



Factoids

- 1. The Co-operative Group is Britain's most trusted brand**
Research commissioned by the National Consumer Council and AccountAbility (a charity committed to improving businesses' social and ethical performance) found that the Co-operative Group was the most trusted business in the UK, with key differentiation in the areas of honesty, the environment and the treatment of employees (SR2005 p6, survey undertaken by Globescan in May 2006).

- 2. Virtually all electricity The Co-operative Group uses is sourced from wind and water power**

- 3. The Co-operative Group is one of the largest purchasers of wind and water power in the world**

- 4. The Co-operative Group were the first retailer in the UK to power all our outlets on wind and water power**

In the UK, most electricity is generated by the burning of coal and gas. This releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. During 2005, 98% of our electricity, some 680 GWh, was sourced from good quality renewable (or green) sources – such as wind and water. This is enough electricity to power 206,000 UK homes, or a city the size of Edinburgh, and this makes us one of the world's largest purchasers of renewable electricity (SR2005 p 23). Acquisitions made after October 2006, may not be, and our N.Ireland sites are **not** powered by renewables.



- 5. The Co-operative Group wind farm in Cambridgeshire generates enough electricity to power over 9,000 UK homes**

In the UK, most electricity is generated by the burning of coal and gas. This releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Electricity for all our mainland sites now comes from renewable (or green) sources. This includes electricity generated at the Coldham wind farm in Cambridgeshire, a joint venture business owned by the Co-operative Group and Scottish Power, which is built on Co-operative Group farmland. The electricity generated from this wind farm alone is enough to meet the electricity needs of over 9,000 UK homes (SR2005 p24).



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6. **The Co-operative Group offer the largest range of RSPCA Freedom Food-labelled products in the UK**

The Freedom Food scheme was introduced by the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and signifies high animal welfare standards. In 2005, some £14m worth of Freedom Food-labelled products were sold in our stores (SR2005 p13).

7. **The Co-operative Group own-brand tuna is caught by methods that conform to the Earth Island Institute dolphin safe standards**

We don't use drift nets to catch our own-brand tuna, nor are fish caught using the method known as 'setting on dolphins', whereby tuna is caught by chasing and setting nets on herds of dolphins. All our own-brand tuna contains the Earth Island Institute's dolphin-safe logo. The Earth Island Institute develop and support projects that conserve the global environment (SR2005 p32).

8. **All of the fresh beef, pork, duck and whole chicken meat from The Co-operative Group is to be sourced from the UK**

This makes farm assurance standards easier to secure and monitor, and keeps food miles and the environmental impact of transportation down. Note this does not include meat products, for example chicken portions, bacon or sausage (source Quality Assurance, 2007).

9. **The Co-operative Group have developed a market-leading Pesticides Policy**

Pesticides are chemicals that are designed to exert toxicity selectively, but there can sometimes be unintended consequences for human health (both that of the grower and consumer) and for the environment. In recent years, we have developed a market-leading Pesticides Policy, which seeks to reduce the use of pesticides in all of our own-brand fresh and frozen produce. We have banned approximately 20 chemicals, restricted the use of a further 30 and work is underway to increase this number (SR2005 p17).



10. The Co-operative Group were the first major retailer to sell peat-free salad cress

Peat bogs are one of the UK's rarest and most vulnerable habitats. Formed over thousands of years, peat bogs have very slow growth rates, no more than 1mm per year. In the UK 94% of peat bogs have been lost, and the Government has set a target for a minimum reduction in peat use by the end of 2010. Our peat-free salad cress is grown on special matting made of 100% biodegradable material, which completely breaks down in landfill (SR2005 p34).

11. The Co-operative Group customers have raised more than £100,000 for Oxfam by recycling unwanted mobile phones and inkjet cartridges

We actively support customers in the recycling of mobile phones and inkjet cartridges in partnership with Oxfam, a development, advocacy, and relief agency working to end poverty worldwide. Customers can now collect freepost recycling bags from our stores, enabling them to post their unwanted mobile phones and inkjet cartridges to Oxfam. In 2005 we raised £48,000 for Oxfam and it is anticipated that more than £100,000 will be raised in 2006 (SR2005 p29).

12. The Co-operative Group were the first retailer to run a successful packaging waste minimisation project with the Government's Waste Resources Action Programme

We are actively exploring ways in which waste can be minimised, and we have been working with the Government's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to try to achieve a reduction in packaging waste. We were the first retailer to run a successful waste minimisation programme with WRAP, whereby our own-brand tomato puree was re-designed to eliminate box packaging, saving an estimated 30% of the total packaging weight (SR2005 p29).

13. All Co-op sliced bread bags are degradable

Conventional plastic packaging takes over 100 years to break down. When our bags are produced, we introduce an additive system that speeds up the natural process of breaking down, and greatly accelerates disintegration in landfill. From the date of manufacture, the plastic will start to degrade in approx. 18 months time. We use over 400 million carrier bags and some 37 million sliced bread bags per year (SR2005 p30).



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14. All the head office paper in The Co-operative Group is turned into our own-brand toilet paper in our shops

We 'close the loop' with our paper recycling and turn used paper from our head offices into our own-brand toilet and kitchen rolls that are sold in our stores (re-confirm this to be the case before use in 2007). Our own-brand quilted bathroom tissue displays the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) product label, allowing customers to recognise a product that supports the growth of responsible forest management worldwide. The FSC set international standards for responsible forest management, hence safeguarding the natural heritage of the forest. (SR2005 p30).



15. The Co-operative Group introduced Britain's first degradable plastic carrier bag

16. The Co-operative Group 'Fresh' produce bags are degradable

17. Use a 'bag for life' and help The Co-operative Group reduce the number of our carrier bags

Although our carrier bags breakdown quicker than most carrier bags, we use over 400 million per year and we are aiming to reduce the number. You can purchase a 'bag for life' at a cost of 10p. This robust carrier bag can be used upwards of 30 times before it wears out, and when it becomes damaged or unusable you can return it to our store and have it replaced free of charge (SR2005 p30).

18. The Co-operative Group use compostable netting for our organic oranges and onions

We use a starch based netting for our organic oranges and onions that can be composted easily. This means that there is less waste going to landfill sites (SR2005 p30).



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19. **The Co-operative Group recycled over 29,500 tonnes of waste cardboard and polythene packaging in 2005**

Every year, over six tonnes of waste is generated for every person in the UK, the equivalent weight of a fully-grown male elephant. Industrial and Commercial waste totals some 70 million tonnes, with the retail sector producing more than any other. We try to recycle wherever possible, and in 2005, we recycled over 29,500 tonnes (SR2005 p28).

20. **Co-operative Financial Services recycles almost ten times as much waste as the average office**

In 2005, CFS recycled 71% of the waste that we produced, some 1,160 tonnes. Environment Agency statistics indicate that the average office recycled just 7.5% of its waste (SR2005, RRR).

21. **The Co-operative Group 'Solar Tower', in Manchester, UK, generates enough electricity every year to make 9 million cups of tea**

22. **The Co-operative Group 'Solar Tower' is home to the largest solar project in the UK**

The CIS Tower in Manchester became Europe's largest vertical solar array, when all three sides of the 25 storey building's service tower were clad in energy generating solar panels in 2005. 7,244 solar photovoltaic panels, designed to convert daylight into electricity, create 180,000 units of renewable electricity each year - enough energy to make 9,000,000 cups of tea.

23. **The Co-operative Group have installed the UK's largest ever application of micro-wind turbines**

In 2005 we installed 19 micro-wind turbines on top of one of our Manchester buildings. The turbines generate 44,000 units of renewable electricity per year.

24. **The Co-operative Bank is the most responsible business in the UK**

In 2006, the Bank topped the Business in the Community Corporate Responsibility Index. The index provides companies with a way to manage, measure and report on their impact on society and the environment. It is the UK's leading benchmark of responsible business, helping companies to integrate and improve responsible business across their organisation, and providing a systematic approach to managing, measuring and reporting their impacts on society and the environment.



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25. In 2005, Co-operative Financial Services mortgage customers contributed some £250,000 to combat climate change

Every year that a customer holds a mortgage, the Bank pays Climate Care, an organisation dedicated to combating global warming, to offset a fifth of a household's carbon dioxide emissions (based on an average household). An offset is a way of reducing carbon dioxide, one of the greatest contributors to climate change, in the atmosphere. We fund renewable energy and reforestation projects in the developing world, such as the building of biogas digesters and wind turbines in India, the provision of fuel efficient stoves in Madagascar, the provision of household energy efficiency measures in Pakistan and rainforest reforestation in Uganda.

26. The Co-operative Group have launched the UK's first eco-friendly car insurance, 'eco-insurance'

For every vehicle insured under the eco-insurance product we will offset 20% of the carbon dioxide emissions produced by the average car. An offset is a way of reducing carbon dioxide, one of the greatest contributors to climate change, in the atmosphere. We fund projects that offset 20% of an equivalent amount of emissions to that of driving. We fund renewable energy and reforestation projects in the developing world, such as the building of biogas digesters and wind turbines in India, the provision of fuel efficient stoves in Madagascar, the provision of household energy efficiency measures in Pakistan and rainforest reforestation in Uganda.

27. The Co-operative Group customers can book a holiday and help combat climate change

We are the first travel agent in the UK to offer customers on the high street the opportunity to offset the carbon dioxide emissions generated by flying. An offset is a way of reducing carbon dioxide, one of the greatest contributors to climate change, in the atmosphere. This fund projects that offset an equivalent amount of emissions to that produced by a particular flight. (Customer chooses how much of a flight to offset). We fund renewable energy and reforestation projects in the developing world, such as the building of biogas digesters and wind turbines in India, the provision of fuel efficient stoves in Madagascar, the provision of household energy efficiency measures in Pakistan and rainforest reforestation in Uganda.