



2008 WEC GOLD MEDAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE ACHIEVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JURY CITATION

The Jury is pleased to award the 2008 WEC Gold Medal for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development to Marks & Spencer for its comprehensive and close links with its extensive global supply chain of finished products, food products and raw materials. Marks & Spencer is a highly visible, long lived international retailer headquartered in London.

Marks & Spencer addresses virtually every substantive sustainable development issue and has received broad recognition for its willingness to take action and drive change across the broad global supply chain.

To expand progress on sustainable development, Marks & Spencer launched its Signature Contribution, "PLAN A", a 100 point sustainability action plan which commits Marks & Spencer to a fully integrated improvement strategy. Plan A addresses a comprehensive portfolio of issues spanning Fair Trade standards, reduction of CO2 emissions, integration of sustainable commodities, to animal welfare and shareholder partnership.

POLICY

Marks & Spencer's business is supported by its core brand values of Quality, Value, Innovation, Service, and Trust. Trust started with employee welfare and steadily evolved through philanthropy, community investment, food safety, and sustainable development.

In order to realize the core values over the wide-spread supply chain, a fully integrated management structure for sustainability issues was created. It consists of an Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Executive and supported by a Social Responsibility Team. Each business unit has formulated a CSR Strategy, and has a delivery manager charged with ensuring fulfillment of sustainability commitments. Since 2003, an independently assured CSR report has been published.

Innovation in the fast moving, competitive, retail field requires innovative products and is addressed by a technology staff with experts in manufacturing, textile fibers, dyeing and finishing, packaging, fisheries science and agriculture. A comprehensive code of practice controls the use of chemicals in the textile supply chain.

APPLICATION

Marks & Spencer's ranking as a leading global retailer is achieved by constant attention to changing conditions under the guidance of the How We Do Business Committee.

Significant measures taken to reach the high level of performance are represented by: development of a sustainable fish sourcing policy; animal welfare standards in non-food products; milk price pledge that pays the best price for milk and insures stability of that price; partnering with communities to provide work placement for disadvantaged persons; reduction of carbon footprint by engaging customers; using innovative technologies to introduce green stores; research efforts on 'food miles'; reduction of packaging; and commitment to use certified or recycled wood.

Implementation of these world class policies, processes, and materials usage has enabled Marks & Spencer to meet important environmental and social goals.

LEADERSHIP

Marks & Spencer recognizes that there are many issues not solvable alone particularly along the extensive and diverse supply chain. To meet this challenge, they have become key leaders in the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange which promote a collaborative and supportive approach to confront labor standards. The concept of independently certified Fair Trade products allows consumers by their purchasing choices to make a difference and enables the communities in which they live to receive a premium to invest in education and health.

Marks & Spencer's business model also achieves change on the local level. Teaming with the Shell Foundation, investments have been made in India and Africa to meet Fair Trade Standards, create jobs and protect the environment.

Marks & Spencer is now moving past the awareness stage into an interactive phase involving supplier conferences and visits in order to identify areas of potential sharing and collaboration.

SIGNATURE CONTRIBUTION

Marks & Spencer's Signature Project "PLAN A", launched in 2007, places social and environmental issues at the heart of their business. The breadth of issues faced, the scale of Marks & Spencer's commitments, and the way it links supply chain, operations, and customers to address sustainability, is exceptional. Plan A is a 100 point five year sustainable development program. Accomplishment of

Plan A requires a clear infrastructure comprised of the CSR team and involving Plan A delivery managers in each business unit.

Plan A consists of significant efforts in the areas of climate change, waste reduction, raw material sustainability, Fair Trade practices, and product health. By 2012, Marks & Spencer's operations are to be carbon neutral through efficient use of electricity and fuel and a wide range of actions employed to reduce emissions in the dominant supply chain. By 2012, zero waste to landfill is a targeted goal as is a 25% decrease in packaging. To date, progress has been made on 83 of the defined objectives.

Marks & Spencer has made a clear commitment to improve high labor standards by involving better auditing, resourcing and benchmarking. A major commitment has been made to assist communities by developing work placement programs for disadvantaged groups in their own facilities and in supply chain communities.

As a major global retailer, Marks & Spencer has demonstrated a clear responsibility and provided resources to furnish its customers safe, healthy and sustainable products. They accomplished this by linking facilities and operations, supply chain and customers along the path of sustainability. Commitment to their business model has made a huge difference in some of the poorest parts of the world and with its global reach serves as an extraordinary model for others to emulate. The Jury is proud to designate Marks & Spencer for the 2008 WEC Gold Medal Award for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development.