



Kirsty Riley

Liam Patterson

Receiving their Summer Project Awards 2008 at De Montfort University



thesummerproject

A prestigious opportunity to access the knowledge of bright undergraduates

Background

Walkers Snack Foods Ltd. is a brand owned by PepsiCo International, the project was undertaken at their plant in Leicester. Walkers Snack Foods are part of a worldwide PepsiCo sustainability initiative.

Objectives

The aim of the project was to

- Conduct a review of waste management flows for the manufacturing site.
- Evaluate processes against legal requirements and identify opportunities to improve segregation and recycling of waste.
- Implement new procedures across the site to include training, communication, liaison with suppliers and an audit process to ensure compliance

The company is working towards achieving zero landfill and full legal compliance for waste disposal.

The Project and the outcomes

The project was undertaken by Liam Patterson and Kirsty Riley; the company assigned a fulltime mentor and a weekly meeting took place to review progress. The students visited other PepsiCo sites to share best waste management practice. It was evident that 140 tonnes of cardboard a year went to landfill which was costing the company over £8,000 per year.

Liam and Kirsty achieved the following:

- Waste to landfill was reduced by 50% per annum which equates to over £20,000 saved.
- A further 25% of potential savings were identified by auditing waste streams which equates to £10,000.
- Jobs created for Waste Marshals as a direct result of this project at neutral cost to the company.
- Improved employee communication achieved through signage.
- Full legal compliance achieved for waste disposal.
- On target for zero landfill by 2010.

By the end of the project the two students had succeeded in creating a revenue stream from recycling for PepsiCo in excess of £97,000 !

Benefits to students

Both Liam and Kirsty gained new and improved skills and more importantly gained real life business experience that will give them a head start with their careers at the end of their studies. They especially gained from:

- Personal development i.e. increased confidence, skills in communicating at all levels within business.
- Business acumen.
- Academic application.
- Establishment of a career path.

Summer Project Awards 2008

This outstanding project won first prize in the 2008 Awards. Judges felt this was a well structured and challenging project which had clearly defined objectives that were met head-on by the students. The final results for the company have been exceptional in not only tangible financial gain but also in meeting the company's waste management targets which will have a long term impact, ultimately everyone benefited. The effects are lasting due to the way in which the project was both executed and managed by the students.

Company comments

"It's great to see a short term project have such a positive impact on our business. As a result of the Summer Project, Walkers Snack Foods Ltd. has generated in excess of £97,000 through changing environmental practices."

John Ives, Sustainability Manager

Get in touch

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