

CO₂ Emissions Reduced with Efficient Logistics

In times of global warming, climate changes and international political summits, the focus for discussions is often limited to materials, production methods and new technology. However, using less through increased efficiency is an often underrated factor. The Dutch-Danish company, Container Centralen, has reduced CO₂ emissions every day for more than 30 years through improved logistics.

Green Logistics

Since 1976, Container Centralen has with its innovative products and services been very pro-active in cutting costs, waste and CO₂ emissions in their industry. Since the company's inception, pot plants in Europe have primarily been transported on Container Centralen's trolleys called the "CC Container". This unique trolley was developed to better utilise space in cooled trucks. Furthermore, they are easily disassembled to a fraction (1/10) of their loaded volume if a need to transport empty containers arises.

When the CC Pool System was introduced, it enabled the exchange of full containers for empty and vice versa, and has thereby significantly improved horticultural logistics. With a whole range of reusable transport items available from CC, many other industries are now also benefitting from these as well as the unique CC Pool System. The pool system allows customers to deposit and withdraw CC Containers at any depot at their convenience, which reduces the need for transportation immensely. Some disposable packaging is therefore becoming redundant, costly and undesirable by environmentally conscientious companies.

In 2010, RFID technology (Radio Frequency Identification) will be implemented on all CC Containers. When used to its full potential, RFID allows for advanced features such as "Track & Trace". Detailed management of RTI's in this way will lead to even larger future CO₂- and cost savings.

Less Space – Less CO₂

Less warehouse space means less energy for light, heating, etc. Using products with better space utilisation is therefore critical to cutting CO₂ emissions. This demand is satisfied by using CC returnable transport items; with their Euro-dimensions and collapsible structure they require less space. Furthermore, all items are on wheels and even crates are easily moved on the rolling CC Rolly or CC Euro Dolly. Costly space needed for forklift handling can thereby be reduced. At the same time manoeuvring in confined spaces becomes easier.

One of the latest product developments is the collapsible CC Eurocrate, which comes in 3 sizes. The largest crate can be folded to only 16% of its open volume for transportation and storage, and they are all easily stacked and transported on the rolling CC Rolly / CC Dolly or even Euro pallets.

- *'We are convinced that CC has the most innovative solution for reusable transport items in the market'*, says Günter Gerland, CSO Business Process Reengineering.

Some large retail chains are also discovering the benefits of returnable transport items, as they not only save money on the logistics budget, but also reduce CO₂ emissions notably. Austrian REWE recently tested a range of crate solutions from different suppliers and concluded that by using the collapsible CC Eurocrate they could expect an annual saving of 1.4mio kg CO₂. The CC Eurocrates are implemented into REWE's operations from November 2009.

Less Travelling

The environmental considerations also affect CC's internal activities. Communication is increasingly based on online media; environmentally friendly gimmicks are created, and travelling activities are reduced. – *'With offices in 10 European countries plus the USA, we have traditionally travelled a lot. Today however, video-conferencing is a very efficient tool, which allows us to have as many meetings as possible 'online' instead of spending a lot of time and money travelling. Less CO₂ is of course a nice side-effect of this'*, says Managing Director Tonny Vangsgaard Gravesen.





For more information see www.container-centralen.com / www.cc-rfid.com or contact COO Søren Møller Sørensen, Container Centralen a/s, tel.: +45 5115 7221.

