

Snowy Peak Ltd

Target Sustainability Programme

About the Company

Snowy Peak Limited designs, produces and markets garments from natural fabrics which are sold in New Zealand and overseas. The business is located at Roydvale Avenue.

Introduction to the Project

Snowy Peak Limited joined the Christchurch City Council Target Sustainability Programme in 2007.

The Target Sustainability Programme supports business to reduce waste and to be energy and water efficient.

Snowy Peak's objective at the time of joining the programme was to focus on adding value to its established sustainability development programme and to reduce waste sent to landfill and improve energy and water efficiency.

Waste Reduction Initiatives

Snowy Peak, in 2010, reduced their waste sent to landfill by 28% (4.46 tonnes) in 12 months. Snowy Peak implemented the following initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste:

- Collected 95% to 100% merino fabric offcuts (1610 kg per year) to be reused or recycled by the Textile Recovery Centre. This material is sent overseas and re-spun into new yarn and re-coloured. This generates a small income. The improved collection process has resulted in an additional 30% of fabric materials being diverted from landfill.
- Created new products from recovered merino offcuts - examples include blankets, cycling caps, neck-warmers, hottie covers and bedsocks. This is not included in the 1,610kg mentioned above.
- Implemented a cardboard yarn cone recycling collection system.
- Reused plastic bags for packing outgoing goods.
- Implemented a recycling collection system for plastic shrink wrap.
- Reduced the number of catalogues printed by targeting them to specific markets. This has reduced the dispatch of approximately 16,000 catalogues and 6,400 envelopes per year.
- Improved existing paper recycling collection systems through installing paper collection units by each workstation, printer, photocopier, and in the lunch room.
- Reduced paper use - all printers and photocopiers are set to double siding and staff are encouraged to use email more (3.62% saving in paper in the first year – approximately 20 reams of A4 paper).

Key Achievements

Achieved over 12 months in 2010

- **Reduced waste sent to landfill by 28% (4.46 tonnes)**
- **Reduced merino offcuts being sent to landfill by 1,610 kg**



Snowy Peak Ltd Head Office © Copyright

- Reduced food waste being sent to landfill through the use of a Bokashi composting system and the Christchurch City Council organic waste kerbside collection.
- Reviewing their supply chain to determine how the business practices of business suppliers align with those of Snowy Peak.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Snowy Peak seeks to procure, manage and use energy supplies in a cost effective manner consistent with the company's wider sustainability objectives to minimise overall energy use, and optimising the use of clean renewable energy.

Snowy Peak implemented the following initiatives to increase their energy efficiency:

- Developed an energy policy to ensure that energy use continues to be monitored and opportunities to reduce energy are identified. Energy use data is recorded manually from invoices to assist with the measure to manage process.
- Installed heat pumps in office areas replacing fan, column heaters and work station fans that had been used previously.
- Installed a new electric HVAC system (commissioned in 2010) replacing a diesel boiler. Diesel (approx 8,420 litres per year) is no longer used as a fuel for heating the main factory. Snowy Peak was keen to reduce its environmental footprint, provide better heating conditions for staff and source a more sustainable heating system.

Water Efficiency Initiatives

The main use of water at Snowy Peak is for the manufacturing process. Snowy Peak reduced water use by approximately 85% (estimated 432,000 litres down to 62,000 litres) per month. This reduction was mainly due to the identification of a large water leak. Other savings were made through improving staff education on water use and the change on washing cycle procedures. Snowy Peak implemented the following initiatives to increase their water efficiency.

- Established a water monitoring system to check for water leaks. The monitoring detected a major water leak in 2008 and if this leak remained undetected approximately 370,000 litres per month of water would have been lost which would have cost between \$9,000 to \$10,000 in excess water charges per year.
- Developed a water use policy to ensure that water use continues to be monitored and opportunities to reduce water use are identified.

Snowy Peak/Untouched World - Recovered Materials Process					
Food	Cardboard	Paper	Plastic	Dry Recovered Materials	Waste to Landfill or green composting
Bokashi System	Carter Holt Harvey - Full Circle	Carter Holt Harvey - Large Green Bin	Carter Holt Harvey - Yellow Bin	Becon Uni Bin	CCC council Bin Green Lid
All food scraps Bokashi System • Staffroom upstairs • Toilet area downstairs • Dispatch • Small container in small admin Kitchen	All cardboard must be flattened and stacked for transfer each day to large outside cage. • Boxes • Thread Cones • Packaging • Toilet rolls • Spiral Binders	All paper placed in boxes provided Confidential documents shredded. All shredded paper transferred Green Bin - Stapled paper OK - Glossy Mags OK - Remove paper Clips Green Carter Holt Harvey bin outside each day	All plastic that can be stretched with your fingers can be recycled • Plastic bags • Plastic wrapping This plastic must be transferred to the yellow Carter Holt Harvey bin outside, each day	All dry material that can be used • Plastic Strapping • Cotton material • Drink Bottles • Used Equipment • Wood • Metal Fittings • Hand towels • Polystyrene	All food soiled waste • Restaurant food soiled cloths, paper, cardboard • food wrappers • chip packets • Floor sweepings Residual waste above can be placed in a black bag and put in the Becon Uni Bin
Please don't put food in any other container, bin or Box	Please don't place food soiled cardboard in recycling ie Pizzas Boxes or mix paper with cardboard	Please don't place food wrappers or cardboard coffee cups in paper or cardboard recycling	Please place all other plastic containers, tape etc in the Dry Recovery Uni bin for BECON	No floor sweeping No green clippings No food soiled material or packaging	

Signage to help staff recycle correctly © Copyright

- Reduced the time and water used during the washing cycle of garments. The washing cycle has been cut by 15 minutes reducing water used in the commercial machines by 50% saving an estimated 163,000 litres of water per year.



Cardboard cones (from yarn) ready for recycling © Copyright



Bokashi system and CCC food waste kerbside bin © Copyright



Material offcuts ready for recycling © Copyright



New HVAC system © Copyright

Summary

Snowy Peak Ltd have been able to improve resource efficiency at their business by involving staff, employing a sustainability consultant one day a week since 2008, and by integrating resource efficiency into business processes. Sustainability aspirations are linked to the company's strategic goals and the reporting process.

"Sustainable practice is constantly being reviewed and new initiatives implemented as part of the regular and on-going shift in practice that underpins the Snowy Peak business model. The Target Sustainability Programme tools and assistance have been a key part of this regular ongoing monitoring of waste, energy and water. The Target Sustainability Programme has provided third party verification for resource efficiency work being implemented at Snowy Peak." Charles Fox, Chief Financial Officer.

"Snowy Peak Ltd is committed to playing a leading role in creating a healthy, vital and dynamic future for this planet and its people. Our efforts to reduce waste and energy and water use identify a component of this commitment." Peri Drysdale CEO/Founder.

Want more information? Visit www.target sustainability.co.nz