

Case Study

Ormiston Wire Ltd services Financial Savings of Going Green

Ormiston Wire Ltd is a small wire manufacturing company based in Isleworth. Although they have been in operation since 1793, it was the recession in 1991 that spurred them to reconsider how they could cut costs and consequently they reduced their impacts on the environment.

"We decided to make the changes because we are a manufacturing company and we wanted to look at ways to save money. It wasn't because we had been a green company for years and years." (Ormiston)

Energy and water saving measures

A move from their large, inefficient old factory building in Ealing to more modern premises in Isleworth, Middlesex allowed Ormiston Wire to directly control their overheads. To further save money they implemented energy efficiency measures, such as installing light bulbs with motion sensors that turn the lights off when no one is around. Plastic skylights were installed to reduce the need for artificial light.

Hot water for radiators and hand washing is provided by a high-efficiency condensing gas boiler, while push-taps in the bathrooms prevent water and energy from being wasted. Ormiston Wire's water bill has fallen to £150/year.

Simple measures such as shutting the heating system down at 4pm rather than 5pm, reduce gas use while still keeping the staff warm. Having few doors at the site ensures minimal heat loss. All of these energy efficiency measures save approximately £3000/year. The company also avoids the Climate Change Levy because it sources its power from a company that provides renewable energy - this saves £1,100/year.

"Monitor your costs - including the electricity, water and gas bills. Find out how much you spend and ask what you can do to reduce that cost. It is the little measures that form part of a cost-saving package." (Ormiston)

Reducing waste

The amount of waste generated by the company used to fill two 16 cubic year skips a month, but this has now been reduced to one skip every six weeks with the use of a waste compactor, which has lowered waste removal costs by £900/year.

The company also charges customers a deposit on the reels that carry its wire products, refunding the deposit on return. This prevents the reels being thrown away. Cardboard boxes in which raw materials arrive at the factory are reused to pack finished products, and the total savings on packaging are around £6,000/year.

The combined total of efficiency improvements has saved Ormiston Wire £10,000/year.

Involving staff

Ormiston Wire Ltd ensured that the rationale behind each of the company's environmental initiatives is explained to staff. This has had the effect of creating a workforce committed both to the company's values and to the company itself, resulting in very low staff turnover.

Solar and Wind Electricity Generation

Ormiston's latest initiative is to install a solar photo-voltaic system and wind turbine to generate 'Green' electricity. This energy will be used to power the factory and any surplus will be sold back to their electricity supplier.