

TE Connectivity

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

TE Connectivity is a technology provider, helping connect power, data and signal in everything from automotive and aerospace to broadband communications, consumer, energy and industrial applications.

Introduction to the Project

TE Connectivity joined the Target Sustainability Programme in late 2010. The Target Sustainability Programme supports businesses to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

TE Connectivity's objective at the time of joining the programme was to reduce waste and become more energy efficient. However, the TE Connectivity building will have to be rebuilt following damage sustained in the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes, which meant investment in energy efficiency projects was not feasible. TE Connectivity decided to focus on implementing low-cost waste reduction initiatives.

TE Connectivity implemented a range of projects to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Key Achievement

- **Reduced total waste sent to landfill by an estimated 48% (11.1 tonnes) per year saving an estimated \$3,000 per year**



TE Connectivity Christchurch building © Copyright

Waste Reduction Initiatives

TE Connectivity has reduced its waste sent to landfill by an estimated 48% (11.1 tonnes) per year between 2011 and 2012 based on the number of skips being sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented.

TE Connectivity implemented the following initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle waste:

- A reuse collection system was implemented for small cable reels. A manufacturer was identified in another part of New Zealand that required the small cable reels for repackaging of product for sale. There is no cost to TE Connectivity for transport of these reels to the manufacturer. The cable reels were a significant contributor to the waste sent to landfill in the TE Connectivity waste audit.
- Waste collection areas were consolidated. Waste sent to landfill and recycling collection bins were strategically placed together throughout the facility to encourage greater separation of recycling at the point of generation. This resulted in better waste sorting at the waste generation points and reduced the total number of wheelie bins used in the factory by 15%.

- A continual staff education programme was implemented which includes a high profile for waste separation ensuring on-going improvements in reducing manufacturing waste, including implementing Lean Manufacturing principles, and maximising recycling wherever possible.
- Waste collection bins in the staff canteen are colour coded to match the Christchurch City Council kerbside wheelie bin collection system.

The waste collection service provider did not provide weight-based monitoring data to TE Connectivity but instead provided waste estimates based on skips collected. It is important to ensure that weight-based monitoring data is collected so the effect of waste reduction initiatives can be monitored and success measured.



A staff canteen waste station © Copyright



Cardboard recycling cage © Copyright



Cable reels ready for collection © Copyright

Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, TE Connectivity has implemented a range of projects that have resulted in a significant reduction in waste sent to landfill.

“Participation in the Target Sustainability Programme has helped us to realise and take action on a large number of small waste reduction initiatives. It has been a pleasant surprise to see the large impact these small actions have collectively made on our waste generated and the cost savings from them.” Roland Sommer, TE Connectivity Plant Manager.

TE Connectivity plans to continue rolling out recycling into its warehouse and to incorporate waste reduction and energy and water efficiency initiatives into its new building.

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