

## Countdown Eastgate

## Target Sustainability Programme

### About the Company

Countdown Eastgate is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located within the Eastgate shopping complex located at Buckleys Road in Linwood, Christchurch. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Eastgate 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 Eastgate'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 Eastgate 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 33% (55 tonnes) per year.**
- **Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 7.7% (78,300 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$8,000 per year.**



Countdown Eastgate © Copyright

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Eastgate reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 33% (55 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

Countdown Eastgate 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 reduced the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill by 10.7 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 18.3 tonnes per year. A commercial collection service provider is taking this waste to the composting facility operating in Christchurch.
- 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 2.2 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 3.8 tonnes per year.

- Implemented a paper recycling collection system for non-confidential office paper and checkout receipts. The store has installed paper recycling collection units throughout the office area and at the customer service desk in the main retail area. This reduced the amount of paper waste being sent to landfill by 3.7 tonnes in the first 7 months. The reduction is estimated to be 6.3 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 when majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented. The 2012/2013 annual estimates are based on 7 months of real data and 5 months of extrapolated data.

# Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Eastgate reduced its electricity use for refrigeration by an estimated 7.7% (78,300 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$8,000 per year.

The savings were achieved by installing lids on the coffin freezers which saves electricity by minimising cooling losses from the coffin freezers.

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.



New coffin freezer lids © Copyright



Recycling signage and information in the office area © Copyright



Organics recycling bin in the butchery © Copyright



Co-mingled recycling bin in the staff cafeteria © Copyright



Paper recycling bin in the office area © Copyright

## Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Countdown Eastgate 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 us a clear direction on where we could be more efficient in our waste recycling and also with energy consumption. With the help of the team, we implemented a number of initiatives that helped reduce our waste. More focus on our energy use, and I’m sure we can make even more gains and cost savings.”* Aaron Murray, Countdown Eastgate Store Manager.

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

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