

CASE STUDY 25

Free advice saves thousands on waste bills Mayflower Marina, Plymouth

Background

Mayflower Marina was established in 1980 and is owned by its stakeholders, many of whom are also bertholders. Historically the marina has placed great importance on its environmental responsibilities but with rising utility costs and a desire to reduce its environmental impact, the marina was keen to see if further efficiencies could be found.

Areas of particular concern were:

- the increasing amount of waste being disposed of by mariners,
- encouraging more recycling which would reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill,
- identifying ways to reduce water use.



“We want to do more for the environment than just meet our legal obligations”.
Charles Bush, Managing Director of Mayflower Marina, Plymouth



Objectives

The Mayflower Marina commissioned Envision to undertake an environmental audit to make recommendations on how to encourage recycling and reduce the amount of waste being disposed of at the marina.

Actions

Mayflower Marina was one of the first in the SW of England to sign up to Envision, an environmental support programme providing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with five days of one-to-one business support. Envision showed SMEs how they could reduce their energy and water use and ensure they are compliant with relevant environmental legislation.

In 2006 an Envision consultant carried out an environmental audit at Mayflower; recommendations were made that were achievable and productive. They had already recently installed motion sensors for lights in communal areas, along with new, more energy-efficient laundry and washing facilities but the consultant recommended that in addition, the marina

should replace inefficient outdoor gas heaters with economical and energy-efficient alternatives.

With more than 400 boats in the marina they have a significant water bill, mainly due to the demands for washing, cooking and boat wash down. The marina is of course careful to ensure any toxic materials such as topside and anti-fouling paints are disposed of in an appropriate manner. In 2006 the marina's annual water bill was more than £10,000. Envision therefore recommended monitoring for leaks and reducing use by implementing simple measures, such as the use of low-trigger hoses. He also suggested looking at metering for particular types of berthholders.



Implementing a new waste management programme

Phase One: Identifying the problem

Like any company the marina is responsible for disposing of its waste legally and effectively. In 2006, the marina paid up to £8,000 to have its rubbish removed.



The review showed that costs could be reduced if the waste from the boats and the boatyard was separated, instead of continuing to put the waste into a single bin. To prove this point Envision pulled on their rubber gloves, jumped into the bin and within a minute had piles of separated rubbish, wood, paper, bottles, cans etc. The

waste audit showed substantial savings could be made by implementing a recycling scheme as segregated, recyclable waste, is not subject to landfill tax and therefore is much cheaper to dispose of.

Phase Two: Implementing the solution

Mayflower Marina implemented many of the recommendations made from the environmental audit, including:

- Viridor Devon Contract Waste now collect the recyclables including:
 - Cardboard
 - Glass
 - Mixed recyclables
- Waste holding facilities have been put in place; and
- Increased awareness amongst berthholders has been achieved using appropriate signage, segregated bins and promotional literature.

Results

Bertholders and visitors to the Mayflower Marina seem to be engaging with the new waste management programme. Charles Bush of The Mayflower Marina said, "It is clear that our customers are increasingly environmentally conscious and have reacted very positively to the recycling initiatives."



In the four years since the audit, increased customer awareness, better practices and facilities have meant that the marina's waste removal and water bills have not risen dramatically since 2006, despite the fact that the marina is busier than in the past and water and waste removal prices have risen due to increases in landfill tax.

The recommendations from the original environmental audit have saved Mayflower Marina thousands of pounds and helped them to stay ahead of changes in environmental legislation.

Sources of Further Information

- Viridor Devon Contract Waste: www.viridor.co.uk
- Envision have now been taken over by Ground Work Devon & Cornwall. For more information see www.groundwork-devonandcornwall.org.uk. Contact email southwest@groundwork.org.uk or telephone on **01752 217721**.
- For information on previous work by Envision please visit the website at www.envisionsw.org.uk
- For more information about The Green Blue please telephone on **02380 604 100** or email info@thegreenblue.org.uk.
- Visit www.thegreenblue.org.uk for more case studies and free publications.
- For more information regarding Mayflower Marina please telephone on **01752 556633** or email mayflower@mayflowermarina.org.uk or visit www.mayflowermarina.org.uk.

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The Green Blue is the joint environment programme for the
British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association
www.thegreenblue.org.uk

