

Case Study Oscar Mayer's Ferndale Foods reduce water intensity by 25% January 2014



“ What is most pleasing is the biggest successes have not come from big investment or new technology but have arisen from raising awareness across the site, by questioning existing processes and setting up a cross functional team with senior support.”



Kieran Foody, Group CSR & Sustainability Manager, Oscar Mayer Ltd

Oscar Mayer produces a variety of pre-prepared foods for major retailers at their three UK manufacturing sites. They signed up to the Federation House Commitment (FHC) in November 2010.

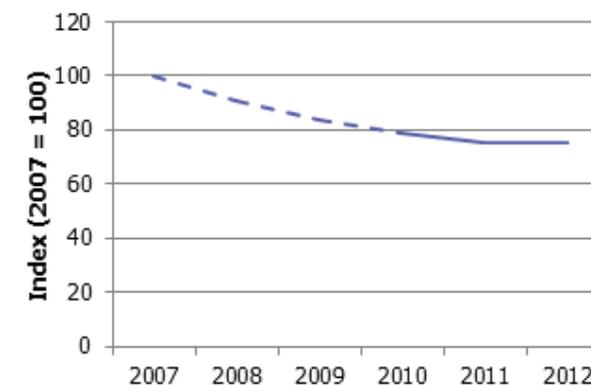
One of their manufacturing sites, Ferndale Foods in Erith, has achieved a water intensity reduction of 25% between 2007 and 2012¹ already and it is anticipated that these reductions will increase to 30% by the end of 2013.

In 2013 the site has established an energy team which focuses on energy savings that relate to a reduction in gas, electric and water use.

Opportunities are recorded in an 'energy savings action tracker'. Successful actions include:

- using sub-metering to identify trends in water use (ongoing);
- staff awareness training (ongoing);
- installation of a new tray wash and changing of the tray wash procedure, which will save an estimated 7,000 m³ water per year;
- installation of correct specification hose attachments for high pressure cleaning;
- process improvements, questioning existing processes and settings;
- faster identification of leaks and their repair;
- fixing a faulty valve setting on one of the cooling towers to reduce unnecessary purging; and
- installation of flush control on urinals.

Figure 1. Water intensity¹ trend between 2007 and 2012 at Ferndale Foods' site in Erith²



¹ Water intensity is expressed as water use (excluding that in product) per tonne of finished product. By reporting water use (excluding that in product), the FHC is reporting the amount of water that can be reduced by implementing best practice on site, it is not commenting on potential product changes.

² Data for 2008 and 2009 are interpolated and shown as a dashed line.