



A GUIDE TO CREATING
A SUCCESSFUL
RECYCLING
PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

Looking to improve your waste management programme and increase recycling rates? We can help.

In this guide, you will find all the information you need to create and action an efficient and effective waste management programme.

Find out how to:

- ✓ Identify and manage specific waste streams
- ✓ Recognise what can be recycled (and what can't)
- ✓ Create a successful recycling programme that meets the needs of your workplace or organisation

For additional resources and product guidance, visit www.glasdon.com.

Who are we?

We're Glasdon — an established UK manufacturer with our design eye set firmly on helping improve the environment.

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Part 3 : Overview

Recycling for a greener future





Circular economy and plans for a greener future

As the urgency of climate change becomes apparent, many governments and governing bodies are implementing action plans to combat the harmful effects of greenhouse gases on the planet — the UK stands among them and recycling in the UK is set to increase.

While the EU sets its sights on a circular economy — aiming to extend the life cycle of materials by encouraging recycling and repurposing materials — the UK builds on its 25-year Environment plan.*

With an ambition to tackle climate change, minimise waste and create a sustainable and efficient method of resource consumption, the UK's ambitious 25-year Environment plan will bring about government collaboration with communities and businesses to mitigate and rectify climate change.*

The importance of recycling

Recycling, at any level, household or in the workplace, has a positive impact on the planet and this process of separating waste into streams is important for numerous reasons.



■ Raw Materials

Recycling and repurposing materials reduces the demand for raw materials and resources. In so doing, it protects natural habitats by eliminating the need to mine new resources. Reducing the extraction of raw materials also lowers energy emissions and pollutions.

■ Landfill

Landfills produce a significant amount of greenhouse gases. In contrast to sending items to landfills, recycling materials reduces greenhouse gas emissions and aids the fight against climate change.

■ Energy

With landfills responsible for releasing '14 megatonnes of CO2 annually', recycling and repurposing materials to make new products uses considerably less energy than the energy requirements of producing a new product from raw resources.³

■ Financial

The government introduces heavy fines for councils that surpass their landfill allowance. These fines then lead to increases in council tax bills, service charges and the reduction of certain services.* Recycling also costs the taxpayer less than sending residual waste to landfills or energy from waste facilities.*



Advantages of recycling for workplaces and businesses

We know how recycling is important for the planet, but what are the advantages of introducing or improving a recycling programme for businesses and organisations?

■ Reduces costs

By recycling, a workplace can lower costs by reducing landfill waste, thus lowering the amount of landfill tax payable. Improved efficiency can also present possible cost decreases.



■ Increases brand image

With increasing social consciousness, implementing schemes to promote and encourage environmental responsibility, such as workplace recycling programmes and other green initiatives, can enhance company standing, heighten reputation and attract customers.

■ Saves energy and protects the environment

Recycling lessens the demand for raw materials, which, in turn, protects the environment by decreasing the need to mine and refine natural resources. It also helps lower a workplace's carbon footprint, which aids in achieving company environmental targets and, by demonstrating corporate social responsibility, may attract customers.

■ Increases employee retention and job satisfaction

Recycling programmes promote participation and create a team environment within a workplace, but that isn't the only employee benefit. According to The Future of Workplace Sustainability Report, 65% of employees said they would prefer to work for a company with strong environmental values.*



Recycling myths and faqs



Misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding recycling can create confusion when implementing or improving a recycling programme, but how true are recycling myths, and what are the answers to those frequently asked questions?

Where does the waste go?

As each waste facility has differing recycling capabilities, where the waste goes will depend on the location of the workplace and the type of waste collected.

It also depends on which waste collection company a business or workplace employs, as many have their own recycling facilities for certain materials.

Broadly, each waste stream will transfer to facilities capable of recycling those materials before they are processed and ready to create other products.

Doesn't it all end up in a landfill anyway?

Recyclable waste goes to recycling centres for processing or, in the case of mixed recycling, to Materials Recovery Facilities for further sorting.

The only instance recyclable materials may end up in landfills is if cross-contamination occurs—either by disposing of non-recyclable waste in the recycling container or disposing of non-recyclable food waste.

If cross-contamination occurs, all the materials in the container would be considered contaminated, and the materials would revert to a landfill rather than a recycling facility. Segregation at the source is an important method to prevent cross-contamination as it filters waste into separate recyclable waste streams and, for non-recyclable materials, general waste containers.

Why should I recycle?

Does it really make a difference to global warming?

Recycling, among other strategies, plays a big role in lowering the harmful effects of global warming.

As climate experts reveal the negative implications of global warming exceeding 1.5 degrees, governments and organisations are implementing methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By reducing the demand for natural materials, eliminating the need to mine resources, and saving energy, recycling offers a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to landfill waste. It also emits less CO₂ than the processes required for residual waste.



What can I recycle? – The recycling index

Not sure what is
recyclable and
what isn't?

You're not
alone.

The 2021 Wrap survey on recycling attitudes, values and behaviours revealed an opportunity to reduce contamination of our waste, with the majority of UK households (85%) putting one or more incorrect items in their recycling.*

Introducing dedicated recycling bins with recognisable labelling and graphics for each waste stream can help prevent waste contamination, but knowing what can go in a recycling bin is a fundamental part of minimising contamination while segregating waste. For a business or workplace, a waste contractor can provide a list of waste collection services available.



Aerosols

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Batteries

Yes. Batteries are recyclable. Check with your waste disposal contractor. Due to their classification as hazardous waste, batteries are often collected separately from other recyclable materials and **MUST NOT** be placed in the general waste as they can cause fires.



Books

No. Books aren't recyclable now due to the binding glue used. Consider donating or starting a book swapping initiative.



Cans

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Cardboard

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Carpet

Yes. Consider specialist carpet recycling firms or check with your local waste disposal contractor.



Carrier Bags

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Clothes and Textiles

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



E-waste

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Food

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Food and Drink Cartons

Many food and drink cartons are recyclable. However, this varies depending on location, so check individual packaging.



Glass

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Hazardous Materials

Some hazardous materials are recyclable. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Lightbulbs

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Paper

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Plastic

Some plastics are recyclable, but not all. It is always best to check with your waste disposal contractor.



PPE

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Printer Ink Cartridges

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Soft Plastics

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Tyres

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.



Wood

Yes. Check with your waste disposal contractor.

As facilities around the UK differ, always check with local collectors and recycling centres for an updated list of accepted recyclables in specific areas.



Common workplace waste streams

The most common business 'single stream recycling services are glass, plastic, paper, food, metal, card and wood', and, as the digital age grows, e-waste is the UK's fastest-growing recycling stream.*



Niche workplace waste streams

Whether you're an office with a high consumption of coffee pods and cups, a school with a constant use of pens, a healthcare facility with a large supply of PPE or anything in between, for many workplaces and businesses, adapting a recycling container to collect niche waste streams is more suitable.

- Nespresso Coffee Pods
- Used Pens
- Plastic Bottle Tops
- PPE
- Batteries
- Crisp Packets



The Practical Guide To Creating A Successful Recycling Programme



6 steps to start a successful recycling programme

Starting a recycling programme can seem daunting at first, but a recycling programme can unlock innumerable benefits.



So, what are the steps?

1 Complete a waste audit

A waste audit is an essential component in helping a workplace achieve a successful recycling programme and, ultimately, achieve its environmental goal. Responsible for allowing companies and organisations to understand their waste management requirements, a waste audit identifies waste needs and provides recommendations for improvement or adaptation.

Glasdon offers a free waste audit, which you can request [here](#).



2 Hire a waste collection and disposal company

It is the responsibility of the workplace or company to contract a waste collection and disposal company. It is also the responsibility to ensure that the chosen company has a waste carriers license — a company must check this license before entering into an agreement with a contracting company.

The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs' Register of waste carriers, brokers and dealers can provide businesses with the information required and create an easy online platform to check if contractors carry a waste carriers license.

But that isn't the only element to consider when contracting a waste collection and disposal company. Compiled by Recycle Now, here is a list of possible questions and considerations you may decide to ask your new or existing waste contractor to optimise a recycling programme.

■ Type

- What can and can't be recycled with them?
- Will an additional fee be levied if cross-contamination occurs?

■ Collection

- How frequent are collections?
- How are missed collections reported?
- Are there any height or weight restrictions to consider?
- Is there a charge for overfilled recycling bins?

■ Extras

- When are charges reviewed?
- Can you terminate the waste contractor contract if you are not happy with the service or if a price increase occurs?
- Does the waste contractor provide incentives to encourage recycling?
- How and when can services be amended?*





3 Selecting your waste streams

A waste stream is a specific flow of waste, from source to disposal and recycling. Individual recycling capabilities, treatment levels and hazard levels of items determine a waste stream. After completing a waste audit, a workplace will have a good idea of which waste streams they should collect.

As advised by multiple waste collection companies, a separate, single stream is the recommendation for any materials individual businesses collect predominantly. For smaller recyclable collection amounts, a waste audit may highlight the need for multi-stream containers.



Always check stream collections with your waste collector, as some waste collectors offer different recycling services and collections.

4 Choose your recycling bins

Choosing the correct recycling bins can help determine how successful a workplace waste management programme is. With various sizes, colours, styles, and streams available, there are several things to consider when choosing which recycling containers will optimise recycling programmes:



PLACEMENT: indoor or outdoor

Recycling bins come in various shapes, sizes, materials and styles, but what are the key differences between indoor and outdoor recycling bins?

Outdoor Recycling Bins

Ideal for on-street locations, school and universities campuses, playgrounds, high streets, car parks and leisure establishments, among other places, outdoor recycling bins often offer a larger capacity than indoor varieties to fulfil the waste needs of high footfall areas. They also tend to come with lockable entry and vandal-resistant material to provide added security and lessen the possibility of damage caused by vandals or weather. Hooded apertures may also feature to contain possible odours and repel vermin.



Indoor Recycling Bins

Suitable for internal environments, indoor recycling bins come in various styles and sizes to match individual waste requirements and aesthetics. With capacities ranging from as little as 2.5 litres to 180 litres, interior recycling bins are available with numerous apertures to fit all waste stream requirements.



CAPACITY

From desktop office recycling bins to lockable wheelie bin storage to everything in between, there is a wide range of indoor and outdoor containers with varying capacities to choose from when selecting recycling containers.

The placement of the container, the intended users, and the recyclable waste intended for disposal all help determine the suitable capacity for individual workplaces.

For example, if an office-based company, frequented only by staff members, produces a large number of coffee cups but not a large amount of any other specific recyclable material, they may choose to get a dedicated indoor coffee cup recycling bin alongside a 30-litre mixed recyclables recycling bin.

Or, if a company produces an adequate amount of a few materials, they may opt for a Quad recycling station, which provides four 40-litre units, to cut the cost of buying multiple bins while providing the necessary equipment to achieve their environmental goals.

A school, warehouse, retail company or any other business with high indoor and outdoor traffic may opt for placing several larger capacity outdoor recycling bins with the addition of smaller containers indoors. This would allow for the optimisation of indoor spaces and, with strategic placement where high footfall exists, the improvement of recycling programmes.

With capacities ranging from 2.5-litres to 1280-litres, once the placement, users and waste stream is determined, finding an ideally sized container has never been easier.

For help with choosing a recycling bin, see our guide: [How do I choose a recycling bin?](#)



APERTURES

Apertures encourage users to place appropriate waste into the correct bin by providing openings suited for specific waste streams. Optimising recycling containers with aperture openings prevents cross-contamination and minimises the possibility of facilities rejecting contaminated recycling waste.

Apertures come in various colours, which enable the containers to be easily spotted while also coordinating with the signage to accentuate the function of the particular bin.



GRAPHICS AND SIGNAGE

Graphics and signage greatly contribute to the success of recycling programmes. Providing clear, easily recognised signs allow for easy identification of recycling points while encouraging individuals to dispose of waste in the correct containers. By adding images or graphics to recycling sign kits, the containers highlight the function of each stream, create a simplified recycling system and minimise the possibility of cross-contamination.



They can also be personalised to incorporate logos and messages. From a company crest to a full graphic wraparound, recycling bins can feature personalisation to fit workplace branding, corporate colour schemes, and visitor or staff information.

See the section on niche waste streams to see how our customers have utilised personalisation to create the ideal recycling solution for their organisation.

5 Communicate with staff

Communicating with staff is an integral part of initiating a successful recycling programme.

Informing and discussing recycling and environmental targets with staff members allows companies to receive feedback and suggestions, which can help optimise plans. It also ensures that all staff are aware of, and adhering to, the company-wide goal and presents the opportunity to train staff to use the specific streams adopted by the workplace, which lessens the probability of cross-contamination or the disposal of recyclable materials in general waste bins. Assigning responsibility or 'green' roles within a team may also help improve the success of a programme.

6 Monitor

Measuring and monitoring waste management programmes will enable businesses to adapt and improve.

Performing scheduled reviews and spot checks can ensure that staff members are segregating waste correctly while keeping track of the company's waste generation.



4 tips to promote workplace recycling

Set an overarching environmental goal

Implementing and communicating a green target to staff members can increase recycling rates. If all staff members strive for the same target and can see colleagues actively pursuing the same objective, it encourages participation.

Communicate and accept feedback

Allowing staff members to comment and respond to recycling programmes before and during implementation is a handy tool to discover any issues or helpful suggestions. Staff will have a good idea of what recycling streams are most beneficial for their workplace and which may not. This communication can be verbal, through newsletters, and through the company intranet, among other ways.

Set targets to measure programme success

Setting achievable targets is not only a method to measure programme success but is also a handy way to encourage participation. By creating an attainable focus, staff members are more likely to adopt recycling habits to achieve goals. The targets, which are amendable, build a fun way to accomplish recycling programme success while also reaffirming the overarching environmental goal.

Install recycling points and streams

After identifying waste stream requirements, the next step to promoting a recycling programme is to install easily accessible and identifiable waste streams and recycling points. These will enable staff members to recycle materials easily, lowering waste costs by preventing waste from unnecessarily going to landfill.

Waste streams can be both single and multi-stream and are often customisable to requirements. See the section on Common workplace waste streams and Niche workplace waste streams to find out more.





OVERVIEW

The recycling infrastructure in the UK is expanding to fit the global environmental goal. As the UK strives for its zero avoidable waste target, recycling will play a massive role in the fight for a greener, more sustainable future, continuing to provide alternative and environmentally viable alternatives to natural resource consumption.*

As workplaces and businesses, we all have a role in creating a green, more sustainable planet for future generations.

So, what changes will your workplace make to aid the environmental targets?

Let's get started together.

OTHER GLASDON EBOOKS



RESOURCES

Biffa - <https://www.biffa.co.uk/>

Suez - <https://www.suez.co.uk/en-gb>

Veolia - <https://www.veolia.co.uk/>

Recyclapak - <https://recyclapak.co.uk/>

Register of waste carriers, brokers and dealers - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

Business Waste Responsibilities - <https://www.gov.uk/managing-your-waste-an-overview>

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