

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

## *EMS drives down waste for plastics manufacturer*

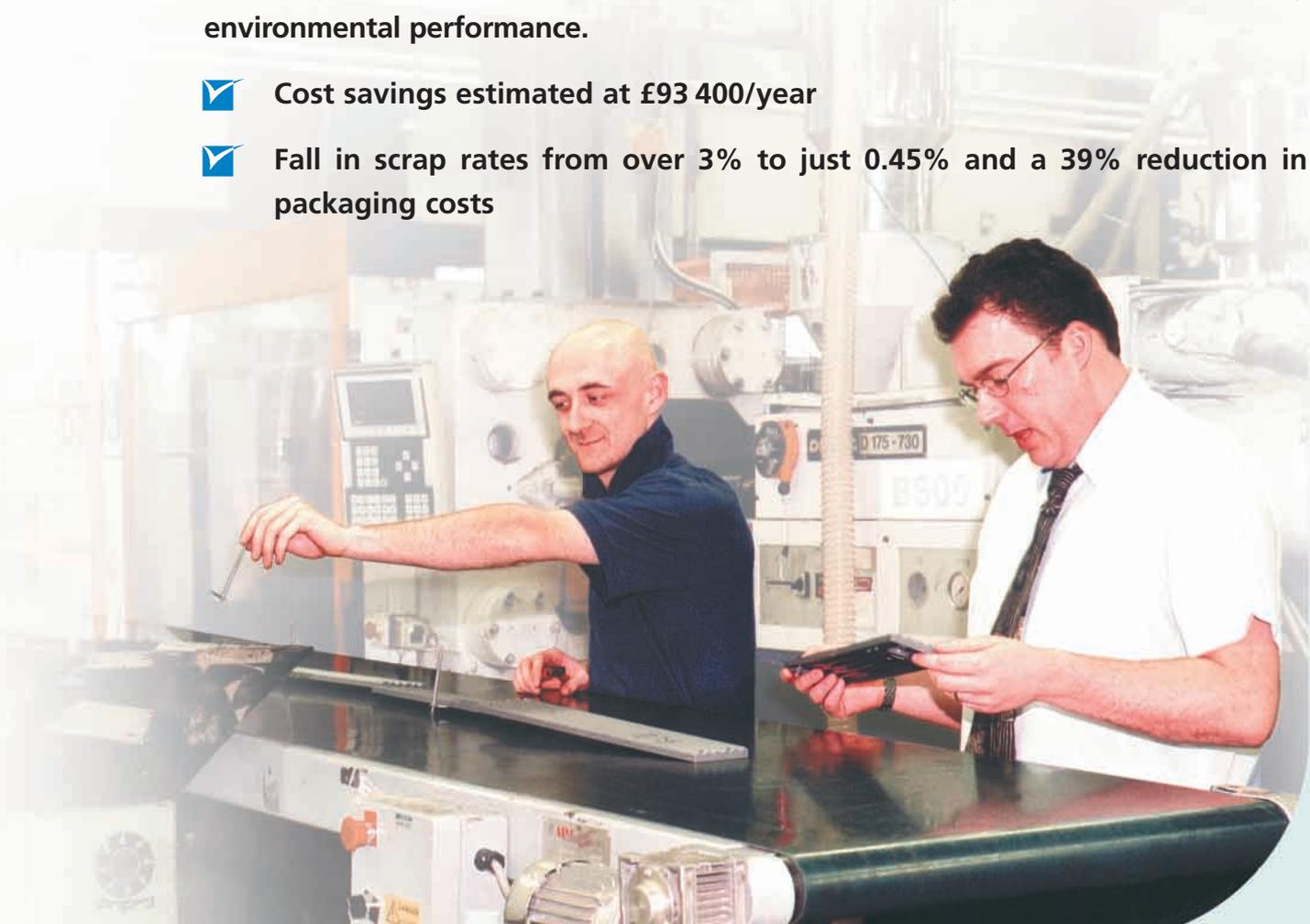
This Action Profile at McKechnie Plastic Components outlines the benefits to the company of a structured framework for reducing waste and improving environmental performance.

- ✓ Cost savings estimated at £93 400/year
- ✓ Fall in scrap rates from over 3% to just 0.45% and a 39% reduction in packaging costs

### Action

#### How you can use Envirowise to help your business:

- Register on the Envirowise website at [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk) for information about your industry sector.
- Call the Environment and Energy Helpline free on **0800 585794** for more information on how environmental management can help minimise waste.
- Ask whether your business can have a *FastTrack* visit either by calling the Helpline or by visiting the website.



## About McKechnie Plastic Components

McKechnie Plastic Components manufactures plastic moulded and extruded components, assembling and supplying products to electronics companies. The company operates from a number of locations within the UK, this Case Study concentrates on work undertaken at the manufacturing site at Beith in Ayrshire which has subsequently relocated. At the time of the study, 80 people were employed with an annual turnover of around £6 million.

### Environmental actions

In 1998, McKechnie responded to supply chain pressures by appointing an environmental co-ordinator to develop an accredited environmental management system (EMS). The cost savings that could be achieved through simple environmental improvements and reducing waste surprised the company and more than paid for the co-ordinator's salary. The EMS is now an integral part of the business as the company seeks year-on-year cost reductions. As part of the EMS Action Plan for 2001, McKechnie implemented initiatives to:

- **regranulate plastic scrap for re-use;**
- **set up a re-usable packaging system with its customers;**
- **install an oil filtration unit to increase the lifespan of machine oil;**
- **bale and recycle shrink-wrap packaging;**
- **recycle cardboard packaging and scrap metal.**

In 2001, McKechnie received the VIBES Award (Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland) for the medium-sized business category in the West of Scotland and is a founder member of the waste minimisation club co-ordinated by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.

### Cost savings

About £3 300 was spent on waste minimisation projects in 2001, including investment in a baler and an oil filtration unit. The payback period was less than one month.

- **Raw materials costs have fallen by £80 000/year (1.6%).**
- **Waste disposal costs have fallen by £10 000/year (66%).**
- **Waste oil costs have fallen by £3 400/year (50%).**

### Environmental benefits

The environmental benefits associated with McKechnie's actions include:

- **a fall in scrap rates from over 3% to just 0.45%;**
- **a reduction in use of new packaging of 2.6 tonnes/year;**
- **40 tonnes/year less waste going to landfill.**

### FastTrack visits

If you would like Envirowise to help you, find out if your business can have a free *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.

“ We have found that, by focusing on waste minimisation, we have also improved the quality of our business. ”



Jim Kennedy, General Manager,  
McKechnie Plastic Components

**Visit the Envirowise website at [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk) and e-mail Envirowise with any specific questions ([helpline@envirowise.gov.uk](mailto: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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