Green Work Places – Workshop

Activity One – Awareness Raising, Mapping, Management & Employee Participation

This workshop is a follow up session to the successful launch of the Green Workplaces Project held earlier this year. Many useful ideas were gathered at the launch day, and the workshop is designed to discuss the best way to progress and take these ideas forward.

Aims:

The aims of the following group work are to help us to,

- Identify roles and responsibilities
- Identify no cost and low cost options for energy efficiency or/and waste reduction savings
- Identify key features of energy efficiency or/and waste reduction savings
- Assess ways in which we could improve NML policies
- Assess ways in which we could improve employee participation

Group 1

Task:

In your group, discuss and agree the main roles and responsibilities of the workplace environmental representatives/champions. You should also consider what type of facilities you would need to fulfil the roles and responsibilities identified.

Group 2

Task:

Using the case study allocated to your group and your own general knowledge of the workplace identify and list the no cost and low cost options that could be implemented in your department/workplace to produce reasonably quick energy efficiency or/and waste reduction savings.

Group 3

Task:

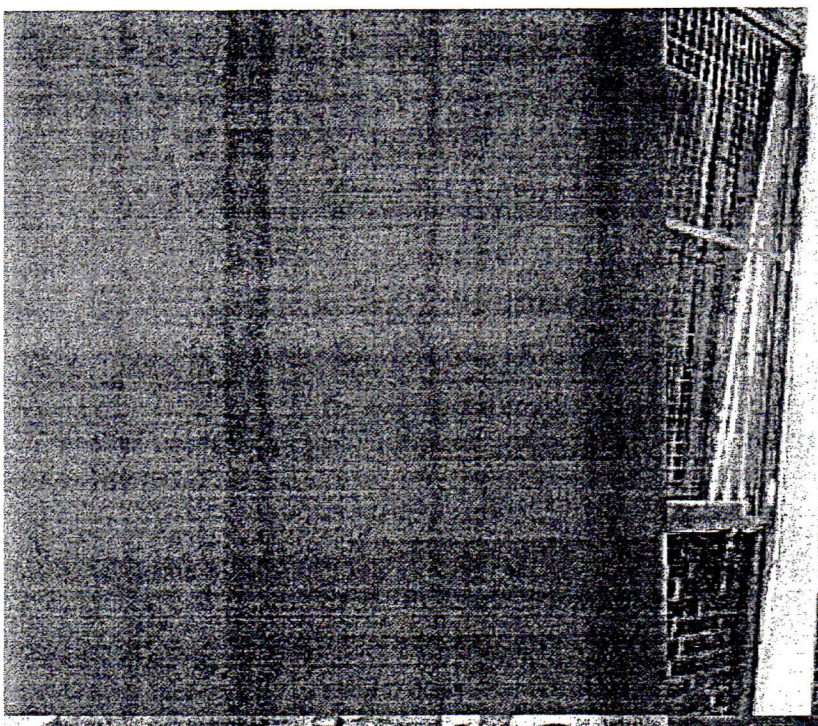
In your group, using The Carbon Management – 5 Steps Guide and your own knowledge, discuss and review your own organisations strengths and weaknesses in Carbon Management and Sustainable Development. Make recommendations on how you could improve on any weaknesses identified.

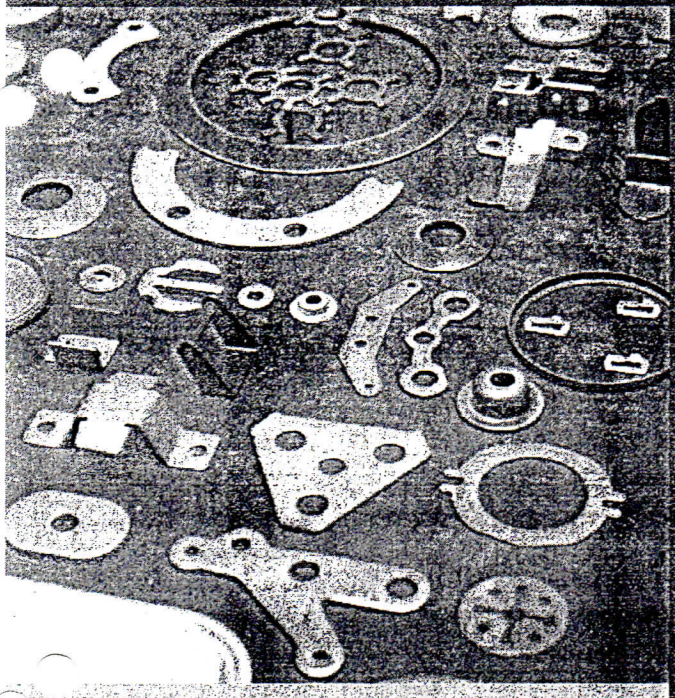
Group 4

Task:

In your group, and using your own knowledge, discuss and list,

- Things that would/could work to raise employee awareness on energy efficiency or/and waste reduction
- Barriers to employee active participation on energy efficiency or/and waste reduction initiatives
- Things that would/could work to break down barriers identified above





Simple solutions make significant savings

WILD MANUFACTURING GROUP LTD

Wild Manufacturing Group Ltd is one of the major presswork manufacturing companies in the UK, with markets worldwide.

The company manufactures nearly 10 million components each day, with 70% being produced for the automotive sector. About 35% of the pressed and stamped-out shaped washers are exported to over 20 different countries.

Electricity costs reduced by 13%

Gas costs reduced by 7%

Improvement in staff awareness

business case study 5

BEST PRACTICE PROGRAMME
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

INTRODUCTION

Wild Manufacturing Group Ltd is a family-owned business established in 1919. Its Birmingham site is diverse and occupies several buildings. Total site occupancy is 110 000 square feet and the company has 180 employees.

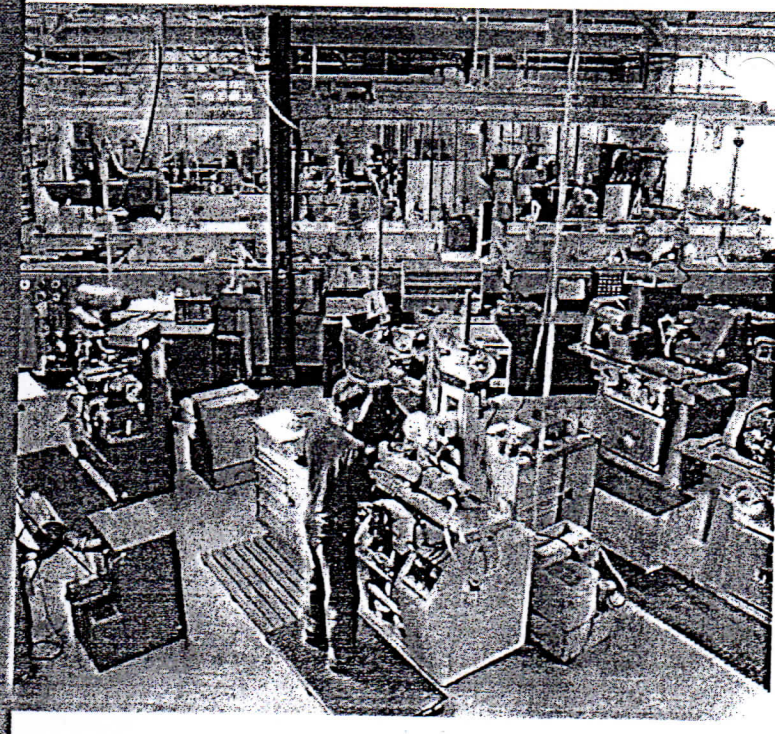
The manufacturing processes employed are primary high-speed presses with secondary operations carried out by forming, grinding and lapping. The business is highly self-contained in that it has its own tool room, which allows it to manufacture products to the customers' requirements from design to application. Laboratory facilities exist to carry out metallurgical testing.

This case study describes how the company introduced a simple but effective energy efficiency campaign that is achieving tangible benefits.

THE CHALLENGE

Before an environmental management system was introduced, the senior management began the campaign by agreeing a programme of environmental objectives, with responsible champions to report progress at monthly management meetings.
An important objective was an energy reduction programme. This was arbitrarily set in the first year at 10% savings in measured units for the consumption of electricity, gas and water.

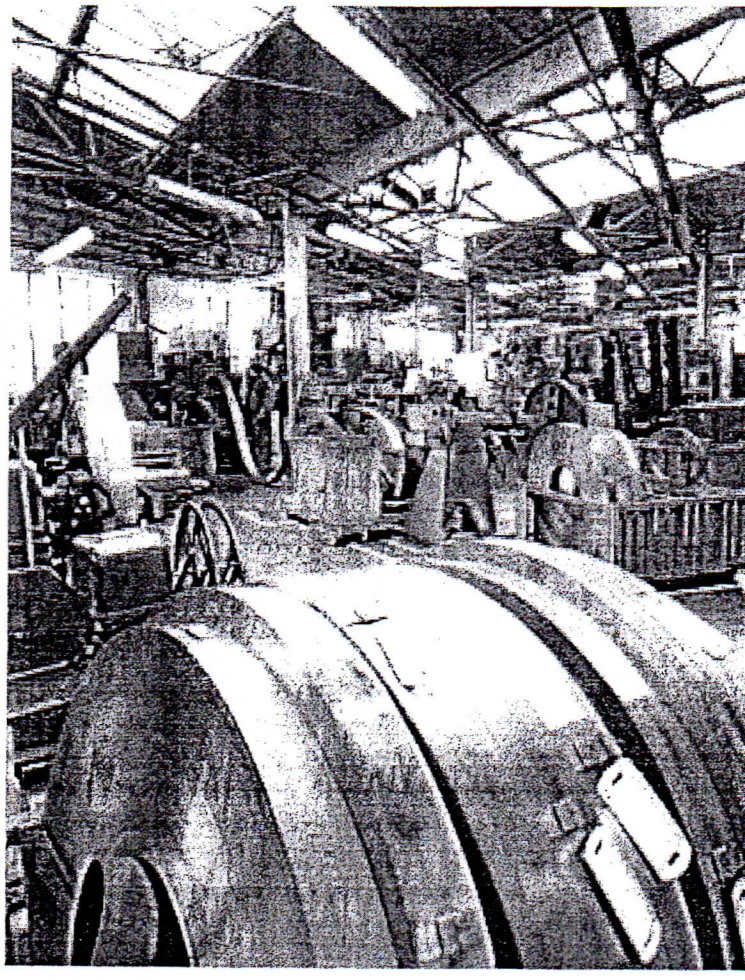
An energy committee was formed, chaired by the engineering director, with representatives from various departments within the company. The initial targets were set to promote an awareness of the need to 'switch off, turn off, save it', to get staff to look at all the potential low-cost ideas available, and to remind staff that the resources they used, which included utilities, all had a cost.



ACHIEVEMENTS

So far, the company has concentrated on simple, 'common sense' housekeeping measures plus issues requiring routine maintenance but little, if any, capital expenditure. This simple and practical approach includes:

- removing single tubes from twin tube fluorescent light fittings
- reducing the standby temperature of annealing furnaces and dryers
- reducing the thermostat set points on all electrically heated hot water storage tanks
- checking and repairing all accessible air leaks in the compressed air system ring main
- fitting light sensors in the main factory areas to optimise lighting power consumption



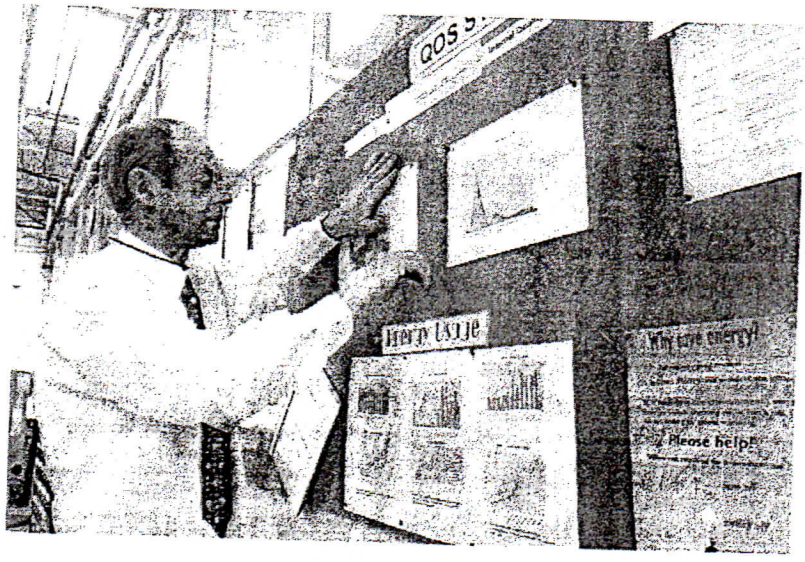
'Switch it off, turn off, save it'

Peter Mayes – Quality Director

- fitting lockable cages around shop floor heater thermostats and timers to prevent unauthorised adjustments
- fitting spray roses on washroom taps to reduce the volume of water consumed
- sealing gaps around windows and doors to prevent unwanted ventilation
- hiring portable electric infrared heater units for shift workers during the winter months, to reduce the need to heat the whole factory with warm air
- keeping the main factory traffic doors shut as much as possible
- painting maximum door opening positions on floors to prevent staff opening traffic doors wider than necessary
- organising poster campaigns: energy efficiency and cost campaigns, and feedback notice boards
- publicising monthly and cumulative consumption data to all staff.

External help

To help develop the project at minimum cost, the company used the services of an undergraduate from the University of Central England who is studying for a BSc (Hons) in environmental engineering. The student is using the company as a source of information for his final year dissertation while at the same time carrying out an in-depth study of energy and resource utilisation against company output.



THE RESULT

For three years running the energy committee has achieved the organisational targets it set and, having undertaken all the low-cost, easy savings, the committee is now assessing the opportunities presented by future investment.

For the financial year 1999/2000, electricity consumption was down 13% on the previous year's figures and gas was down by 7%. Water consumption, however, increased due to a supply leakage, which was fortunately detected early due to the close monitoring of site usage. If utilities had not been monitored and company benchmarks established the water losses could have been far greater.

The company expects to continue to be more energy efficient, and therefore competitive, by reducing utility consumption through staff support and judicious future investment. It is using the free short-term assistance from the undergraduate to develop its utility strategy for the next few years so that it will be able to continue to reduce operational costs. It will also pursue a policy of buying energy-efficient equipment to reduce the life cycle costs of new plant.

COMPANY CONTACT

Peter Mayes – Quality Director

WILD MANUFACTURING GROUP LIMITED

PO Box 103, Floodgate Street, Birmingham B5 5SJ

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BEST PRACTICE PUBLICATIONS

Energy saving guide for small businesses (BRECSU)

FOCUS – the manager's guide to reducing energy bills (ETSU)

Business Guide to energy costs in buildings

For details of the above and other free publications and resources visit: **www.energy-efficiency.gov.uk**

Environment and Energy Helpline 0800 585794

To obtain further advice and information telephone the Environment and Energy Helpline

0800 585794

This Government-sponsored helpline is a free source of expert advice to help UK businesses cut their energy bills and reduce their waste. Free site visits to businesses by energy-efficiency experts can also be arranged at the helpline manager's discretion.

The Carbon Management Programme in practice

The Carbon Management Programme involves a five-step process to help companies understand and manage their carbon emissions.

The Carbon Management Programme five-step process

Step 1: Mobilise the organisation	The first step lays the groundwork for the rest of the programme. Internal stakeholders are identified; buy-in is sought; and aims, approach, commitments and responsibilities are agreed.
Step 2: Evaluate the business case	In step two, companies develop an overall understanding of climate change and its risks and opportunities for their business. The programme develops a high-level carbon baseline for the business; evaluates risks and opportunities; identifies carbon reduction drivers; and appraises value at stake.
Step 3: Identify opportunities	The third step establishes a detailed picture of company-wide emission assets and liabilities. The focus is on generating and evaluating specific ideas for achieving cost-effective emission reductions.
Step 4: Develop implementation plans	This step prioritises ideas identified in the previous step, to reflect overall corporate objectives and aspirations. The outcome is a practical implementation plan with actionable emission reduction targets. The programme prioritises emission reduction opportunities; develops an implementation plan with budgets and targets; establishes company roles and responsibilities; and defines a system to measure success.
Step 5: Manage implementation	The final step monitors progress on the implementation plan and its effectiveness in delivering its specified objectives. As part of this step, the Carbon Trust can work with companies to guide implementation, monitor progress and update the implementation plan accordingly.