Taza Bakehouse

Challenge:
- Implement sustainable processes within a busy and time-constrained business

Solution:
- Gained knowledge on environmentally friendly devices and appliances
- Changed lighting, implemented recycling, included sustainable actions in marketing

Achievements:
- Culture Award Winner – S1k Sustainable Business Program;
- 44% more efficient than the industry average.

Background
The Taza Bakehouse opened for business in 2005 as a brand new bakehouse. The café offers hot foods, salads, cakes and coffees to the Playford residents. The café won a local business award in June 2008.

Solution
The bakehouse participated in the S1k Playford program in 2008. The owner, Sam Raslan, saw three excellent reasons to become involved in the program:
1. It was going help save money for the business
2. It was going help the environment
3. It would be a great marketing tool for the business

Once involved in the program, Sam and the staff found the workshops and the mentoring most helpful. They found the information regarding appliances and how to save costs on the way they are used was especially useful. Also, which appliances are more energy efficient and thus better for the environment.

The bakehouse have since made some excellent changes to their operations. They removed the halogen lights and replaced them with low energy versions. They also changed all their fluorescent lights to T5’s, which are very low energy lights and removed one globe in each fitting. Sam and the staff installed signage to remind people to switch off lights, reduce water usage, use the dual flush system in the toilets and switch off gas appliances when not in use. They have also instigated a rule not to use the dishwasher unless it is completely full. The café has also started a new recycling program.

As a result the cafe has seen a decrease in their utility bills. The staff are more diligent with their environmental actions and have taken these actions home with them. Seeing the changes work in the café, they could also see them making a difference at home as well.

Sam has plans to install lighting timers in the bathrooms at the café and has taken the learning’s from the Taza Bakehouse and applied them to a new café, including using green energy. Sam thoroughly recommends the S1k program and found it not only reduced energy and costs for his business, but also improves the health of the environment at the same time.

The customers have become more diligent as well, taking not of the signage and participating in the recycling program.

Sam has also incorporated their award from the S1K program in their marketing, displaying the award and even mentioning it on their email signatures.

All the staff were involved in the program. They had a meeting to discuss the findings in the report and a representative from Village Green also attended to explain the findings. This enabled the staff to understand what they should concentrate on regarding their business processes.

The major sponsors of the S1K Playford program are
- EPA SA, Govt. of South Australia, City of Playford, Centre for Innovation, DelinLend Lease, UniSA, City of Salisbury, Salisbury Business & Export Centre and LMC Technology Park

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