



Christchurch Site Goes Green: Iplex Pipelines NZ Limited

best practice programme environmental management systems

Iplex Pipelines manufactures and supplies plastic pipeline systems throughout Australasia. The pipeline systems range in diameter from 15 mm to 3000 mm for a diverse range of applications, including water supply, sewerage, plumbing, gas, stormwater, irrigation, telecommunication, electrical, mining, and industrial. Iplex operates manufacturing facilities in every Australian state, New Zealand, and Singapore. They use both extrusion and injection moulding processes. The Christchurch site is the first to start working towards Enviro-Mark@NZ accreditation.



Our Objective: Achieve Gold Enviro-Mark@NZ Standard.

Cost: This is more of a procedures system so far costs & savings have not yet come through.

Project Description: This is a levels system where we work through the levels: bronze, silver, gold, diamond, platinum. Platinum is equal to ISO 14001.

How we implemented the project: Iplex Pipelines has an environmental policy that has been in place for some time. This is linked to health and safety processes and was designed at a corporate level. This has been implemented at the Christchurch site through a focus on recycling of waste pipe, steel strapping and wooden pellets, the use of regrind, and the reuse of 25-kg bags into feedstock for pipes.



Shane Green, Production Manager, has taken on the role of champion personally, to ensure that the whole site understands what is going on. His personal drive to do well and perform environmentally comes through in the development of the systems. Part of this process has also been a learning process about what the company already has in place and how this can be linked into the Enviro-Mark@NZ programme.

He believes the Silver Level may require some more work on his part to develop lists of the site environmental impacts and way to minimise these. The site would like to be a little further ahead but the site developments and adding of new machinery has meant time pressures have limited this.

Project Team: Shane Green - Production Manager
Graeme Allan - Human Resource Development Manager

Results: The site has had a Enviro-Mark@NZ Bronze-level audit and is expecting to close out the last corrective actions shortly; the benefits have included a comprehensive review of legislative compliance and the gathering of more information about the company and company systems. So far this has proved to be fairly easy as Iplex already has the systems Environmental and Health & Safety systems in place required for Bronze Level.

Key Challenge: Finding all of the paperwork to prove the systems are already there.

The Solution: The sites systems were well developed and when he contacted the right people within the business the answers arrived.

The Future: Shane Green would like to see the system achieve Gold-level certification and to include integrating the systems the company already has in place. The site has well-developed health and safety meetings, monthly audits, and staff awareness training and it is seen as simplest to add environmental into these already existing mechanisms. He would then like to evaluate the benefits and suggest that other sites follow. The next step is Silver. This Standard tests the organization's commitment in the following areas and recommends courses of action and priorities relating to:

- Aspects and impacts of the organisation's activity
- Structure and relevance of environmental policies
- Meeting the organisation's policy commitment

Best Practice Hints:

Look for the systems you already have in place. Ask around first as other people, branches or companies may have something you can use to help with the development of your system. The amount of documentation may look daunting at the start until you realise what you are already doing that can be incorporated. Avoid over designing the systems and make sure they are easy to operate. Make sure you utilise the help offered by Enviro-Mark@NZ.

Contact Details:

Shane Green,
Production Manager
s.green@iplexpipelines.co.nz

Links:

www.iplexpipelines.co.nz
www.enviro-mark.com