Countdown Timaru Browne Street

## Target Sustainability Programme

### About the Company

Countdown Timaru Browne Street is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at 9 Browne Street, Timaru. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Timaru Browne Street joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2012. The Target Sustainability Programme supports businesses to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

Countdown Timaru's objective at the time of joining the programme was to reduce waste sent to landfill and to become more energy and water efficient. However, the Countdown Timaru store is scheduled for a major refurbishment in the near future, which meant significant investment in energy efficiency projects was not feasible at this time. Countdown Timaru decided to focus on implementing waste reduction initiatives.

Countdown Timaru implemented a range of projects to reduce waste sent to landfill.

### Key Achievements

- **Reduced waste sent to landfill by an estimated 22.5% (14.4 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced lighting electricity use by an estimated 11% (35,070 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$4,230 per year**



Countdown Timaru Browne Street © Copyright

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Timaru reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 22.5% (14.4 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

Countdown Timaru 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 waste. A commercial collection service provider is taking this waste to a meat rendering plant operating in Timaru.
- Improved the co-mingled recycling collection system in the staff cafeteria for plastic containers, glass bottles, metal cans and paper.
- Implemented a plastic recycling collection system to recycle polystyrene, coreflute boxes and plastic strapping.
- Allowed customers to take used cardboard boxes.

- 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.



Co-mingled recycling, organic waste and general rubbish bins in the staff cafeteria © Copyright

<sup>1</sup> The calculations are based on figures supplied by the waste collection service provider and compare the period between July and December 2011, which is the period previous to the organisation joining the programme, and the period between July and December 2013 when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented.

## Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Timaru reduced its electricity use for lighting by an estimated 11% (35,070 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$4,230 per year.

Countdown Timaru implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Implemented a policy of switching off all lights in the main retail area for four hours during the store's after hours. This initiative corresponds to an estimated electricity saving of 31,670 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$3,800 per year. This is based on the calculation of electricity savings given the current lighting configuration.
- Repaired and replaced contact switches on three cooling rooms. This initiative corresponds to an estimated electricity saving of 3,400 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$430 per year.



Repaired cooling room contact switch © Copyright



Polystyrene, coreflute box, plastic strap, paper and cardboard recycling skip © Copyright



Organics recycling bin in the butchery department © Copyright

## Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Countdown Timaru Browne Street 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 initiatives have been adopted across many areas of Countdown Timaru’s operations, and have helped achieve better resource efficiency and reduce costs.”* Leon Jarden, Countdown COB Manager.

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

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