

About the Castle Douglas Retail Project

This project was initiated by the Dumfries and Galloway Waste Minimisation Forum in 2001 and was the first of its kind to offer free environmental advice to small retail businesses in a rural area*. Twelve businesses signed up to take part (a garden centre, a chip shop that also sells sweets, a sports shop, a hotel, a brewery, a motor trade retailer, a building supplier, a metal fabricator, a baker, a butcher, a grocer and a solicitor/estate agent).

FastTrack actions

A FastTrack visit to each business gave proprietors and staff the opportunity to discuss waste, energy and water issues at their business. These discussions and the report sent to each business allowed the retailers to identify actions with both cost savings and environmental benefits.

- **Push tap controls were installed on washroom handbasins, and cistern bags were fitted in toilets.**
- **Temperatures in offices, storage areas and warehouses were controlled at an appropriate level.**
- **Motion detection controls for lights were fitted in storerooms and corridors not in constant use.**
- **Timers were fitted to lights in window display areas and immersion heaters to avoid unnecessary energy use during the night.**
- **The Castle Douglas Recycling Initiative was set up to provide a collection service for local businesses to recycle cardboard and plastic wastes rather than send them for landfill disposal.**

Cost savings

The Castle Douglas businesses have made joint savings estimated at £9 750/year.

- **Water costs have fallen by £1 625/year and energy costs by £5 915/year.**

- **Plastic and cardboard wastes are recycled by a local community project, which uses the revenue for amenity improvements.**
- **Waste disposal costs have fallen by £2 210/year.**

Environmental benefits

The environmental benefits associated with the project include:

- **less waste sent to landfill (90 tonnes/year);**
- **reduced water use (230 m³/year);**
- **reduced energy consumption (98 533 kWh/year).**

FastTrack visits

If you would like Envirowise to help you, find out if your business can have a FastTrack visit by contacting the Environment and Energy Helpline on 0800 585794. A FastTrack visit is a confidential, on-site waste review that includes up to a day's free advice on resource efficiency from an environmental expert. The visit highlights practical opportunities to turn waste into profit by improving resource efficiency and reducing associated costs.

“ This project has highlighted that there are opportunities for rural retailers to minimise waste and reduce their business costs. ”



Moira Weatherup, Co-ordinator,
Castle Douglas Retail Project

* The Castle Douglas Retail Project was developed by a sub-group of this Forum with the following partners: Envirowise; South West Environmental Action Project; SEPA; Solway Heritage; Dumfries and Galloway Council; and Thrift.

Visit the Envirowise website at www.envirowise.gov.uk and e-mail Envirowise with any specific questions (helpline@envirowise.gov.uk)



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Envirowise - Practical Environmental Advice for Business - is a Government programme that offers free, independent and practical advice to UK businesses to reduce waste at source and increase profits. It is managed by Momenta, an operating division of AEA Technology plc, and Technology Transfer and Innovation Ltd. This publication was prepared with assistance from Enviromentor Ltd.



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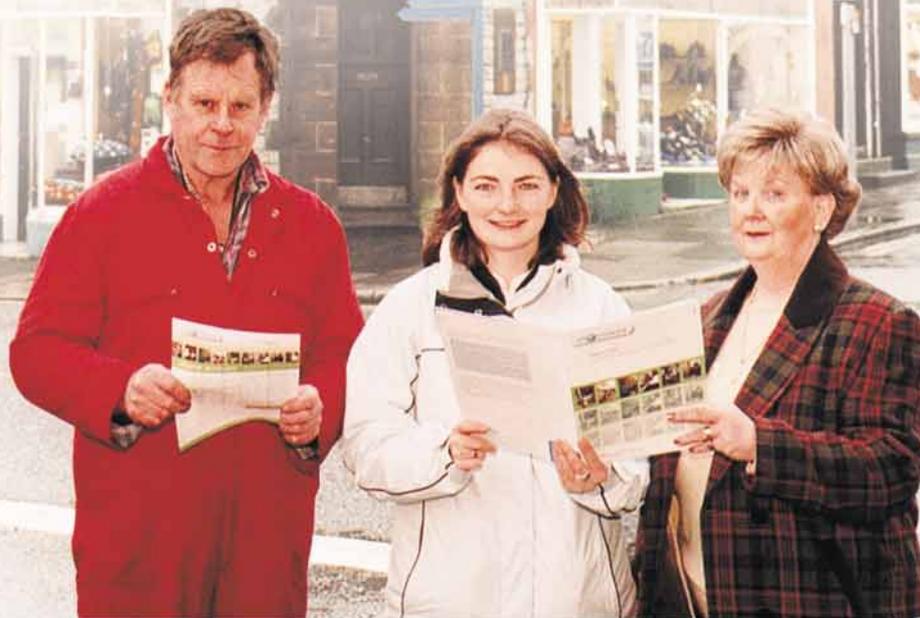
**Environment
and Energy
Helpline
0800 585794**

In partnership with the **Scottish Energy Efficiency Office**

High street businesses join together to save costs

This Action Profile from Castle Douglas outlines how a Scottish rural, high street community worked together to cut costs and achieve more sustainable business practices.

- ✓ Cost savings of around £9 750/year
- ✓ Reduced utility and waste disposal costs



Action

How you can use Envirowise to help your business:

- Register on the Envirowise website at www.envirowise.gov.uk for information about your industry sector.
- Call the Environment and Energy Helpline free on **0800 585794** for more information about waste minimisation in the retail sector.
- Ask whether your business can have a *FastTrack* visit either by calling the Helpline or by visiting the website.