

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

RECYCLING

Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club offers some tips on recycling

1. Identify Waste Streams

There are any number of waste streams within a golf club, most of which have the potential for at least some recycling - some of these stem from the golf course directly, others from the clubhouse, offices, pro-shop, or kitchen areas.

2. Adopt an Action Plan

This covers the whole company and sets a budget. Make no mistake - the polluter pays. Any recycling scheme needs to be financed, therefore it is essential to link and audit all areas of the club to ensure that anything that can be reduced or re-used is taken into account. Recycling ought actually to be the last resort.

3. Include the members

Members will be very keen to help with recycling if the right attitude is given, the right atmosphere projected, and the right facilities made available. For example, members can be invited to bring unwanted Christmas trees for shredding and disposal, and six months later can purchase the compost that has been produced from them, to improve their gardens.

4. Clubhouse Waste

This will include cardboard, paper, print cartridges and glass bottles. Cardboard and paper can either be shredded into compost, or taken away by a licensed contractor for recycling. In general, it is better to re-use paper and envelopes for notes and internal mail before recycling. Do not assume that the brewery automatically collects empty glass bottles - all too often these end up in landfill.

5. Golf Course Waste

This is generally grass clippings, branches, bunker edgings, hollow tine cores, leaves etc. This can be collected and

composted. Hard standing will make this task easier, and a covered area, or covered bays allow air movement and prevents the build-up of potentially harmful spores.

A chipper will be required and a front loader tractor for turning. Once a reasonable degree of decomposition has been achieved, this material can be moved to an out-of-the-way area for storage.

6. Golfer Waste

This includes scorecards, plastic bottles, banana skins etc. Provide a segregated unit in a convenient location, and members will sort their own rubbish.

Bare in mind that many pro-shops can sell 300 bottles over a weekend, so the facility must be large enough to cope. A small subsidy should be added to the cost of the drinks to finance the facility.

7. Mandatory Disposal of Waste

Some of your waste streams will include "hazardous materials" that will be covered by legislation which dictates that proper disposal is mandatory. In general, it is the golf course Workshop and Operations waste which falls into this category. The club will need a contract with a licensed contractor and a Hazardous Waste Producers Number from the Environment Agency, to allow even Waste Transfer to take place.

The contractor will then collect and recycle those items such as batteries, filters, used oil and empty plastic containers.

8. Reduce the amount of Hazardous Materials Produced

The less hazardous materials used, the less waste is produced for disposal or recycling. "Long-life" synthetic engine and hydraulic oils are available which need not be changed at standard service intervals. At service, the filter is replaced losing only a small amount of oil. Once or twice a year a chemical test determines levels of pollutants building up. Normally, two or three seasons will pass, before the oil requires changing.

9. Use the experts

There is no substitute for expert advice, readily available nowadays on the Internet. There is a Composting Association with local members close at hand to give advice. Lubrication Engineers, both independent and from manufacturing companies, can give advice on machinery, lubricants, and fuels.

10. Take the initiative, and take some pride in your efforts

Recycling is not straightforward, it takes time and commitment to carry out successfully. Your efforts will be recognised and highly commended by your members and employers. Your team will buy into the effort also, and take pride in doing so. There are many positives.

