

Victor Manufacturing Limited

Corporate Social Responsibility Report

The Directors of Victor Manufacturing Limited are conscious of the potential impact on the environment both of our manufacturing processes and of the operation of our equipment once it has been installed. Environmental management is recognised as an important business function, and a concerted effort is made to prevent pollution, minimise waste throughout the manufacturing and distribution processes, and to achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

Victor Manufacturing Limited supports the views and aims of the Catering for a Sustainable Future Group. www.CSFG.co.uk

To help to achieve these objectives, Victor are active members of the Resource Efficiency Club, an organisation supported by Envirowise and the Better Business Environmental Forum, which was established to help companies reduce their environmental impact and to produce measurable waste savings. A project team, led by our nominated 'resource champion' continually assess our utilisation of energy and raw materials, striving to find new ways to maximise yield and reduce wastage. Tools and techniques such as monitoring, mass balance, baseline energy monitoring have been used, together with employee awareness and engagement.

The activities we follow to achieve our sustainability objectives can be categorised into six areas:

1. Equipment design

- Energy efficiency and improved energy utilisation are key considerations with **all** new product development projects e.g. the new generation of Caribbean refrigerated displays and Synergy refrigerated 'drop in' modules have been designed to meet the exacting requirements of 'EN ISO 23953 - 2: 2005'. Despite the resultant excellent operational performance, the multi tier refrigerated displays show a reduction in energy usage of 42%, and the blown air wells a reduction of 25%, over their predecessors. This has been achieved by innovative design which improves air flows within the product and reduces cold air leakage, together with a unique method of evaporating condensate water.
- Selective projects are also carried out to review and improve energy efficiency on existing products e.g. modifications to the design of our general purpose hot cupboard range to incorporate improved insulation, (an extra cost option), show an energy usage saving of 50% in hot cupboard versions, and 25 – 30% for bain marie models. Similar modifications on our heavy duty range, give comparative savings of 30% on hot cupboards and 15% on bain marie models.

- There are currently no performance standards against which commercial foodservice and display equipment can be benchmarked. Technical personnel from Victor are active members of the project group organised by CESA (Catering Equipment Suppliers Association) which is working with similar trade associations across Europe to develop a series of common criteria and tests which can be adopted as EN standards.

2. Energy efficiency in our factory

- Our manufacturing facility is housed in an old mill building which was not designed with efficient energy utilisation in mind. We have made considerable efforts over recent years to improve our environmental performance and to improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.
- Energy efficiency audits have been carried out in conjunction with the Carbon Trust and Yorkshire and Humberside Manufacturing Advisory Service, and many of their recommendations have been implemented.
- Energy efficient lighting systems have been installed into assembly areas and the production offices. Benefits have been improved illumination levels using lower wattage light fittings. Movement sensors have been installed to switch off lighting in unoccupied offices.
- A Vickers energy management system has been installed to monitor and manage temperatures throughout the factory on a zonal basis, with a resultant reduction in gas usage.
- Following a water usage audit, 'cister-misers' and timed urinal management equipment have been installed, with a resultant reduction in water consumption.
- A more efficient air compressor has been installed in the factory, reducing air leakage and electricity consumption.

3. Recycling activities

- A waste audit has been carried out, and a strategy determined to limit the amount of waste sent to landfill, and to recycle wherever possible.
- All waste is streamed. Plastics, paper, card and metals are segregated for disposal by reputable and certified re-cycling companies. Packaging materials are re-used wherever possible.
- We are registered with the Pennine Pack compliance scheme for our 'Packaging Waste Obligation'. We are currently below the 50 tonne threshold, but all packaging is monitored and records retained for audit by the Environment Agency.
- We are compliant under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006. Our compliance company is Gambica B2B

Compliance and our UK Producer Registration Number is WEE/GF0204VX.

4. Material utilisation

- Sheet metal constitutes a high proportion of our material usage and expenditure. As one of our monthly performance indicators, we monitor the proportion of waste, by material type, against the volume used. Improvement targets are then set, with the intention of maximising utilisation and minimising the volume of material sent for re-cycling.
- We have invested in Bysoft laser 'nesting' software, which assists our engineers to organise laser cut patterns to minimise material wastage by suggesting optimum component layout on a material sheet, taking account of factors such as material gauge, grain direction etc.
- Our sheet metal utilisation in March 2011 was 19.2% better than in March 2010.

5. Protecting the environment

In addition to the actions detailed above, the following activities are also carried out to limit our carbon footprint:

- Refrigerants utilised in the manufacturing process, and on site when we get involved in installation or service work, are not discharged to atmosphere, but are collected for waste gas recovery.
- Investment has been made in a bulk nitrogen storage system to replace the use of nitrogen cylinders. This has significantly reduced the number of deliveries of liquid nitrogen by road tanker by our supplier.
- Timber clad products have FSC certification to verify that all tropical, temperate hardwoods and softwoods or alternatives are from managed forests of Europe, North America and Japan.
- Delivery routes are planned, and consignments grouped, in order to optimise the best use of road transport, minimising fuel usage.
- All goods use minimal packaging for transit. Softwood Euro pallets from sustainable woodland are used, together with LDPE low density polythene which can be recycled, is not manufactured using ozone depleting chemicals, and offers excellent energy recovery through clean incineration.
- Packing cases used in export shipping are heat treated on request, and no pesticides are used.
- Monthly performance reports, which were previously printed, copied and circulated to interested parties, are now circulated electronically by e-mail, and saved on to individual PCs as required. This greatly reduces our paper usage.

6. Future plans and activities

- Sustainability and resource efficiency are key considerations in many business decisions taken by Victor Manufacturing, in particular with product development programmes and with any capital equipment investment decisions. Corporate social responsibility is an ongoing commitment, and every opportunity is taken to improve our performance with regard to our carbon footprint. The following initiatives have already been identified for evaluation/implementation during the 2011-12 Financial Year.
- A large section of roof over our Counter Assembly and R & D departments was replaced in May. This is intended to reduce the levels of heat loss in winter and the heat gain in summer, and the materials used have the required 'U' value wherever possible. The roof sheets are 90mm Kingspan composite panels, and the new translucent roof sheets are Factory Assembled Insulated Roof Lights (FAIRS). The new internal gutter is insulated to prevent cold spots and to reduce the likelihood of condensation. The internal finish of the Kingspan panels is bright white, which allows maximum reflectivity of the light borrowed through the new north lights. This should also give some savings on the use of the powered lighting currently used. Similarly, the internal temperatures will be more acceptable throughout the year.
- Consideration is being given to capital investment in a nitrogen generation system, which would enable us to generate the nitrogen to run our laser machine from the atmosphere, eliminating the need to purchase nitrogen from a third party supplier and the carbon footprint caused by tanker deliveries.

M. Shaddock
Managing Director

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