



# Product Waste Reduction: Chequer Packaging Christchurch

best practice programme cleaner production

**Chequer Packaging Ltd is an innovative leader in flexible packaging providing quality products to the retail, primary and manufacturing sectors.**

**The General Flexibles Group based in Christchurch, with a national sales team, is the group's co-extrusion and polyethylene operation, specialising in supplying and supporting the nations agricultural and fishing export industries, as well as producing a wide range of general purpose polyethylene flexible packaging.**

**Objective:**

1. To reduce our internal waste by 20% based on year on year %'s.
2. To lock in the changes.

**Cost** (implementation costs & savings):

Incentives to staff and managers.  
 Financial, lunches, paid day off.  
 Total cost approx \$20,000.  
 Savings estimated at \$200,000 pa.



**Project Description:** Process waste is the accumulation of set up and run waste in the extrusion, printing and converting departments. With the predominance of small quantity orders the planning processes have a major bearing on the waste generated. Daily reporting of scrap was instituted and this with department and managers incentives created the focus to reduce the waste.

**How you implemented the project:** Internal waste has always been a focus for department managers but little headway has been made in reducing the waste until the recent involvement of staff at all levels. Targets were discussed and then set with each department gaining a lunch shout if they achieved targeted numbers for a month. If those targets were achieved over 3 consecutive mnth then a day off was granted to all department staff. Suddenly daily targets and achievements were the point of discussion at smoko breaks etc and staff became involved in the detail of where and how the waste was generated. All departments met their targets within 5 mnth and had earned their day off. ( taken individually at managers OK ). Staff and managers came up with several innovative ideas to reduce the set up waste and these new methods are now part of everyday practice.

**Results:**

02/03 yr to 03/04 saved 50 T  
 03/04 yr to 04/05 saved 100T YTD

NB. Chequer uses Astron Christchurch to regrind most of this waste which is then used by Chequer in the production of council and contractors refuse bags.

**Key Challenge:** To keep it going. Leadership by management and continuing to focus on the small steps.

**Solution:** Daily notices available to all on previous days production and scrap levels.

**The Future:** The plant has retained the positive trend and monthly numbers when compared to previous years show reductions are continuing. A Focus on upskilling / training of staff with an improved induction process is paying dividend.

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**Best Practice Hints:**

Constant reminders, daily charting of numbers, keep a positive focus.

02/03	03/04	04/05 YTD