AN EVER-IMPROVING RECYCLING PICTURE AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

BASED IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON AND FOUNDED IN 1824, THE NATIONAL GALLERY IS A WORLD-RENOWNED ART MUSEUM WITH A COLLECTION OF OVER 2,300 PAINTINGS.

The National Gallery is actively advancing its sustainability initiatives to align with environmental responsibilities and the evolving needs of cultural institutions. The Gallery is laying the groundwork to set net zero and environmental targets over the next three years, aiming to integrate environmental responsibility into all aspects of its operations and governance.

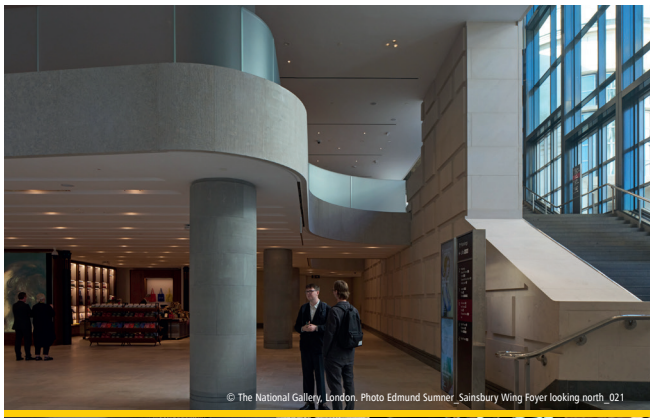
WASTE IS AT THE HEART OF THE GALLERY'S SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH

The Gallery collects a total of **14 streams across the site** and proudly **recycling upwards of 75%**, with the rest going to energy from waste, **and zero going to landfill.**

When opening the new public spaces across the £85 million refurbishment of its Sainsbury Wing, part of the gallery's bicentenary celebrations in 2024, The National Gallery required a new set of bins for waste collection that would support back of house staff operations and adhere to their strict waste and sustainability strategies. Across the newly opened Sainsbury Wing, Supporters House and Roden Centre for Creative Learning, they have two coffee bars, two restaurants, event kitchens and lecture theatres, along with the existing coffee bar and restaurant in the main building, all creating a sizeable amount of waste that wherever possible should be recycled.

In the back of house areas across the rest of the estate, The National Gallery use Rubbermaid Commercial Products' (RCP) range of Slim Jim® Containers so naturally felt, to keep the messaging and process consistent, to roll the same range out in the Sainsbury Wing. Their flexibility, colour options and accessories, such as lids and dollies, allowed The National Gallery to maintain consistency and continue to push their recycling rate up to around 80%.

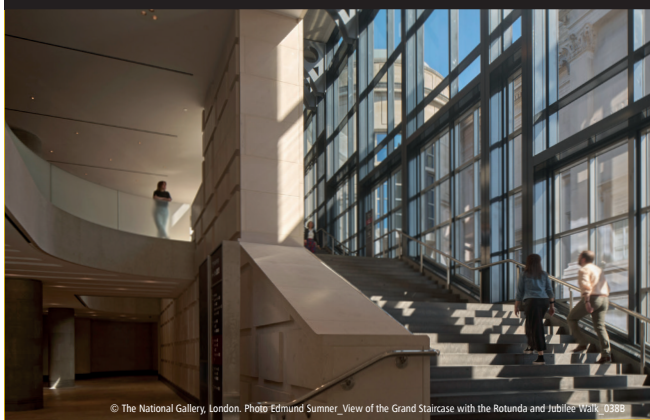
With outstanding logistical support from SOHO Commercial, when many other businesses were rushing to be compliant with Simpler Recycling, The National Gallery successfully launched the Sainsbury Wing complete with legislation-ready waste and recycling containers.





"We fully trust the Slim Jim® range from Rubbermaid following years of using it; their size, colour and accessory options mean they are super flexible, and we know the bins will last in fast-paced back of house environments. SOHO's support, at a very busy time when legislation was about to go live was outstanding. We now use SOHO Commercial as our preferred supplier for the Rubbermaid range, which we use extensively across the estate in our back of house food & beverage kitchens."

Katherine Peever, Environment & Sustainability Manager at the National Gallery.



FIND OUT MORE

If you would like help on how to improve your recycling processes, as well as comply with legislation, please contact RCP.
Rubbermaid.eu