

Paper company adds up the cost savings from going green

- Electricity usage £154,000
- Gas usage £30,000
- Car fleet diesel policy..... £30,000
- Waste management & recycling ... £25,000
- TOTAL annual savings..... £239,000



The James McNaughton Group finds that it saves 2440 tonnes of CO₂ in the process

The James McNaughton Group is a major supplier of graphic and office paper, board, plastics and other substrates to the graphic arts and printing markets in the UK and Ireland. It has a turnover in excess of £260 million and employs around 680 staff. We took a look behind the scenes to find out how this expanding business has been able to achieve significant savings while pursuing a distinctly green agenda. There were environmental issues across its operations.

Recycling

Toner cartridges and old mobile phones are now recycled with the proceeds going to a charity.

The group is collaborating with the recycled fibre plant (RCF) of M-Real in Kent, to help that company collect and recycle a much greater percentage of the South East's office and printers' paper waste.

The paper collection is arranged by McNaughton's logistics company at the same time as it is making daily deliveries, reducing journeys and waste collection mileage.

The group's own waste paper will be returned to the recycling plant to be remade into recycled paper again for resale.

Meeting Miles

The company installed video conferencing facilities around its UK sites and has begun to supply all its managers with telephone conferencing cards with the objective of encouraging them to seek alternative ways of remaining in contact with their external sales people. Both schemes are aimed at reducing unnecessary 'meeting miles'.

Logistics

The McNaughton Group operates a large fleet of 116 diesel heavy goods vehicles, which are claimed to produce 6,521 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. When the fleet comes up for renewal, the intention is to purchase vehicles that can offer environmental benefits such as Euro 5 engines, the highest standard for low emission engines.

Over the last five years, the logistics company within the group has used better route planning to reduce the fleet by 43 vehicles, reducing road mileage by over 1 million miles annually, and carbon emissions by 1163 tonnes.

Two new all electric commercial trucks are being purchased: this type of vehicle will be used for central London copier paper deliveries and around Belfast business.

Energy

Electricity supply converted to 100% renewable energy supplying all of the company's warehouses and offices.

The total carbon emissions have fallen by around 15%, or 800 tonnes every year. The company is negotiating with a renewable energy supplier to erect a 72m wind turbine at the main logistics site within the group: when installed, this will supply all of its electricity requirements.

Following work with The Carbon Trust, the company published its first Energy Policy aimed at ensuring continued energy responsibility. Lighting control systems within its warehouses and main office buildings are expected to reduce actual energy usage by 30 - 40% per year.

The company has been investigating installing a biomass generator to replace the gas used to heat one of its central warehouses. When commissioned this will be fuelled entirely by the paper merchant's broken pallets, which would make the site's energy needs virtually carbon neutral. In the meantime, actual usage has fallen by 60%, which saves over 300 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

Car Fleet

From third party analysis, it was established that the diesel vehicles in the group were 30% more efficient than the petrol cars in the fleet. From 1 April 2007, the policy has been to acquire only 'diesel and hybrid only'.

Procurement

All paper purchases are made in accordance with the group's paper procurement Policy supporting responsible forestry management and has achieved dual FSC and PEFC accreditation.

Recycled products now make up 15% (£38 million) of its total group sales, and tonnage is growing by over 10% per year. Recycled copier sales have increased from 3,500 tonnes in 2003 to an estimated 30,000 tonnes in 2007.

Product Offer

Mc Naughton has developed an extensive recycled and environmentally responsible range of products and are actively committed to providing the company's customers with the information and advice necessary to make commercial conversion to recycled products easy and straightforward.

Environmental Management

The company operates to a recognised Environmental Management System (EMS), which conforms to the relevant requirements.

Corporate Responsibility

McNaughton has become the first company within the paper or print industry to be accepted for membership of The Corporate Responsibility Group. This is made up of 94 leading companies and corporations, committed to adopting a responsible approach to business practice.

Electric delivery vehicles have a zero Carbon Dioxide emission, are quiet to operate and shout loudly about any user's green credentials.



Carbon footprinting of paper and carbon neutral projects

In conjunction with one of the increasing number of companies specialising in carbon management, the company has developed a methodology for calculating the carbon footprint of its papers' production and delivery. This is available to customers.

A third party operation has been contracted to supply carbon offsets from two overseas projects.

Has it all been worth the effort?

The fact that The James McNaughton Group has won a number of trophies recognising its work - including the Extra Mile Award for Environmental innovation in the workplace in the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code Awards 2007 - suggests that the group has succeeded in saving money, reducing its carbon footprint and boosting its PR standing in the process. In our books, those would probably count as a fairly major achievements.