

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN A HEALTH AND BEAUTY RETAILER

Implementing resource efficiency projects has enabled health and beauty retailer, Boots UK Ltd, to realise cost and environmental benefits throughout the supply chain.

THE BENEFITS include:

- Transport and disposal cost savings of £393,000 in the first 18 months following the introduction of a new design for a free-standing display unit
- The introduction of plastic bottles with a 30% recycled content has avoided the use of 20 tonnes of virgin material and saved £2,100
- Supplier savings of over £20,500 in transport costs over three years by installing baling machines in warehouses



HOW WILL ENVIROWISE HELP YOUR BUSINESS?

- Envirowise is represented throughout Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions. It works closely with regional bodies, business support organisations and important initiatives in your area to help facilitate the uptake of resource efficiency practice.
- Call the Envirowise Advice Line free on **0800 585794** for more information on resource efficiency.
- Register on the Envirowise website at **www.envirowise.gov.uk** for information about your industry sector.

ABOUT BOOTS UK LTD

Boots UK Ltd is a leading retailer of health and beauty products. The company develops and manufactures its own-brand products at its Main site in Nottingham. It has about 71,000 employees working at its head office, 17 distribution centres and 2,550 stores across the UK and Ireland. The company has won several awards for its environmental and corporate social responsibility (CSR) achievements.



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Boots UK Ltd has worked with Envirowise since 2002 on a number of projects including a supply chain partnership. Since introducing the 'Trust Boots' tag-line in 2005, the company has worked hard to build customer trust by encouraging its suppliers to be more eco-efficient.

Over the last five years, this has brought financial benefits of £675,000 to the suppliers. Boots UK Ltd is working towards a zero waste-to-landfill target and a reduction in own-brand packaging by 2.5% per year until 2010. To this end, it has implemented a number of resource efficiency projects, some of which are detailed below.

Free-standing display units (FSDUs)

Each year, 150,000 FSDUs are used for product promotions throughout the company's stores. Previously, these were supplied fully assembled, with only four units per pallet, which resulted in high transport costs. The units were constructed from cardboard, plastic and metal, which could not be separated for recycling, or dismantled for disposal. Boots UK Ltd invited 20 design companies to produce a concept design for a 100% recyclable, flat-packed FSDU. The winning design was introduced in June 2006. FSDUs are now constructed from cardboard and are fully collapsible for ease of transportation and recycling. In the first 18 months of use, the new design saved £193,000 in transport costs, £200,000 in disposal costs and diverted 500 tonnes from landfill. Some proprietary goods suppliers have already started using the new FSDUs and the company is

encouraging all suppliers to follow this lead.

Recycled content of 30%

Boots UK Ltd has recently introduced 30% recycled plastic content into the bottles for its 'Ingredients' range of toiletries. So far, 5,000,000 bottles have been produced, avoiding the use of 20 tonnes of virgin plastic and saving nearly £2,100. The company is currently introducing 30% recycled content bottles to other product ranges. It is also looking into increasing the recycled content above this level.

Baling machines

The company has installed baling machines at its two warehouses in Nottingham to enable cardboard, plastic and used FSDUs from its stores to be recycled. Company vehicles now collect recyclables, including the used FSDUs, upon delivery of goods. Boots UK Ltd also reduces packaging sent to stores by stripping goods of their packing before distribution. As well as increasing recycling rates, the baling machines have saved 1,250 vehicle trips, equivalent to 12,500 road miles, since December 2004. This has saved supplier transport costs of £20,625 over three years, based on 2007 operating costs of £1.65/mile*.

*Freight Transport Association Manager's Guide to Distribution Costs.

"EFFECTIVE RESOURCE ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION, AND OTHER INITIATIVES ARE VITAL COMPONENTS OF THE COMPANY'S CSR STRATEGY AND ITS GOAL TO MAKE ITS PRODUCTS MORE SUSTAINABLE."

Ian Barnes, Sustainable Development Manager, Boots UK Ltd

Visit the Envirowise website at www.envirowise.gov.uk and e-mail Envirowise with any specific questions (advice@envirowise.gov.uk)

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Envirowise - sustainable practices, sustainable profits. Envirowise is a Government-funded programme dedicated to putting the sustainable use of resources at the heart of business practice. It is managed by AEA Technology plc and Serco TTI. Envirowise is funded by Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and Invest Northern Ireland.



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