

Mountain River Processors

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

Mountain River Processors is a venison processing company in Rakaia, that undertakes slaughter, boning and packaging of venison products for the export market.

Introduction to the Project

Mountain River Processors joined the Target Sustainability Programme in 2008. The Target Sustainability Programme supports business to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

Mountain River Processors' main objective at the time of joining the programme was to reduce energy use at the site.

Mountain River Processors implemented a range of projects to reduce their waste and to improve their energy efficiency.

Key Achievements

Reduced waste incinerated by an estimated 75%

Reduced energy use by 11% and energy spend by 33%, saving over \$65,000 per year



MRP administration building © Copyright

Waste Reduction Initiatives

Waste produced at the site is currently incinerated rather than being collected by a commercial provider so it is not possible to quantify waste reductions at the site. The site manager advised that the quantity of waste incinerated has reduced by an estimated 75% due to the waste reduction initiatives put in place.

Mountain River Processors implemented the following initiatives to recycle their waste:

- Co-mingled recycling is sent to the Rakaia Resource Recovery facility (including plastics, aluminium and steel cans and paper).
- Deer ears previously incinerated are now sent to a pet food producer.
- Cardboard recycling has improved by using additional cardboard collection crates and staff training.
- Cleaning rags and scourers are now checked by the cleaner daily and if in good condition are used for another day rather than disposed of.



Cardboard collection crate © Copyright

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

While a number of energy efficiency measures had been undertaken at Mountain River Processors prior to joining the Target Sustainability Programme, a number of opportunities for further improvement were identified through the energy assessment process.

Mountain River Processors reduced their electricity consumption by approximately 240,000 kWh per year. This corresponds to an 11% reduction in electricity use per year (based on a comparison between the 12 months to September 2008 and the period February 2009 – January 2010) and a saving of over \$65,000 per year. Mountain River Processors implemented the following initiatives to improve their energy efficiency:

- Converted the refrigeration unit for the slaughter board to a heat pump operation and disabled electric heating elements.
- Improved insulation for hot water and hot gas discharge pipes.
- Changed to a pet food client that used chilled meat rather than frozen meat so the pet food freezer now operates at 4°C rather than -15°C.

Several other actions are planned for the future, some of which will be done in the upcoming maintenance shutdown period. These include:

- Installing a variable speed drive in the air compressor.
- Installing an occupancy sensor in the Dry Goods Store.



Site chiller © Copyright



Packaged product © Copyright Mountain River Processors



Packing line © Copyright Mountain River Processors

Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Mountain River Processors have implemented a range of projects that have resulted in a reduction in waste incinerated and an improvement in energy efficiency.

“I am pleased with the outcomes for the site from the Target Sustainability Programme and the reduction in

waste in particular was a real success story, which was unexpected at the beginning of the programme”. Ian Stewart - Plant Manager.

Mountain River Processors’ future plans are to continue to look for ways to reduce and recycle their waste and to implement further energy and water efficiency projects.