

Environment

Boots is committed to constant environmental improvement throughout all its operations. To monitor its progress it is developing key performance indicators (KPIs) covering the most significant impacts on the environment from its activities. It is currently refining its data collection and management for these KPIs – embracing energy, transport, global warming, waste, packaging and water consumption.

Energy As part of the company’s support for the Government’s ‘Making a Corporate Commitment’ energy efficiency campaign, each business unit has its own energy management structure and agreed energy reduction targets. During 1997/98 the company achieved savings worth £2.1 million through a combination of energy audits, energy saving projects, target setting and staff awareness campaigns. Energy efficiency (kWh/£1,000 turnover) improved by 12.7 per cent – see below right. Specific initiatives included the installation of more efficient door heaters and motor drives in around 800 stores, providing annual savings of some 18.3kWh of energy and 15,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions recently published actions taken by Do It All to improve store energy efficiency as a ‘best practice’ case study.

Packaging Applying the approach developed for the award winning Boots The Chemists (BTC) packaging database, business units across the group identify opportunities to reduce packaging, stay ahead of legislative targets for recycling and waste reduction and save costs. Boots Healthcare International has saved a further 37 tonnes a year of materials used for transit packs. Halfords has taken advantage of advanced moulding technology to reduce the weight of its five litre motor oil bottles by 40g, saving 25 tonnes of plastic a year. Reusable plastic containers for deliveries to BTC stores have enabled Boots Contract Manufacturing to save 54 tonnes of packaging materials a year.

Other initiatives Despite the increasing number of stores, initiatives such as load consolidation to maximise vehicle fill, backloading, aerodynamic trailer design and more efficient computerised vehicle routing have continued to reduce the impact of the Boots delivery fleet.

Besides routine recycling activities, the company was able to recycle some 2,500 tonnes of steel from the Nottingham warehouse that was destroyed by fire in October. Substantial quantities of concrete and bricks (6,500 tonnes), steel (750 tonnes), and copper and aluminium cable (25 tonnes) were also recycled during the demolition of the old power station on the Nottingham site.

Building on the success of the World Wide Fund for Nature initiative, BTC is now obtaining its natural sponges from a sustainably farmed source under a scheme endorsed by the Natural History Museum.

Environmental management will continue to be a core activity for Boots, delivering both social and environmental benefits. The establishment of KPIs will help to sustain further improvement in the company’s performance.

Key initiatives

Energy savings of over £2m

Key environmental performance indicators introduced

Store initiative saves 15,500 tonnes of CO₂ emissions a year

Anticipating packaging legislation reduces costs

Total company energy use
kWh/£000 Turnover

187	166
97	98