

Civic Contractors, Henderson

Achievements in the EnviroSmart® Programme

2006-2008

Key achievements

- Purchased five “Green Machines” for street sweeping - which are smaller, quieter, and more efficient
- Set up recycling systems at their depot
- Implemented systems for the recycling of steel from litter collections, and cardboard boxes from public toilet consumables
- Developed a comprehensive risk management plan



About the business

Civic Contractors has been providing services to local bodies, regional councils, property trust boards and utility companies since 1974. The company focuses on the provision of facilities maintenance services, and the care of the visual environment in public places. This includes litter removal, public place bin emptying, graffiti removal, and public toilet cleaning.

Civic Contractors is a medium sized, labour intensive company. Civic's Henderson depot was signed up to the EnviroSmart® programme in order to research and develop ways to improve their environmental practices.

Achievements in the programme



depot (see photo above)

- As part of Civic's public toilet maintenance contracts a new practice was implemented to return cardboard boxes from the restock of consumables in public toilets to the depot for recycling

Other initiatives

- A letter was sent out to all suppliers informing them of their participation in the EnviroSmart® programme. This led to a supplier agreeing to take back their own packaging for recycling

Waste reduction

- The nature of Civic Contractors work – collecting waste – means that they're part of the chain involved in removing waste from the environment. Therefore, as part of their participation in the EnviroSmart® programme, they looked closely at the containment and transport of waste. To ensure better containment and reduce litter, open ended trucks were replaced with covered trucks
- An depot recycling system was set up, collecting paper, cardboard and mixed recyclable containers
- A recycling initiative was set up to separate steel from waste collected from illegal tipping, and an onsite steel recycling skip bin was set up at the

- Much research was done into more environmentally friendly street sweeping vehicles. This eventually led to the import of five "Green Machines", which are much smaller, quieter, and more efficient vehicles (see photo on front page)
- EnviroPaints used for all Graffiti removal work and waste paint returned to supplier



Risk management plan

Undertook a risk management plan, which led to:

- Bunding and covering of paint wash-up water, and the purchase of a spill kit (see photo to right)
- Bunding across door of paint storage room
- Labelling of all storm water drains to protect stream running along the back of the property
- Establishing a programme to clean out sump pits
- Placing mesh across the back fence to prevent wind blown litter from reaching the stream
- The installation of back-flow preventors

Other benefits

"The information gathered on our own practices was hugely beneficial. We started to learn a lot more about the locations we were working in, and the processes we were undertaking. That then led us to start investigating new technologies, and eventually getting technologies engineered to suit our needs." - Allan Norgrove, Business Development Manager

- There was strong management support, which helped the business to get maximum value from the programme
- The development of environmental policies and procedures has been very worthwhile, both for this site and other Civic Contracting sites, and these policies are now all available on the company's Intranet site

Challenges

- Generating awareness amongst staff. This is an ongoing challenge, making sure that everybody understands that what they do affects the environment.

Advice for others

"We encourage any business to start an environmental programme. In the end there'll be a number of efficiencies to be gained through improved practices." - Allan Norgrove, Business Development Manager



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