



Relicomp - a family company with a sustainable vision

Relicomp is a family company founded in 1993. This metal company subcontracts metal sheets and cuts them to different sizes for different purposes using for example laser cutting. Relicomp is a Finnish family company and it has four owners. Relicomp employs 136 people, of whom 110 work in production. The rest of the employees work in management. The customer base of Relicomp is from a wide range of different companies and it does a lot of collaborations with other metal companies, to which Relicomp delivers products. On our visit we got to see the production phases of a hood of a Ponsse forestry harvester. Relicomp has also started export to Sweden, which has proven to be important for the company. Previously Relicomp was based at Kauhajoki, but relocated to Kurikka during 2014 to larger premises.

Our visit to the company

We visited Relicomp offices at Kurikka in December, where Tiina Jyllilä took us on a tour around the company premises. Jyllilä presented the history and the line of business of the company. The theme of our visit was sustainable development and how the company has taken it to consideration in their everyday work. We were positively surprised at how well our visit had been prepared, where for example the slide show was based entirely on our questions. During the tour of the company grounds we got to see the things mentioned in the slide show, working in full action. The tour was quite long since the company grounds were so big. It was surprising to see how tidy and clean the working areas were, considering they belong to a metal company.

Sustainable development

Relicomp supports sustainable development and works in sustainable ways. For them sustainability shows their values in investments but also in everyday work. Relicomp has invested a lot in recycling and have 5 year programs to make sure their environmental goals and tasks are monitored and succeeded. Relicomp has also a certified ISO 12001 environment quality control system since 2003. To keep this certification, the company needs to invest annually in sustainable development around one million euros. Sustainability requires a lot of familiarization to the subject and to environmental laws. The workers need to be informed as well so that they can work towards bigger goals. This also means that workers can be proud to work in a company, that really takes environmental issues to consideration. This helps to build a responsible image of the company and its brand.

Relicomp wants to invest in newer and more sustainable technology. Their goal is to get technology that is more energy efficient and they also work together with other companies to develop waste disposal. At this

moment 80 percent of the metal they use, is recycled and 100 percent of Relicomp's waste metal is recycled. They also recycle 80 percent of their paints which of the rest 20 percent are burned.

What does sustainability call for?

In Relicomp sustainability is a goal that is constantly revised and monitored. The lead has an important place to be in the frontline to encourage a positive change, but it's still important for the whole staff to be in on it as well. The entire staff needs to be educated and introduced to the subject. Everyone needs to know the goals of sustainability, environmental laws and how to act accordingly. In a company like Relicomp everyone has their own responsibility for sustainable development. The company administration needs to supervise

and monitor how sustainability is fulfilled and give instructions when they are needed. Relicomp monitors constantly metal and paint waste and energy consumption (liquid gas, electricity, heating and water). If there are any noticeable changes, they can find it out immediately. Previously the water waste from the paint shop was hazardous, but after some chemical changes that clear the water, they are now able to let the water go out through the normal sewage.

What are the benefits of working sustainable?

Relicomp strives for a cleaner environment. They feel it's important, they get to make their part. The customers have been very impressed with Relicomp's actions for the environment, which brings more value to the product. Relicomp gets around 280 000 euros of financial benefit from recycling paint and metal which means that, that money can be redirected into investing in new technology. The amount of electricity they need also goes down with new machines.

The company recognises processes that could be upgraded to be more sustainable, but they require substantial investments that they can't be started right away. For example the waste heat of the paint shop could be recovered and used further in heating the premise.



What lies ahead in the future?

In the future Relicomp wants to invest in more energy efficient technologies to minimize emissions as small as possible. Investments cost a lot so everything can't be done immediately but they will take more time. Their first priority at the moment is to make the paint shop more energy efficient and to recover the waste heat. Relicomp could use its green practises in advertising.

Sources:

<https://relicomp.fi/?lang=en>



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