BUSINESS WASTE MINIMISATION CASE STUDY

TREVELYAN'S PACK AND COOL LTD

"Our waste reduction initiatives reduced our disposal costs by 85% over the last four years."

Alister Hawkey - Executive Director, Trevelyan's Pack and Cool.



Trevelyan's Pack and Cool is a packing and coolstorage business based in Te Puke.

The family-owned company packs more than eight million trays of kiwifruit and 300,000 trays of avocados each year, using a workforce that swells to 1400 employees at peak times.

IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR CHANGE

When Trevelyan's began looking closely at its waste streams, the company was recycling some cardboard and sending all other waste – including plastics, paper, glass, strapping - to landfill.

"The waste audit surprised us, we found cardboard comprised a third of our waste, even though we had a cage out the back and thought we were recycling it. We just didn't have the right systems in place." - Paul Monkley, Packaging and Forklifts Manager.

During the first year of implementation, the company began diverting waste and recycling throughout the packing season, further refining its systems in the following years.

OUR WASTE REDUCTION SOLUTIONS

Trevelyan's has invested in waste reduction, re-use and recycling in a variety of ways including:

- Redesigned and relocated cardboard cages to promote correct usage
- Staff introduced customised recycling stations in their own work areas
- Introduced co-mingled recycling (plastics, glass, cans and food waste) in lunch areas and café
- Purchased a compactor to compact general rubbish to reduce skip empties
- Introduced cardboard baling with the installation of a second compactor
- All paper, strapping, hairnets, plastic plix trays, shrink wrap, wood and e-waste are separated and recycled
- Label backings used as animal bedding in a local pig farm
- Metal objects separated and sold
- Fruit dust and leaves going to compost trial in 2014
- Staff training, including sustainability principles, in support of waste reduction.



KEY BENEFITS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Through these initiatives Trevelyan's has:

- Saved more than \$100,000 (over a four-year period) in disposal costs and generated financial returns from cardboard and plastics
- Slashed general waste by more than 87% (based on the number of bins sent to landfill before and after the introduction of waste reduction initiatives)
- Diverted more than 300 bales of resources from landfill in the 2014 packing season, including cardboard, shrinkwrap and trayliner plastics, plix trays, strapping, bubble wrap and fruit label paper tailings
- Produced an estimated 30 tonnes of compost from 500 bins of production waste and almost 50 tandem trailers of garden waste utilised on the grounds, gardens and orchard
- Reduced heavy traffic on site from 72 truck visits a season to just a few per month
- Improved staff engagement and understanding. Many staff take their recycling habits home and discuss them with their children.



BEFORE

23X 1.5m³ and 3.0m³ bins for general rubbish, emptied three times per week.

13X 1.0m³ bins for collecting fruit dust & label backings, emptied three times per week.

1X 9m³ rubbish skip, emptied twice a month.

AFTER

4X 1.1m³ co-mingled recycling bins emptied twice a week during the season.

1X 9m³ rubbish skip, compacted waste emptied every 10 days during the