

PRESS RELEASE

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SUSTAINABILITY REALLY CAN BE THE LETTER OF THE LAW

The Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce Te Awamutu law firm Gallie Miles as the December winner of the Sustainability Champions Programme which is co delivered with Waikato Regional Council and Waipa District Council.

Sue Garmonsway of Gallie Miles has led the team in this process of transformation. “Gallie Miles is committed to reducing (and potentially eliminating) our use of paper resources - no mean feat for a law office! Over the last 12 months we have comprehensively reviewed the ways we are using paper, implemented a system whereby paper is re-used where possible (e.g once draft paper documents are reviewed they are re-used to print internal reports), adopted systems to enable on-line review and finalisation of documents (eliminating the need for many paper drafts), taken active steps to implement an electronic file system (with a goal of having all client files electronically managed within 3 years), and reviewed which documents we are required by law to keep in paper format (very few it turns out, thereby reducing our long term storage needs)” she says. “We are excited at the opportunities that being paper-less presents. Long term we see ourselves having a fully paperless office, with client intranet, remote work spaces and a smaller overall footprint”

The firm has also made adjustments in their workspaces to allow staff to work off dual computer screens (enabling more efficient review of documents without the need to print paper copies) and are now experimenting with standing desks. “The Chamber has had a close relationship with Gallie Miles for many years, and has seen Gallie Miles make an ongoing commitment to their sustainability practices” Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce chief executive Susan Trodden says

Along with the monthly award, the Chamber is holding regular training events for businesses interested in developing their sustainable business processes. Hope Williams from the Waipa District Councils Waste Minimisation team, and Anna D’Arcy from Waikato Regional Council will be delivering the next workshop, set down for April. The programme, including the monthly award is open to the wider business community, not just Chamber members. Nominations can be made via www.teawamutuchamber.org.nz

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