

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

## Waste team drives improvements

This Action Profile at Seagate Distribution (UK) Ltd outlines the benefits to the company of encouraging staff to take action to reduce waste in all areas of its activities.

- ✓ Cost savings of around £9 000/year
- ✓ Over 5 tonnes/year of cardboard boxes re-used by suppliers and a 37% reduction in waste disposal costs



### Action

#### How you can use Envirowise to help your business:

- Register on the Envirowise website at [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://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 clubs or reducing packaging.
- Ask whether your business can have a *FastTrack* visit either by calling the Helpline or by visiting the website.

## About Seagate Distribution (UK) Ltd

Seagate Distribution (UK) Ltd, part of Seagate Technology, specialises in the configuration and distribution of hard disk and tape drives for the electronics industry worldwide. Its products are sold to both original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and independent retailers. The company employs 80 people at its site in Ayrshire.

## Waste minimisation club actions

Membership of the local waste minimisation club, co-ordinated by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, led to Seagate setting up a waste minimisation team to identify initiatives with both cost and environmental benefits. Examination of the company's utility bills identified incorrect charging for water use, while a review of solid waste led to a scheme to return cardboard packaging to overseas suppliers for re-use. Team members worked to develop an open culture about waste at the site through features on the company intranet, suggestion boxes, and informal weekly meetings where issues and ideas could be discussed.

Waste minimisation initiatives have brought significant benefits for Seagate. These include:

- **reduced packaging use and costs;**
- **reduced water charges;**
- **reduced waste disposal costs;**
- **improved networking with overseas suppliers;**
- **improved staff awareness.**

## Cost savings

The only cost of implementing the waste minimisation programme has been staff time.

- **Packaging re-use has reduced packaging costs for both Seagate and its suppliers.**
- **Seagate has donated the proceeds of recycling office wastes to local community groups and charities.**

- **Waste disposal costs fell by 37% to around £2 430/year.**
- **The company gained an immediate rebate of £23 000 and an annual reduction in water charges of £6 666 (about 75%).**

## Environmental benefits

The environmental benefits associated with Seagate's actions to minimise waste include:

- **re-use of 5 tonnes/year of cardboard packaging;**
- **increased recycling of office wastes such as paper, plastic cups and toner cartridges;**
- **a 37% reduction in waste going 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.

“ The support of our General Manager and all our staff is vital to help us achieve our waste minimisation aims. ”



Peter Anderson, on behalf of  
Seagate Distribution (UK) Ltd

**Visit the Envirowise website at [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk) and e-mail Envirowise with any specific questions ([helpline@envirowise.gov.uk](mailto: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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