

Target area: Waste and Recycling

Chapter 11

What have we been doing?

Progress against the waste and recycling targets has been very encouraging, however if the 2020 recycling target is to be achieved, then further action is required, particularly around paper recovery, which

has dropped by 3% this year. The key to maximising recycling lies in promoting the waste segregation habit. Taking into account feedback and operational issues surrounding the 'binless' office initiative, a new model – 'Recycle It' – has been developed in conjunction with LST.

Targets in detail

WASTE ARISING

- Reduce waste arisings by 5% by 2010, relative to 2004/2005 levels.
- Reduce waste arisings by 25% by 2020, relative to 2004/2005 levels.

RECYCLING

- Increase recycling figures to 40% of waste arisings by 2010.
- Increase recycling figures to 75% of waste arisings by 2020.

At a glance...

- 2010 and 2020 waste arising targets already exceeded.
- 2010 recycling target already exceeded.
- Office only waste reduced by 32% against baseline.
- 64% of office waste recycled in year.
- 72% of waste recycled in year (combined office and furniture waste).



Key features are:

- improved communications with business managers and staff
- paper recycling bins provided in suitable positions, in greater numbers and size, with clearer labelling
- where catering outlets exist, bins provided for glass and can recycling
- landfill bins provided for all other waste
- This model is being trialled in Yorkshire and Humber region to overcome any initial teething problems, prior to rollout.

Swap Shop

Some unusual items continue to be re-homed through the 'Swap Shop'. Over 500 successful placements have been made this year, ranging from the routine single or multiple boxes of stationery through to the surprise of a plasma display screen. Quantifying these in terms of value or weight is not easy, due to their diversity but the fact that items are not being thrown away is a sufficient measure of success.

Light fantastic

Over the last three years the number of fluorescent tubes recycled has steadily dropped in number, from 2.2 tonnes in 2005/06 to 1.55 tonnes for 2007/08. At first this might appear to be a worrying trend however it demonstrates that as new tubes are fitted with a longer life span, the

amount of tubes needing replacing is decreasing, leading to fewer being sent for recycling. In the coming year there are a number of lighting projects scheduled to replace existing lamps, improving lighting standards for staff and reducing the energy consumption.

Healthier alternatives reduce biofuel recycling

Increases in recycling figures usually signify progress but in the case of cooking oil, we are very pleased that recycling figures are reducing. 18,915 litres of cooking oil were recycled as biofuel this year, compared to 74,880 litres in 2004/05. This gradual reduction is not due to poor performance but a reducing estate and more importantly a reflection on how eating habits are changing by eating fewer fried foods. There are currently 128 catering outlets which now provide healthier options and produce less fried foods.



Reuse and recycling

Paper and cardboard recycled	12952.71 tonnes
Fluorescent tubes recycled	1.55 tonnes
Furniture reused/ recycled	6081.60 tonnes
Cooking oil	18915 litres
Mobile phones	Reused through brokerage scheme
IT equipment	Reused or recycled by supplier
Waste to landfill	7390.29 tonnes

Site specific recycling

Keen to improve on current recycling rates, DCS have worked with service partners to implement a broader spectrum of recycling on the large multi-occupancy site at Norcross, Blackpool. Plastic, glass and cans are now collected by the same company who remove confidential waste and paper, ensuring that additional transport is not required for the disposal of the additional waste streams.

Improved service: reduced waste

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Shoreham-by-Sea National Disclosure Unit handles around 86,000 Police information

requests annually. Staff on the Fraud Investigation Service Intelligence team established that they were using and faxing in excess of 650,000 A4 sheets of paper in this process.

The team worked with the Police to look at a more sustainable and environmentally friendly IT solution. Their hard work has resulted in:

- information exchange through a secure electronic system
- a considerably faster process
- a reduction in time spent linking papers to files
- a saving of 1,300 reams of paper each year
- significant improvements in personal data security
- electronic data storage removing the need to transport files to remote storage
- an improvement in customer care.

