

Onyx Environmental Services

Achievements in the EnviroSmart[®] Programme

2007-2009

Key achievements

- Pollution prevention initiatives
- Achieving ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices to Tertiary level along with safety training initiatives resulting in a significant reduction in injury and lost time rates.
- Better environmental impact awareness and action programmes to reduce those impacts.
- A solid platform to work towards ISO14001 Environmental Management certification.



About the business

Onyx Environmental, part of the international Veolia Environmental Services Group, is a waste management company servicing the North Shore and Waitakere City area of Auckland. The company conducts street collection of organic rubbish bags and wheelie bins containing plastics, cans and glass. These bins go to the Onyx Materials Recovery Facility for separation, crushing and recycling options.

The company has outgrown its Henderson Valley Road operations depot and has recently moved to a new purpose built administration and operations facility, workshop and yard on State Highway 16 between Massey and Kumeu.

Achievements in the programme



Bunded engine oil tanks in the fleet servicing workshop.

Pollution Prevention

- The new workshop has installed bunded engine oil tank containment and mobile pumping systems to transfer lubricants to vehicles and collect waste oil for reuse as heating oil. Plus spill kits are ready to protect the yard and storm water systems.

Energy Efficiency

- The company has a simple policy for encouraging electrical energy efficiency that goes "switch off if not in use for next 40 minutes". Small signage strips are taped to all electrical lighting switches.

- Better route planning, vehicle maintenance, driver training and resource allocation is resulting in small but significant diesel usage reductions.

Water Efficiency

- Waste water treatment plant upgrade at new premises that will deal with run off from the purpose built truck wash bay.

Compliance

- Achieving ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices at Tertiary level.
- Extensive containment measures put in place for truck water blasting and cleaning.
- New bunding systems for workshop new and waste oil and for lubricant storage.
- Better awareness and analysis of the raft of regulatory requirements that may be applicable to the business.

Other benefits

- Being in the waste management industry, some staff looked at the EnviroSmart programme as some 'greenie' idea, however now that the organisation has gone through to Gold level they are seeing the benefits to themselves, the business and the community with a sense of pride.
- Upgrading of the safety programme and training systems resulting in a very significant reduction in injury and lost time data.
- A structured analysis and consequent awareness of the environmental impacts of our operation.



Challenges

- Getting wider staff buy-in and participation to achieve our environmental action plans.
- Keeping the momentum going.

The future

- Onyx is committed to continuing with the programme, and rolling out areas for improvement identified in the Gold objectives and action plan.
- To achieve ISO14001 level certification in line with global corporate requirements.

Advice for others

"The easy to manage programme structure, workgroup coaching sessions, tools and templates, networking with others and access to support personnel has assisted us to create a platform where we can now 'walk the talk' in our business sector and the community."

Charles Smith – Compliance Manager



This programme was sponsored by: North Shore City Council, Auckland City Council, Waitakere City Council, Manukau City Council, Papakura District Council, Auckland Regional Council, Landcare Research and Ministry for the Environment.