

Initiatives which reduce the environmental impacts of gas distribution – Supplementary evidence



As well as those highlighted there have also been a number of other successful environmental initiatives throughout the year.

Five Objectives, Five Years

Our 2008 SHE Conference saw the launch of our Five Objectives, Five Years (5O5) Environmental and Sustainability Strategy. This identifies five key targets to be delivered through 15 objectives, a copy of which was sent to all our employees. Posters featuring the campaign were also sent to each site location.



PE Pipe Recycling

In 2007/08 we spent £13 million on PE pipe, 9% of which was either sent to landfill or recycled. During the early part of 2008 we expanded the existing process to ensure that all PE was recycled and none was sent to landfill. To achieve the PE target of reducing recycling and avoid unnecessary waste by 2% we developed a number of initiatives:-

- A campaign reminding staff of the need to reduce wastage, return surplus PE to the depot and the process required to maximise its reusability.
- Discussions with our key supplier to develop equipment which will enable coiled PE pipe surplus lengths to be straightened and cut to suitable lengths, facilitating reuse
- Developing a process for reusing unused materials which will be available on our intranet. This stock list can then be used as part of the planning process before ordering new materials.

Waste Strategy

We are currently spending approximately £600,000 per annum in payment to contractors for the transportation and disposal of waste. During 2008/09, 61% of this material was sent to landfill. While this represented an improvement over 2007/08, in order to substantially increase our recycling performance and deliver significant financial savings to the business and therefore our customers, we have developed an alternative waste management strategy.

During 2008 we implemented a trial within our Horsham depot to test and refine our new waste management process. This involves doubling the level of waste stream segregation within the depot and returning it for centralised processing at our strategic stores where it will undertake further recycling. Once proven successful the strategy will be rolled-out across the business and our five-year recycling target will be met in a much shorter timeframe.

This change will result in 98% of our waste being recycled or used as part of an energy recovery from waste process and will provide annual financial savings of approximately £500,000. Indirect carbon emission benefits will also be realised from not using third-part contractors and from exploiting the availability of otherwise empty vehicles returning to the strategic stores locations.

Natural Gas Emissions

We have successfully delivered our mains replacement programme and have effectively managed our networks and taken steps to significantly improve the data contained within our asset repository. Several initiatives have been implemented associated with third party damages which have also contributed to an improvement in performance.

We now produce management information which identifies the number of interference damage jobs and the income generated to recover the costs incurred to repair the damage. We produce management information for each depot to enable plant protection officers to work closely with repeat offenders to encourage better performance. We have also developed a process for recording gas loss from all damages, which we have been recording since December 2008. A firmer approach is now being taken to recovering the costs incurred from third-party damages, thereby encouraging repeat offenders to take more care.

These combined actions have substantially reduced natural gas emissions.

Renewable Energy

We have switched our electricity supplier to one offering a 'green energy' contract. This will save approximately £1 million per annum.

Reductions in Greenhouse Gases from Commercial and Company Car Fleets

Two of our 505 environmental improvement targets are focused on reducing CO₂ output from our commercial and company car fleets by 2% and 5% per vehicle per year respectively. Our company car output has reduced year on year. This has been possible because the company car replacement fleet has been CO₂ capped which has led to a steady and continuing reduction in average CO₂ emission per replacement vehicle.

When selecting commercial vehicle replacements, full consideration has been given to their comparative environmental performance.

Satellite Navigation Systems

We continue to install Tom Tom satellite navigation systems within all of our commercial vehicles. The facility enables comprehensive monitoring of vehicle movement, speed, delay and other patterns. The system helps drivers to avoid roadworks and minimise time and distances between site locations which has obvious business and environmental benefits. Additionally we will be able to identify those in need of driver training in order to benefit the environment and reduce operating costs.

Electric motorcycle and hybrid lorry trial

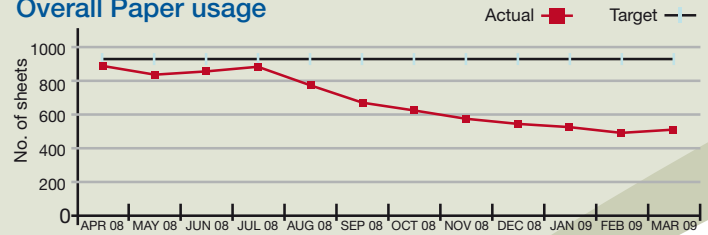
An electric motorcycle is currently in use within London depot to allow FCOs to attend gas escapes. Additionally, hybrid lorries are being assessed to determine their environmental and practical benefits.



Office Paper

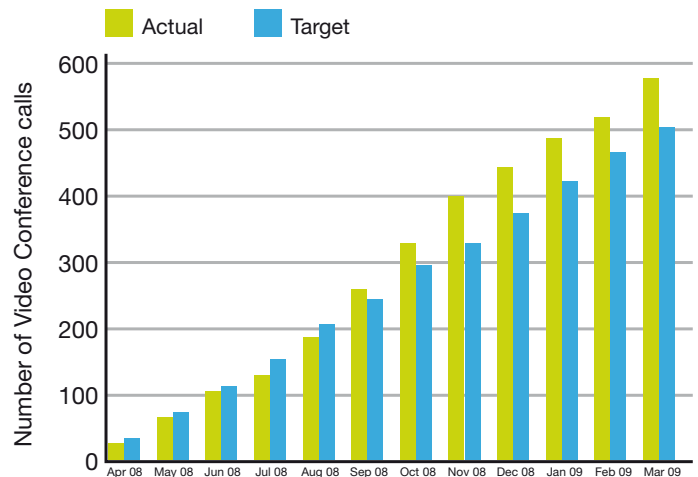
Our promotion of double-sided paper printing and the avoidance of unnecessary printing has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of paper used per person, as the following chart graphically indicates.

Overall Paper usage



Expansion in the use and availability of video conferencing facilities

As part of our strategy to reduce business travel and thereby impact beneficially on our carbon footprint we have run a number of campaigns, one of which highlighted the benefits of not travelling and utilising our video conference facilities. Additionally we have made available a user guide on our intranet site identifying the location of and how to use the equipment. This, together with the purchase and deployment of new equipment, has enabled us to grow its use as shown by the following diagram.



Focus on Journeys to Work

To address the issue of indirect generation of greenhouse gases from staff commuting to work we have:-

- Set up and publicised a liftshare database on our intranet which allows staff to find colleagues with whom they may wish to share car journeys;
- Allocated parking spaces dedicated to car share vehicles in some locations; and
- Used our online 'Quick Poll' intranet system to elicit from staff information about the means used to get to and from work in order to target our strategy.

Procurement Processes

We procure all goods and services in accordance with our policy which ensures that all aspects of corporate social responsibility are taken into account before awarding contracts.