



James Robinson Fibres Ltd



Sector: Carpet Underlay and Flooring Accessories Manufacturer

Size: SME

Company Overview

James Robinson Fibres is one of the oldest textile companies still in existence in the UK. Two generations of the Taylor family are involved in the activity and have held the business for over 64 years.

Project Overview

James Robinson Fibres Ltd wears its green credentials with pride and turning to the Manufacturing Advisory Service Yorkshire & Humber (MAS Y&H) has led to the group becoming more efficient, with projected reductions in its carbon footprint (saving 50 tonnes of CO₂ energy savings per year) and increasing value-added by £250,000.

James Taylor explained: "From our Bradford base, we transport some of our recycled fibres to Texfelt, (a subsidiary company), which are then turned into carpet underlay. Running the businesses from two sites was giving us all sorts of logistical and strategic problems and we made the decision to get advice from MAS."

MAS adviser, Dean Morgan from MCCR & Associates undertook a diagnostic review in 2008 that highlighted areas where the business could improve manufacturing and environmental performance and seven members of staff were trained in Lean manufacturing techniques.

One of the review recommendations was to carry out a detailed analysis

of the business carbon footprint. This was carried out by Roland Arnison an Environmental Specialist for MCCR & Associates and the resulting report not only detailed all the process impacts affecting the carbon footprint but also made proposals to reduce CO₂ emissions.

James added: "With assistance from MAS we also purchased a new computer accountancy system which has made a marked difference to the level of efficiency and led to much better communications between the two sites. Before its installation, we used to generate a vast and expensive paper trail which had to be mailed out. Now, everything is emailed (including external invoices, statements etc) which has led to a marked saving in paper and dependency on postage.

Thanks to MAS we have reduced our impact on the environment and reduced costs. We are also able to access and analyse data much more easily, which is more important than ever during the current challenging economic climate."

Benefits

50 tonnes of CO₂ saving identified

Value added opportunities of £250,000 targeted

1 new job created

Additional product sales opportunities of £250,000 identified

22% Improvement in equipment effectiveness

Waste Minimisation

Lean manufacturing is defined as the ability to achieve more with less, by the continuous elimination of waste. The concept of lean is not restricted to manufacturing and applies to the whole enterprise, including the supply chain, the new product development process and the provision of service.

The new computer system has vastly improved the efficiency of the business and an immediate reduction in use of paper and envelopes, because more correspondence is sent electronically.

The communication system between the two sites is also far more efficient leading to greater productivity.

834 tonnes of carpet and fabric waste is now used by subsidiary company, Texfelt, to produce the Envirolay felt carpet underlay. The company would otherwise have sent this waste to landfill. This is a major step forward in reducing landfill requirements and CO₂ emissions as well as cutting waste disposal costs.

James Robinson Fibres Ltd

Millersdale Close
Euroway Industrial Estate
Bradford
West Yorkshire
England BD4 6SG
Tel No: 01274 689400

Support organisation details:

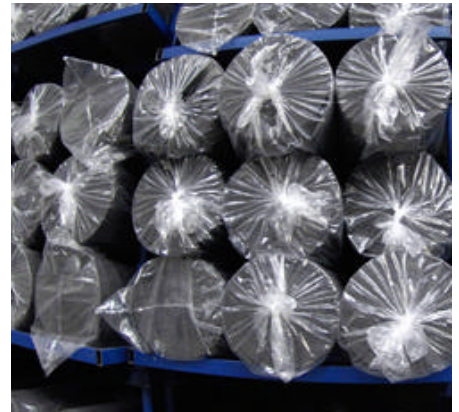


Energy Efficiency

'Zero cost' energy reduction measures included altering the timer settings for night storage heating, encouraging staff to turn off warehouse lighting, air compressors and certain motors when not needed and more frequent maintenance of motors. This led to measured reductions in energy consumption, equating to an immediate annual saving of at least £460.

Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint analysis identified that the use of recycled materials for the production of the Envirolay product would produce lower carbon emissions than polyurethane. However, further CO₂ reductions could be made with the introduction of voltage optimisation equipment and upgrading factory lighting with higher efficiency lights and modern sensor controls.



MAS Yorkshire & Humber (West Yorkshire Office)

Saint Martin's House, 210-212 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4HZ
Tel: 0870 011 1875 www.mas.berr.gov.uk

MCCR & Associates

Chesford House, 4 Gunsgreen Park, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5LH
Tel: 01890 752 000 www.mccrassociates.biz