

New Zealand Post Mail Centre

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

New Zealand Post Mail Centre is a mailing and postal service located near Christchurch Airport.

Introduction to the Project

New Zealand Post Mail Centre joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2008. The Target Sustainability Programme supports business to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient. New Zealand Post Mail Centre's objective at the time of joining the Target Sustainability Programme was to focus on reducing their waste sent to landfill as well as continuing to improve their energy and water efficiency. New Zealand Post Mail Centre implemented a range of projects to reduce their waste sent to landfill and to improve their energy efficiency.

Waste Reduction Initiatives

New Zealand Post Mail Centre reduced their waste sent to landfill by an estimated 39 tonnes/year. This corresponds to an estimated 71% reduction in waste sent to landfill (based on the average reduction in waste sent to landfill from converted volumes to weights before and after initiatives were implemented). The main waste streams that were being sent to landfill before the initiatives were implemented included paper, food waste, plastic strapping and mail trays. New Zealand Post Mail Centre implemented the following initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste:

- Established a resource efficiency team to monitor waste and recycling and to track improvements against targets.
- Implemented paper recycling collection in all work areas by installing paper collection trays at each workstation.
- Implemented a collection and repair programme for mail sleeves which have broken straps or are only slightly damaged.
- Implemented a recycling collection system for organic waste which is collected through the Christchurch City Council organic kerbside collection.
- Implemented a recycling collection system for plastic strapping. Collection bins were placed on the Mail Centre floor for staff to put strapping into.

Key Achievements

Reduced waste sent to landfill by 71%

Reduced electricity consumption by 8.9%



New Zealand Post Mail Centre sorting room © Copyright



Team member with the paper recycling "cube" and mail sleeve © Copyright

- Implemented a recycling collection system for used paper mail labels. Collection "cubes" were placed at key locations making it easy for staff to separate the labels.
- Replaced polystyrene cups in the café and staff room area with washable mugs. New Zealand Post Mail Centre provided mugs to all staff and encouraged staff to bring mugs from home.
- Provided staff training in waste recycling methods. The staff intranet has a dedicated "My World" page encouraging staff to think sustainably and to keep staff updated with what is going on in the business.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

New Zealand Post Mail Centre is located in a modern building that uses a Building Management System (BMS) to control climate and water systems. The BMS is a stand alone computer system that is used to provide a comfortable working environment for staff that occupy the building e.g. controls air conditioning, water heating and lighting. The BMS system controls, monitors and optimises these areas to minimise the amount of energy used. Since operation began, the BMS system has been configured to optimise the building's energy usage. A total of 119,867 kWh of electricity was saved between early 2009 and 2010. This corresponds to an 8.9% reduction in electricity use per year (based of electricity consumption before and after energy initiatives were implemented).



Team member about to empty the recycling bin © Copyright

Water Efficiency Initiatives

When constructed, prior to joining the Target Sustainability Programme, the New Zealand Post Mail Centre building was fitted with highly water efficient plumbing and water control systems. The building was also fitted with rainwater collection. Simple steps such as making staff aware of New Zealand Post Mail Centre's resource efficiency objectives and encouraging them to save water, are initiatives which are on-going and aim to improve water efficiency further.



New Zealand Post Mail centre BMS © Copyright

Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, New Zealand Post Mail Centre have implemented a range of projects that have resulted in a reduction of waste sent to landfill and an improvement in energy efficiency. New Zealand Post Mail Centre has also reduced its ongoing costs in energy and waste demonstrating that by taking an environmental approach towards business, it is possible to also be cost efficient.

"The people from the Target Sustainability Programme were fantastic. Through their experience and networks we were able to fast track our waste recycling and energy saving plans.

After each of their visits to the Mail Centre they provided us with new ideas on what we could improve further and who we could contact for further help. For our first waste audit, Target Sustainability staff helped sort through our rubbish with us so we could identify the recycling streams that we could use" Stuart Clook – Production Support Leader.

New Zealand Post Mail Centre's future plans are to continue to look for ways to reduce and recycle their waste to achieve their ultimate objective of zero waste and to further trial and implement energy efficiency systems.