



General Cable New Zealand Ltd is one of the largest companies taking part in the Best Practice Programme. General Cable is the leading manufacturer and supplier of cable solutions for energy, communications, data and electronic systems in New Zealand.

General Cable is able to provide a complete cable and accessories package for instrumentation, communications, data and energy systems. Established in 1946, as Associated British Cables Ltd (ABCAL). The company is wholly owned by US-based General Cable, and has responsibility for servicing all of Australasia and the Pacific Islands.

General Cable New Zealand is certified to ISO 9001, has Underwriters Laboratories listing and a laboratory accredited to the ISO 17025. Manufacturing operations cover a 7 hectare site in Christchurch and employ more than 400 people.



**Our Objective:** Reduce the amount of waste being dumped to landfill by 25%. Either by tonnage or expressed in relation to labour hours.

The project relates to ensuring existing recycling and waste procedures are complied with and new ones introduced.

**Cost:** Implementation cost is negligible as the improvement relates to procedural changes. The total amount sent to landfill in 2004 was 1.12 tonnes/1000 std labour hours. On current costings the target represents about \$16k on the cost of dumping. This saving may be increased by selling of waste.

**Project Description:** At the start of the project, some recycling contracts were in place. These are not strongly adhered to. A review of all practices relating to scrap and waste indicates that a considerable amount of reusable plastic and packaging material in particular, finds its way into landfill.

Therefore the thrust of the project is to make it easier to do the right thing rather than dump the item. If there are no recycle contracts in place then the Zero waste group will need to review the opportunities.

#### Project Implementation:

- (1) Identify and list all of the waste streams within the organisation which, if left uncontrolled, are likely to end up as landfill. Currently about 40 of significance have been identified.
- (2) Produce a brief intranet based procedure for each, assigning a functional responsibility and a site champion. The procedure describes the method of collection, the annual quantity and the recycling agent if recycled.
- (3) The champion has the responsibility of managing the procedure for the site and, if the item is not recycled, then actioning through the local zero waste team so that the sequence, reduce, reuse, recycle is implemented.
- (4) A colour coded container is located in every area that generates the waste stream.
- (5) The process is regularly audited to ensure the identified waste does not go in the landfill skip and is found only in the correct container.

**Results:** There is a small amount of additional training to be completed. Otherwise the above system is in place. Having only recently completed the above, the results for the year to date do not show a change from the average of 2004.

However, given the always present pressure that it will increase, it is a positive that in fact it is at the same level as the last year.

The (unrelated) move to lead free PVC has been an interesting step, (even reusers are finding issues with lead content).

**Key Challenge:** The only plastic materials or packaging not reused or recycled are, EPS (extremely low volume, contaminated) Cross linked PE, and imperfectly mixed PVC. Waste control and environmental care are not contentious areas of management, most people having a fair degree of responsibility in the issue. The challenge however is to create a culture where there is a high, almost obsessive attention paid to preventing any reusable, or recyclable material going to landfill.

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