

## Case Study - Barduct Ltd

### Company Background

Barduct Ltd, based in Aylesbury, is part of the Moeller Group. It manufactures busbar trunking systems, which offer an affordable and efficient means of transporting electrical power within buildings.

Barduct Ltd won the 2002 SEEDA Sustainable Business Award in the Small and Medium Company Category and the Corporate Social Responsibility Thematic Award. It has built on last year's achievements, generating further improvements in existing initiatives as well as starting brand new projects.

### Sustainability Initiatives

#### Key Achievements

- Material Cost Savings Project, through benchmarking and supplier partnerships.
- Introduction and implementation of Lean Manufacturing.
- Wind Turbine Initiative - using Barduct as a demonstration and reference site to promote the use of wind turbines on industrial sites throughout the UK.

#### Resource Efficiency

In November 2002, Barduct undertook a benchmarking/cost reduction project to reduce the cost of all the parts associated with their LX product. This was a major project and total savings of over €1.1million have been achieved as a result of this exercise which is ongoing.

'Lean Manufacturing Principles' have been implemented:

- The shop floor layout has been changed dramatically, reducing process times and increasing the efficiency of production.
- 40% less floor space is now required to produce the LX product.
- 'Work in progress' has been reduced by 50%.
- Supplies are delivered direct to production lines, reducing handling and storage costs.
- 60% of all goods purchased are now received in reusable containers, all made of recyclable material.
- All employees are involved in the pursuit of continual and rapid improvements.
- Empowerment culture ('Power, Permission and Protection') is supported. Staff are given freedom and encouragement to experiment, take risks, and initiate new ways of doing things without reprisal.

#### Resource Usage

Water, gas and electricity usage is monitored and reported to all employees via staff noticeboards and the staff magazine. Barduct aims to reduce energy and water use by 5% per annum.



*Visit by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester on 10 October 2002, to open the new semi-automated production line*

Ergo grip valves are now fitted to all new and existing equipment to eliminate compressed air leakage, which wastes energy.

#### Waste

Barduct monitors all packaging and wood pallet usage and ways of reducing these are encouraged.

Barduct is working closely with its aluminium supplier to reduce the packaging used to deliver raw materials and to enable the same (now much reduced) delivery packaging to be used to dispatch finished product.

Paper usage is monitored. All waste paper is collected by a local firm, Paper Planet. For every 50 sacks of waste paper, a tree is planted at Highfield Park Trust, St Albans. To date, over the last two years, 23 trees have been planted, with nine in the last year.

The use of a waste compactor continues to produce large savings.

Scrap materials from the production line (copper and aluminium) are recycled.

#### Renewable Energy

At the 2003 South East Sustainable Business Partnership Annual Conference, Dr Keith Richards presented the benefits of wind energy and the use of wind turbines. From this presentation Barduct developed the idea of having a wind turbine on site into a realistic proposal. Barduct is currently working with TV Energy and Ecotricity in formalising a proposal for planning permission from Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The proposed turbine would not only supply Barduct with energy, but would also serve its sister company Moeller Electric and many other companies within the Gatehouse Close Estate.



ESOL students with their teacher Mr Robert Winks of Aylesbury College



Automated riveting of bar sets

### Social Responsibility

Barduct has a multi-cultural workforce. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training is offered free-of-charge to all non-English speaking staff. Training involves a commitment of two hours per week, one paid for by the company, the other undertaken in the employee's own time. In the last year, three employees have passed the written examination and many others have passed the oral examination.

In addition to the above, Barduct has produced many computer-based video training clips of essential manufacturing and machine processes for non-English speaking staff.

Barduct encourages employees to use the Tomorrow Club, a local training facility, to expand their computer skills.

'Biscuits with the Boss' and Team Talk Magazine continue.

Barduct continue to support schools and local charities including:

- Stoke Mandeville Hospital.
- Aylesbury Vale Racial Equality Council.
- Chamberlain Road Enterprises.
- Quainton Railways.

Barduct participates in the local Aylesbury Manufacturing Group (AMG) Investor in People experience-sharing club, along with eight other companies.

### Supply Chain Management

Barduct has encouraged its suppliers to join in their implementation of 'Lean Manufacturing Principles'.

The company has invited a number of its suppliers to join its Environment Committee, and is also assisting some suppliers in their efforts to achieve ISO 14001.

### Transport

Barduct is currently developing a 'milk run' with and between suppliers. Instead of many separate vehicles delivering goods to Barduct, the concept is for one vehicle with one driver to collect goods from a range of suppliers and deliver them to Barduct. This reduces transport and fuel costs, reduces congestion and lowers CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. To date, three suppliers are participating in the scheme.

Barduct is part of the local Transport Committee, which includes Buckinghamshire County Council and the Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership.

### Planned Initiatives

- Barduct is planning to install an £18,000 lighting control system.

### Awards

- SAVE Award 2003.
- SEEDA Sustainable Business Awards 2002:
  - Overall Winner of Small/Medium size business category.
  - Winner of Corporate Social Responsibility Award.
- Environment Agency Green Apple Award Finalist 2003.
- Investor in People 2002.
- British Safety Council Award - for the 5th consecutive year.
- Holders of ISO 9001 (2000), ISO 14001 (1996) and the OHSAS 18001 (1999).



Sustainable Business Awards for the South East 2003

### Contact

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