

RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT: THE LINK HAS BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT

Often talked about as separate subjects, Recycling and Waste Management are now inexorably linked. David Mears reports...

We are all aware of our “Duty of Care” with regards to waste management and that as producers of Hazardous Waste, we have to ensure it is disposed of correctly.

So, we register and obtain a Premises Code, sign a waste management agreement, entrusting collections and disposals to a professional company and consider we have met our obligations. But, is that it? In reality there is more we can do to protect our environment and reduce costs. This is where recycling comes in.

Best practice would indicate that not only should waste management be considered but also waste minimisation and recycling. To be successful a good knowledge of waste streams and what happens to them must be the starting point.

Often when waste management contracts are set up, price is the driving factor. Best value though must be considered and the levels of service provided are important.

For example, there is little point in achieving a “keen” price if you cannot secure waste collections when you require them. This situation often affects small producers of hazardous waste; golf and sports clubs are an example. It is easy to see why collections are reduced when disposal costs are rising. In his budget speech in March 2008, the Chancellor announced that from April 1, 2008 and until at least 2010 - 2011, the landfill tax will increase by £8 per tonne each year.

The cost of transporting waste continues to rise too with fuel at such a high level and there are also consignment notes to produce. In the last 12 months my own company has taken numerous calls from golf clubs enquiring about our waste management services, often because they have been told, for example, that they cannot expect collections of waste oil unless they have 600 litres minimum. So, with escalating costs, it is incumbent upon us all then to take recycling and minimisation seriously.

Answers to the following questions will provide you with a clearer picture of the service levels to expect and how your charges may be levied. The suggestions should help you to be more environmentally aware, encourage recycling and achieve better results:

- Check with your waste service provider to see if they have recycling facilities or does much of



your waste go to landfill or incineration?

- Does your waste service provider operate the service themselves with their own trained operatives or is it sub-contracted?
- Are you provided with proper paperwork and are audit trails established?
- Are you provided with approved, correctly labelled containers and are they of the correct size and sufficient in number to ensure proper segregation of waste products? (Segregation enables efficient recycling)
- Are your containers exchanged for clean ones at each collection?
- Are you being asked to stock-pile increasingly more waste before you can expect a collection?
- What fee/s are you paying and what do you get for your money?
- Is my waste service provider able to offer advice on and collect WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006) and

/or other “one-off” specials such as redundant chemicals?

- Am I reducing bulk by crushing / compacting? (Plastic containers are a prime example and left uncrushed mean that the waste contractor would be transporting more than 95% of air for each one, adding to costs and consuming more fuel!)
- Am I throwing cardboard out or can I compost it? (Golf courses and grounds maintenance companies are ideally placed to do this as the large volumes of cardboard produced can be mixed with twigs, green waste, grass clippings, hollow tine cores etc.) PTO driven compost makers are available and can be used to build windrows. A number of courses have invested in these.
- Am I using cheap oil that needs changing frequently or can I switch to a long drain period oil and conserve natural resources?

- Is the water I use washing down machinery and vehicles going to waste and possibly polluting? Do I have to pay to have a Separator (interceptor) emptied regularly? (The installation of a washpad water recycling system would save money and reduce pollution risks)
- Can I re-use paper for printing drafts documents?
- Are all magazines and newspapers kept separate for recycling?
- Do I leave the sheds lights on when there's no one in them?
- Are engines left running unnecessarily?
- Am I recycling drinks cans, print cartridges and other items or are they going into general waste?
- Do I waste yards of thin paper wiper when one small sheet of quality wiper would suffice, reducing purchasing and disposal costs?
- Am I using effective oil only absorbents for oil spills or copious quantities of sand/other absorbent with all the messy clean up and excessive disposal costs?
- Is the waste catering oil from the clubhouse being disposed of or put to good use? Did you know that it is possible (with the correct processing plant) to turn this into BioDiesel?

Responsible Waste Management companies will recycle, as does my own, recycling over 90% of the waste we collect. One example is the many thousands of plastic containers that are processed in a huge machine that chops the product into small plastic chips that then go on to be moulded into useful rot-proof items such as fence posts, seating, sleepers etc., that can be used on golf courses and at leisure and amenity sites. Two other examples are: We recycle waste catering oil, creating BioDiesel for use in our own vehicles and metal is reclaimed from spent aerosols and filters.

The way forward for us all is to take environmental responsibilities seriously and actively seek ways to reduce waste and recycle, protecting our children's and grandchildren's inheritance. Recycling as much as we can and reducing dramatically waste going to landfill is a must. Free advice is usually available from Waste Management companies and ours is no exception. We'll guide you through the legislation and advise, at no cost, your best waste management and recycling solutions.

About the Author

David Mears is Joint Managing Director of Highspeed - Course Care who operate a licensed Waste Transfer Station (licence no. EAWML/65417), offering national Waste Management Services, with recycling and a range of Compost Makers, Washpad Water Recycling Systems, Long Drain Oils, Wiper, Spill Kits and more.

Course Care
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Course Care 5 cu mtr Compost Maker in action



Saving water with a ClearWater system at Aldwark Manor



Another container of Waste Aerosols collected for recycling

