

Case Study - Stamco Timber

Company Background

Stamco is a well established independent timber and builders merchants based in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex. It is a privately owned company that has been in business since 1957.

Stamco's wholesale business delivers timber to other merchants, DIY shops, builders and direct to sites across the whole of the South East of England.

The company's sales counter serves the local area of Hastings and Rother, offering a call and collect service to over 70,000 customers every year as well as delivering to shops, builders, retail trade and direct to site.

Stamco has been confirmed by KPMG and LloydsTSB's 'MegaGrowth 25' initiative as one of the 25 fastest growing companies in East and West Sussex in 2003.

Sustainability Initiatives

Key Achievements

- Raw material timber sourced from sustainable forests.
- In May 2003 signed up to the Community Mark Scheme at its launch in Hastings and Rother area.
- Achieved the Community Mark Accreditation in October 2003, the first Timber & Builders Merchant in the country to do so.
- Supported over 150 different local community groups and projects in the last year. This includes donations of staff time, photocopying and printing facilities, materials, raffle prizes and financial donations.
- Works with key community partners such as the Hastings & St Leonards Education Action Zone, Little Ridge Community Primary School, Hastings YMCA, and St Michael's Hospice.
- Through wages, tax and use of local suppliers Stamco has returned over £3.8 million to the local economy in the past 12 months.
- Improved journey planning and fuel economy through vehicle tracking systems.
- Stamco has been confirmed by KPMG and LloydsTSB's 'MegaGrowth 25' initiative as one of the 25 fastest growing companies in East and West Sussex in 2003.

Resource Efficiency

Stamco's commitment to resource efficiency is reflected in its Sustainable Development Policy and its Environmental Management Policy. Initiatives already undertaken include:

- Packaged sawdust and shavings are put into bales and sold to a retailer as animal bedding. Stamco produce on average 10,000 bales of shavings per month and a container load of sawdust every two weeks.



Stamco Timber, Bexhill Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex

- Off-cuts are sold to customers or used as firewood.
- Packaging such as pallets, dunnage and plastic sheeting is reused wherever possible.
- A large proportion of office paper is shredded for use as animal bedding.
- Confidential waste paper is recycled.
- Refill ink cartridges are used and toner cartridges are recycled.

Energy Efficiency

Stamco is committed to controlling energy costs and waste at all times. It has achieved this by:

- Investing in state of the art efficient equipment which it uses in the production mill.
- The dust extractors only operate when machinery is in use and has a cut-out facility to prevent it from being left on when not required.
- The majority of lighting is energy efficient and Stamco encourages a switch off policy when not in use.
- There are individual controls on the radiators and thermostats are checked twice daily.
- Draught curtains are installed in the stock area at Bexhill Road.
- Switch off policy encouraged when equipment is not in use.

Water

Stamco has had its treatment plant bunded to prevent chemicals seeping into the watercourse.

The company has installed water reducing devices such as save-a-flush bags in WCs.

Social Responsibility

Stamco's Community Policy is to promote the company wherever possible through supporting local charities and community groups. In particular it supports groups and projects that involve young people, the elderly, the community local to Stamco's business and projects which reflect the views of its employees. The community ventures in which Stamco have been involved include:

- Being one of the first to sign up to the Community Mark Scheme which recognises company involvement in the community and one of the first two companies in the town to gain the Community Mark accreditation.
- Contributing towards education and skills development at The Grove School by supplying materials to the Design & Technology department. The company has also donated various items of sporting equipment.
- Wood, fixings and other materials have been supplied to the Toolbox Project at the YMCA. This project aims to provide practical skills training and raise self-confidence in young people aged 10-16.
- Supporting over 150 local community groups, schools and charities. This year's focus is on the young and the elderly.
- Employees can donate to charities through payroll giving.
- Partnering the local residents in a project to clean up and resurface an unadopted road outside the Bexhill site.
- Several community partnerships including Education Action Zone, schools, YMCA and local community centre.

Stamco is a major local employer and is committed to ensuring that staff feel a sense of value in the workplace. An employee opinion survey is undertaken annually and the results fed back to staff. Each week, team briefings are held to give employees the opportunity to raise any issues they may have. Stamco encourages staff to arrange social activities.

Stamco is keen for staff to enhance their skills and professional development and invested over £10,000 in staff training in 2002.

It is important to Stamco that it is a considerate neighbour. One way in which the company has demonstrated this is by insulating its hoppers and dust extraction pipes to reduce noise emissions.

Stamco is also a member of the Builders Merchant Federation and is committed to a high standard of customer service.

Supply Chain Management

Stamco works closely with its suppliers to ensure their obligations under the Waste Packaging Regulations are met. Packaging is returned to suppliers if it cannot be reused by Stamco. Other supply chain management initiatives undertaken by Stamco include:

- Raw material is sourced only from sustainable sources via the Pan European Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC).
- Being an active member of the London Softwood Club. Stamco will be attending their 2nd Environmental Forum in October 2003 to discuss environmental issues within the timber industry.
- Using local suppliers where possible.



Leon Shepperdson, Director, explains how very little timber imported by Stamco is wasted, even the shavings are bagged up and sold for animal bedding

Transport

Stamco uses a modern fleet to deliver its products and actively tries to reduce costs and minimise environmental impact. To assist in meeting these objectives it has:

- Installed vehicle tracking systems which have improved journey planning and fuel economy.
- Catalytic converters have been installed on forklift trucks.
- LGV's have speed limiters.
- Modern vehicles comply with the latest EU emissions regulations.
- Bigger vehicles are used to reduce the number of journeys required and smaller vehicles are used in rural areas and around town.
- Invested in some electric vehicles such as forklifts and tow tugs. These have the additional benefit of improving working conditions in the warehouse.

In addition to the above 25% of Stamco employees walk, cycle or use public transport to get to work.

Awards

- Certificate of Commitment- Community Mark, May 2003.
- Community Mark Accreditation achieved October 2003.
- Finalist Best Builders Merchant Manager of the Year 2003.
- Finalist Best Single Branch Independent Builders Merchant of the Year 2003.



Sustainable Business Awards for the South East 2003

Contact

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