

Rockwool - Integrated Environmental Management

Achieving environmental performance without compromising on economic success, Rockwool Ltd has beat its Climate Change Agreement target by more than 6.5% while increasing production by 25%.

Rockwool is committed to building a sustainable future, and environmental improvement is at the heart of its overall business vision. Its environmental objectives include reducing energy consumption, noise levels and emissions to landfill and air, and increasing environmental awareness in the local community and wider construction industry. Since 1996, Rockwool has invested over £12 million in environmental improvements and has one of the most technically advanced factories of its kind.

Process

Rockwool's environmental strategy embraces all areas of the business, from the manufacturing process to waste management, site emissions, energy efficiency and the end products. The factory uses some of the most energy efficient production techniques and an enclosed process water system with no discharge to sewer. Hot water is recycled and used to heat the offices, production equipment has been upgraded to reduce air emissions and products have been compressed to cut lorry journeys.

The full environmental impact of Rockwool's products is monitored by its Life Cycle Analyses (LCA), which takes into account the use of natural resources, transportation, raw materials, fuel and emissions. In addition, the company actively works with other organisations to improve the environment, and educates the public on environmental issues through campaigns and events for local children.

Impact

Rockwool is an excellent example of how an industrial manufacturer can achieve environmental performance without compromising on economic success. Rockwool products are increasingly specified because of their sustainable nature and the low environmental impact of the manufacturing process. In 2004, Rockwool beat its Climate Change Agreement energy consumption target by more than 6.5% while increasing production by 25%, and has generated cumulative CO2 savings of more than 30,000 tonnes since 2000.

Efficiency improvements have resulted in a power saving of approximately 2360MWh per year and associated cost savings of £71,500 per year. The ongoing programme to eliminate waste to landfill has led to 7,400 fewer lorries visiting the site and waste to landfill now represents only 6.8% of the total waste generated, saving over £5 million.

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