



# Wilson's Country Ltd

September 2008

## Programme Details

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP), supported locally by Invest NI, is a business competitiveness programme which offers businesses the opportunity to match an excess of any resource such as waste, transport, storage, skills, capacity, energy, with other businesses that could use that resource.

### The Company

Wilson's Country Ltd was established in the mid 1980's by Angus Wilson, and is now one of Ireland's fastest growing potato packing and fresh cut fruit processing businesses. The Craigavon based company supplies food retailers, caterers and food processing companies with a range of products. Wilson's Country has continually invested in its infrastructure, staff and the environment in order to provide the highest standard of service to its customers.

### The Challenge

Wilson's Country Ltd process over 35,000 tonnes of potatoes and vegetables per annum, supplying supermarket chains such as Co-Op, Dunnes Stores, Marks and Spencer and Tesco. Handling of this significant tonnage of food produce which requires washing, peeling and coring puts a demand on water usage and waste generation. There is also additional packaging waste from products and services brought to the site. All these have economic and environmental implications which Wilson's Country Ltd endeavours to reduce significantly.

### The Solution

Wilson's Country Ltd was proactive in reviewing and cataloguing the economic and environmental cost of its processes and redundant resources. Following a referral from Invest NI, NISP visited the company to assess its resources and provide advice on cost saving and landfill diversion. In the first instance, wood, cardboard and plastic packaging waste were segregated and recycled via Bailey Waste, Lurgan.

The next resource efficiency stage focuses on reduction in water usage and water recycling.

### The Benefits

Being one of the fastest growing companies in its sector, Wilson's Country likes to set examples in the area of environment and corporate social responsibility. The process undertaken by Wilson's Country has diverted 250 tonnes of cardboard, paper and plastics waste from landfill. The segregated packaging waste becomes alternative raw material in the manufacture of new products.

Using an approved Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions calculation matrix, NISP projects that recycling at Wilson's Country will benefited the environment by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1,220tonnes. The company also stands to save £19,000 in the first year.

### Company Testimonial

"Wilson's Country Ltd has been very impressed with the level of advice given. This has helped us to improve our profitability and reduce our environmental impact.

Wilson's Country Ltd look forward to continued help and guidance from NISP in the future".

*(Brian Lockhart - Director, Wilson's Country, Craigavon)*

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