

Fumacare Ltd

Auckland Pilot EnviroSmart® Programme Achievements

Fumacare Ltd joined the Auckland EnviroSmart® pilot programme, in 2004, to achieve a number of environmental objectives.

The two-year programme provided assistance to businesses to improve their environmental performance by reducing solid waste, using energy, water and raw materials efficiently, and purchasing environmentally sound products and services, as well as achieving environmental certification to the Enviro-Mark®NZ Gold level.

Key achievements

- Waste to landfill has stayed the same despite growth in sales and in staff numbers
- “Green” driving policy has helped reduce fuel consumption
- Gained Enviro-Mark®NZ Gold certification

About the business

Fumacare Ltd, and its then division FumaPest provides hygiene services for washrooms and office environments, commercial and industrial pest control and quarantine fumigation. The company was established over 20 years ago and has branches in Auckland and Hamilton. Seventy people are employed at the Auckland site in Henderson which took part in the programme. To see more about the business go to www.Fumacare.co.nz.

The company has been experiencing increased client interest in its environmental credentials, due largely to its extensive use of chemicals. Prior to becoming involved in this programme, Fumacare only had experience of environmental management with regulatory authorities, related to compliance issues.

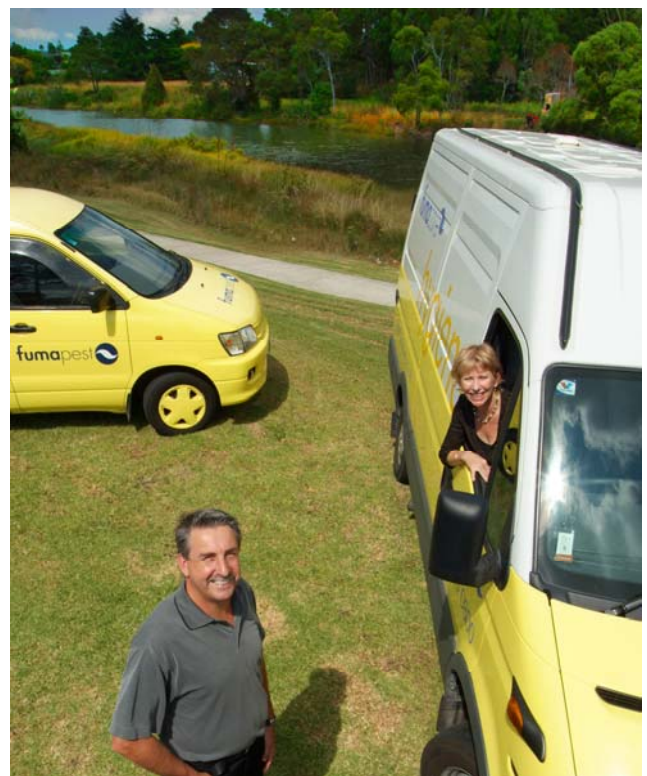
Programme achievements

Waste reduction

- Bulk buying has reduced packaging, and most packaging is either being reused, such as the 8kg plastic pails containing bagged bait, or collected for recycling.
- Waste levels have remained static over the year, while sales have increased by 9.5% and staff numbers increased from 55 to 70.
- Reusable bait is being sold back to the distributor for further use.

Energy efficiency

- To reduce fuel costs (one of the biggest expenses), the company has created a three-part green driving policy with tips for each part and made further improvements to its route planning.
- Fuel efficiencies are being sought as the fleet is upgraded.
- The company is collecting data on litres of fuel consumed per 100 kilometres and is considering a “green” driving incentive scheme for employees.



Ray and Trish, Fumacare Ltd

Suppliers and contractors

- The company has prepared an environmental questionnaire which will be part of its product selection procedure with new and existing suppliers. Apart from establishing environmental credentials, the company will also ask suppliers to look at ways of reducing packaging.

Best practice

- The company developed an environmental policy, which has been communicated to staff. Particular objectives are to be 100% compliant with current legislation and a socially responsible business.
- Hazardous substances are now being tracked under the hazardous waste tracking system.
- A building warrant of fitness was obtained.
- The company now has a tidier and cleaner workplace as a result of meeting Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act regulations.

Other benefits

- The company has had positive feedback from local government and private clients.
- They also found the programme helped it look at its practices and make improvements which they intend to continue.
- As the only pest control and hygiene company to have Enviro-Mark[®]NZ, the company thinks this will give it a competitive edge which will lead to increased business.

Challenges

- Time required (the programme champion spent 2-4 hours per week on the programme).
- Raising staff awareness regarding waste, costs factors and commercial pressures.
- Meeting compliance requirements, especially with regard to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.

The future

- Fumacare is intending to pursue Enviro-Mark[®]NZ to platinum level.
- The company expects that there will be more pressure from clients for products that have reduced environmental impacts, that government will come out with stricter environmental management regulations, and that international trends are also likely to have an influence.
- They are investigating a number of areas for action including the use of non-toxic methods of pest control, greater fuel efficiencies, and further paper recycling opportunities.

Advice for others

"The further through the programme you go," say project champions Nikki McKeown and Shane Byrne-King, "the more motivating it gets, as you see changes and paybacks from what you implement." They also advise others undertaking such a programme to make use of the contact with other participating companies. "It provided us with the opportunity to hear what they were doing, and so gave us a good feel for how we were doing ourselves. It also gave us new ideas and broadened our views."

If you would like more information about the programme, please see www.enviroSMART.co.nz



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 the Ministry for the Environment.