

In partnership with the **Scottish Energy Efficiency Office**

Retail supply chain partners reduce waste and costs

This Action Profile at Peri-dent outlines the benefits to the company of working with its supply chain partners to reduce costs through environmental improvements.

- ✓ Cost savings of £11 700/year and identified potential savings of over £50 000/year
- ✓ Replacement of disposable cardboard packaging with re-usable containers



Peri-dent's Environmental Manager, Stuart Scott, is presented with an Envirowise certificate by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Margaret Beckett

Action

How you can use Envirowise to help your business:

- Register on the Envirowise website at www.envirowise.gov.uk for information about your industry sector.
- Call the Environment and Energy Helpline free on **0800 585794** for more information on waste minimisation and supply chain partnerships.
- Ask whether your business can have a *FastTrack* visit either by calling the Helpline or by visiting the website.

About Peri-dent

Peri-dent manufactures oral care products, specialising in interdental products such as dental floss and breath freshener devices. Established in 1986 at its manufacturing site at Galashiels in the Scottish Borders, the company now employs 130 people and supplies customers in over 30 countries.

Supply chain partnership forum actions

In January 2002, Peri-dent joined ten other suppliers of Boots Company plc in a retail supply chain partnership forum. A *FastTrack* visit arranged by the forum helped Peri-dent to identify where waste was occurring and to learn about ways of reducing waste. Peri-dent has worked to educate staff about the benefits of changing working practices to reduce waste, listened to suggestions and taken action to make improvements. Peri-dent was awarded an Envirowise certificate in February 2003 in recognition of this environmental good practice.

Waste minimisation initiatives have brought significant benefits for Peri-dent. These include:

- **reduced packaging use and costs;**
- **reduced waste disposal costs;**
- **improved working conditions, eg less manual handling;**
- **improved networking with packaging suppliers and waste contractors.**

An on-going initiative is the replacement of the 10 000 disposable boxes used each year for warehouse storage with 400 re-usable containers. Other planned initiatives include installing energy-efficient lighting and fitting water-saving devices in toilets and washrooms.

Cost savings

The various initiatives cost about £9 000, including investment in a cardboard and plastic baler, and new re-usable packaging containers. The payback period was just over nine months.

- **Packaging costs have fallen by £6 000/year.**

- **Energy charges have fallen by £500/year (about 1% of annual costs).**
- **Drinks cans and plastic cups from the canteen are recycled at no cost by a local community group and the revenue is donated to charity.**
- **Waste disposal costs have fallen by £5 200/year.**

Environmental benefits

The environmental benefits associated with Peri-dent's actions include:

- **a reduction in cardboard use for disposable packaging;**
- **a 66% reduction in the waste sent to landfill.**

FastTrack visits

If you would like Envirowise to help you, find out if your business can have a *FastTrack* visit by contacting the Environment and Energy Helpline on 0800 585794. A *FastTrack* visit is a confidential, on-site waste review that includes up to a day's free advice on resource efficiency from an environmental expert. The visit highlights practical opportunities to turn waste into profit by improving resource efficiency and reducing associated costs.

“ We want to go forward and will work with our suppliers and their supply chain to achieve this. ”



Stuart Scott, Environmental Manager, Peri-dent

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



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Envirowise - Practical Environmental Advice for Business - is a Government programme that offers free, independent and practical advice to UK businesses to reduce waste at source and increase profits. It is managed by Momenta, an operating division of AEA Technology plc, and Technology Transfer and Innovation Ltd. This publication was prepared with assistance from Enviromentor Ltd.



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For further information please contact the

Environment and Energy Helpline
0800 585794