

Atlantis Industrial Area Waste Minimisation Club (2006)

**CASE STUDY:
WASTE MINIMISATION**

at Safety Transport Mirrors

Safety Transport Mirrors (STM) is an ISO 14000 accredited company who joined the Atlantis Industrial Waste Minimisation Club (WMC) in April 2002. They embarked on an Environmental Management System to maintain their clients. Joining the WMC improved their relationship with their clients.

Safety Transport Mirrors is a small enterprise, which has employs just over 90 people. Their product range consists of rear view mirrors for vehicles like Toyota, Audi, BMW, VWSA and Nissan.

Why is environment important for them

STM do not produce large amounts of wastes but they were still committed to eliminating unnecessary waste material from their process. This commitment combined with continuous improvement proved to be very beneficial to the company. They were also determined to contribute to the surrounding community as part of their social responsibility.

What have they gained?

A prevention quick scan was done in 2002 and indicated a few areas of improvement. At the same time the company was integrating the EMS into their process and gained substantial savings from within the company.

One area which showed a dramatic reduction is the generation of general waste at the site. This waste stream have decreased in the past two years by 64%. They now only generate less than a tonne of waste per year.

In the year 2004 and 2005 the company saved 18.5 tonnes of waste from Landfill. They have recycled cardboard and paper which was previously disposed with the general waste.

Thinners is an essential part of their production due to the spray painting of the mirrors. The usage of thinners have decreased by 20% and shows a saving of 5000 litres.

Water usage have also decreased and savings over 2004 and 2005 indicates 147 000 litres of water being conserved by prudent water consumption.

STM has always been proactive in their field and do regular environmental awareness with employees. They have liaised with their suppliers regarding the packaging materials to enable a reuse program. They have further proven the reuse of other

packaging materials to be used reducing the need to purchase of 45 000 plastic (aerothene) bags.

Furthermore the company has set targets for suppliers to provide products that do not contain banned substances.

It is clear from the successful activities that STM have accomplished that they are on the journey to becoming a sustainable business. The continuous monitoring programme enables them to track their success and keep the momentum going for further enhancements.

