Briefing Paper

Soil Association

Yeo Valley Organic, Somerset and Devon

Organic dairy produce

"We are always studying new developments in production, looking for ways that we can become more efficient and trying to design packaging that uses the minimum amount of energy to produce and can be simply recycled." Graham Keating, Yeo Valley Organic

Key measures employed

- Audits and advice from Carbon Trust, Envirowise, Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Innovative recyclable two-piece packaging
- Double decker lorry trailers carry 52 pallets rather than normal 26
- Lorry return trips bring fruit and packaging for next day's production
- Smaller local organic businesses allowed to 'piggy-back' on Yeo Valley deliveries to major retailers' regional distribution centres.

Results

- ISO 14001 (International Standard for Environmental Management Systems)
- Innovative double-deck trailers have halved vehicle movements
- Electrical energy use per tonne of yoghurt reduced by 5% over past 12 months
- Water use per tonne of yoghurt reduced by 6% over past 12 months

Future plans

- Anaerobic digester will generate heat from waste yoghurt and produce fertiliser
- Converting barn to education centre (with solar photovoltaics and biofuel boiler)
- Planted 48 hectares miscanthus as biofuel for heating offices and farm buildings – which should produce calorific equivalent of 70,000 litres oil in 2007

Further information

- Graham Keating, graham.keating@yeovalley.co.uk
- Yeo Valley - www.yeovalleyorganic.co.uk and www.yeovalleygroup.co.uk

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