

## Countdown Ashburton

### About the Company

Countdown Ashburton is a Progressive Enterprises Ltd supermarket located at 470 East Street, Ashburton. The store sells general supermarket goods.

### Introduction to the Project

Countdown Ashburton 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 Ashburton'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 Ashburton implemented a range of projects to reduce waste sent to landfill and to improve energy efficiency.

### Target Sustainability Programme

#### Key Achievements

- Reduced waste sent to landfill by an estimated 24% (22 tonnes) per year.
- Reduced refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 10.3% (85,100 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$10,250 per year.



Countdown Ashburton © Copyright

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

Countdown Ashburton reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated 24% (22 tonnes) per year (based on the weight of waste sent to landfill before and after initiatives were implemented)<sup>1</sup>.

Countdown Ashburton 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- Implemented an organic waste collection system for butchery and outdated milk and yoghurt waste. A commercial collection service provider is taking butchery waste to a meat rendering plant. A pig farmer is now, in addition to collecting bakery and produce waste, also collecting outdated milk and yoghurt waste for pig feed.
- Improved the co-mingled recycling collection system in the staff cafeteria for plastic containers, glass bottles, metal cans and paper.
- Implemented an office paper collection system for reuse next to the printing station.

- Minimised wastage by improving its "reduce to clear" policy and practices. This was achieved by improving stock control and "reduce to clear" pricing systems. The store's wastage and mark down items dropped from 2.7% to 1.95% in the July 2012 to June 2013 financial year.
- 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.
- Allowed customers to take used cardboard and polystyrene boxes.
- Integrated waste minimisation education as part of new staff training.
- Implemented supervised waste disposal management in order to better control the store's waste disposal practices and divert as much of the recyclable waste away from the waste sent to landfill. This means that all general waste receptacles in the waste collection area are locked. A designated member of staff unlocks the receptacles when required and supervises waste disposal to ensure that recycling is separated from the general waste.

<sup>1</sup> The calculations are based on figures supplied by the waste collection service provider and compare the period between July and December 2012, which is the period when the organisation joined the programme, and the period between July and December 2013 when the majority of the recycling initiatives were implemented.

# Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Countdown Ashburton reduced its refrigeration electricity use by an estimated 10.3% (85,100 kWh) per year, saving an estimated \$10,250 per year.

Countdown Ashburton implemented the following initiatives to increase energy efficiency:

- Decreased the condensing temperature of the R404A refrigeration plant from 200psi to 190psi. This has reduced the refrigeration compressor electricity use by an estimated 50,000 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$6,000 per year.
- Installed blinds on the coffin freezers to reduce the refrigeration load after hours. This has reduced electricity use by an estimated 18,700 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$2,200 per year.
- Replaced damaged night blinds on the vertical chillers to reduce the cooling losses from the chillers during the night. This has reduced electricity use by an estimated 12,200 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$1,500 per year.

- Replaced two sets of plastic strip curtains between the stock room areas to prevent outside air coming into the main retail area.
- Installed two shear-flow air curtains above the main entrance and exit area. It is estimated that the air curtains save 1% of the total HVAC consumption or approximately 4,200 kWh per year, saving an estimated \$550 per year.



Organics recycling bin in the butchery  
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Coffin freezer blinds used after hours © Copyright



Repaired blinds on the vertical chillers © Copyright

## Summary

Since joining the Target Sustainability Programme, Countdown Ashburton 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 helped the Countdown Ashburton store to implement a number of waste minimisation and energy efficiency initiatives. Not only did the store save costs, but also built a commitment towards greater sustainability amongst its staff."* Leon Jarden, Countdown CODB Manager.

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

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