

Cornwall Sustainability Awards



TJ International was the overall winner in 2003's Sustainability Awards

T.J. International has been established in Padstow for over 30 years and remains the largest employer in the town with 152 full time staff involved in the printing and binding of scientific, academic and technical books for leading U.K. publishing companies. Output from the site exceeds 100,000 books per week on average, using the latest computer controlled machinery. The company has won many awards in its sector for workplace training, health and safety, business performance and the environment. It is a recognised Investor in People; ISO 14001 accredited, and maintains the 'Positive about Disabled' Chartermark.

Winning its sector, and the overall winner's award in the inaugural Cornwall Sustainability Award in 2003 was seen as a very special award for the company as it was the first time its achievements were recognised within the county. Nigel Hawke, Company Training Officer picks up the story.

"Winning this award underlines our real contribution to the economy and prosperity of the county and confirms our approach to sustainable employment policies and practices as being built on a very sound base. We started very simply by looking at waste minimisation issues such as -

- **Better use of warehouse space**
- **Changing our forklift trucks to run on lpg instead of diesel**
- **Installing automatic lighting**
- **Re-using packaging instead of putting it into landfill**

We also identified that the outside colour of our warehouse did not exactly fit in the surrounding environment – so we repainted it in a darker colour - pleasing many of our neighbours!

From these simple steps we have developed our own in house training scheme for all staff in environmental awareness and this training has been put to good effect by a small Environment Committee nominated from the shop floor. Ideas from the committee involve recycling, reuse and energy saving programmes and we expect to reduce our landfill wastage by 75% in 2004. However, at TJ we do not see sustainability as being just an environment issue - although that is very important. We simply look at everything we do at TJ every day and ask ourselves how our actions will effect what we do tomorrow! It really is that simple! This philosophy has led to practical employment; manufacturing and customer care policies and procedures supported by committed employees with staff turnover being practically zero over several years.

It is foolish to go it alone when there is so much expertise and support available locally. Benchmarking ourselves against entrants for this award in 2003 was part of that process and we learned a lot about ourselves and about other organisations also committed to ensuring that Cornwall has a sustainable economy in the future and remains the best place to live and work.

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