



Sullivan Packaging has been in operation since 1948, and is an owner-operated business with sites in Auckland and Christchurch. They have six staff on their Christchurch site.

The company designs and manufactures thermo-formed rigid and semi-rigid plastic packaging. Sullivan Packaging offers clear or coloured, APET, CPET, ABS, HIPS, PP, PE, HDPE, and PVC products. Using ex-stock or custom-designed plastic packaging to present and protect nursery, horticulture, bakery, prepared meals, seafood, meat and industrial products.



**Our Objective:** Enviro-Mark®NZ Gold Standard.

The benefits that we are expecting to see during this process and once certified to Gold level include:

- The development of an auditable system that shows external parties the system is independently verified, “to keep me on my toes”, says Graeme.
- Interested parties such as the meat companies and OSH will see that the site is being audited by an independent party and may limit the size and timing of their audits as a consequence.



Building confidence as increasingly customers and suppliers are asking for the company's environmental credentials. Graeme believes it won't be long before this information is required before you are allowed to quote for jobs.

**Cost:** Staff time plus Enviro-Mark®NZ registration \$600 and audit fees of \$600. The support provided by this programme is heavily subsidized by the Christchurch City Council.

**How we implemented the project:** Graeme Moore, Production Manager, has a background in the meat industry and is site champion for environmental management. The site already had a number of documented procedures for health and safety compliance and is audited as a supplier to the meat industry. The site had no previous environmental management system but had been active in recycling and had received a resource-efficiency evaluation from the Christchurch City Council-run Target Zero team so was aware of the areas for improvement. The site is also a transitional facility and has developed procedures to ensure compliance with MAF requirements. The site decided to participate in the Enviro-Mark programme as a tool for putting all the systems on site under one umbrella.

**Results:** The site has already achieved Bronze Level certification and this has helped to:

- integrate the systems on site
- review compliance in areas that are not normally reviewed (i.e. building compliance)
- Create a logical structure so that, if anyone moves, on the knowledge is retained within the company in a form that is easy to pick up.
- Improve elements of the systems already in place
- Provide documentation to be able to show to customers and suppliers that the company is taking its environmental performance seriously.

Graeme is happy with the progress to date and was confident in the systems the company already had in place and the integration of these into the framework of the Enviro-Mark®NZ system. The certificate for Bronze is proudly displayed on the wall and the site is working towards Silver certification.

**Best Practice Hints:**  
One of Graeme's favourite sayings is that “you shouldn't build a Rolls Royce if you only need a Mini.” The systems that are developed for the businesses should only be as complex as are needed to ensure that any environmental and health and safety impacts are effectively managed.



**Key Challenge:** One of the hurdles for businesses taking on an environmental management system is that the site champions have no background in environmental management and the added problem of just finding enough time.

**The Solution:** The way to overcome this was to utilise the external parties that are available through a programme like the Enviro-Mark®NZ/ Target Zero Programme. These include Enviro-Mark®NZ and the sponsors to the programme (City Water and Waste and Target Zero) and other businesses that are involved in the programme.

As with a number of businesses in the programme, production issues have put pressures on the progress with developing the systems. Graeme liked the deadlines in the programme as it helped prioritise his time and set a line in the sand for when things needed to be completed.

**The Future:** Graeme sees the site progressing towards Enviro-Mark®NZ Silver level but is also keen to look at the systems as they develop, and when they have been in for a while, to review the benefits that they are actually delivering. As with the path to Bronze it was difficult to see the true benefits until it was completed and some of them will only be evident when the system has been in for some time.

### Contacts

Graeme Moore, Production Manager  
sulpak@xtra.co.nz

### Links

[www.plasticpackaging.co.nz](http://www.plasticpackaging.co.nz)  
[www.enviro-mark.com](http://www.enviro-mark.com)

