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WORKPLACE

RECYCLING IN

WALES IS ABOUT

TO CHANGE

IS YOUR BUSINESS READY?

A guide to new legislation, benefits of better recycling and where to start

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

New recycling laws are on their way, are you ready?

From 6th April 2024, new legislation will come into effect that will change the way businesses in Wales – including charities and public sector organisations - are required to recycle their waste.

The new rules will mean material that is prime for recycling must be separated prior to collection for processing off site and kept separate throughout. Failure to comply with the new laws could lead to an unlimited fine and in place of prosecution, civil sanctions could be issued.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

All too often legislation can be complex, confusing even, and with the new rules coming in soon, making sure you understand your legal requirements when it comes to commercial waste is essential.

Our guide is here to help you...



Understand your legal obligations



See how better recycling can help you cut costs



Choose recycling stations for everywhere in your facility



Get started today

WHAT DO THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR YOU?







An overview of what your business must do to comply

From April 2024 onwards, commercial and municipal facilities such as businesses, public sector, and charitable organisations in Wales, must ensure they offer multi-stream recyclable waste at the point of collection for processing. This overview provides easy-to-read guidance to support your business with complying with these legal requirements.

IMPORTANT PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS



- The requirement to arrange waste into separate streams falls on those collecting or arranging the waste. In most cases, this is the business generating the waste, rather than the waste handling organisation.
- Once collected, multi-stream waste is kept separate in order to protect it from contamination so that the largest majority of it can be recycled.
- The earlier the multi-stream splitting of waste occurs in the process, the less need there is for work splitting waste at a facility, prior to collection for processing.

 general food waste	FOOD WASTE – for any facility creating more than 5kg of organic waste per week
 coloured & uncoloured paper & card	PAPER AND CARD
 glass bottles & jars	GLASS
 metals & plastics	MATERIAL WASTE – includes metals, plastics and other packaging of a similar composition
 electronic equipment	ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
 unsold textiles	UNSOLD TEXTILES

Separation requirements

The new law means all workplaces such as businesses, public sector organisations and charities will need to separate their recyclable materials in the same way most households already do or face costly fines and, in some cases, civil sanctions.

There are six streams of recyclable waste defined within the new legislation which are referred to as a facility's "separation requirements".

In addition to these requirements, workplaces are banned from disposing of food waste into the sewerage system, including through macerators, and from allowing certain specified waste streams going to incineration or to landfills.

Full details of commercial requirements can be found on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

Source: Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling – A Code of Practice for Wales

THE BENEFITS OF BETTER RECYCLING

From cutting costs to hitting your sustainability targets

Implementing an effective waste management system will see your business win in more ways than one. From helping you achieve your sustainability goals by increasing your recycling rate, to cutting costs by reducing the amount of waste that goes to general disposal, getting ready for legislation isn't the only reason to reassess your waste management.

But don't take our word for it...



DPD delivers reduced costs and less waste

With the aim of becoming "the greenest delivery service on the planet", parcel delivery company DPD introduced multi-stream recycling stations at its depot locations and reported savings across the board:

500m
tonnes diverted
away from general
waste disposal

27%
cost savings

ROI
in under
12 months

90%
recycling rates

“ Introducing Slim Jim® Recycling Stations has made a tangible difference with residual waste reduced by a third on the sites where the bins have been installed and individual sites achieving recycling rates over 90% against our achieved business target of 70%.”

Olly Craughan, Head of Sustainability for DPD.

Torfaen Leisure Trust gets ahead of legislation and improves sustainability

Torfaen Leisure Trust is set to improve recycling rates, reduce the amount of waste sent to general disposal and ultimately cut costs by simply implementing consistent and visible multi-stream recycling stations.

7
streams
implemented

COMPLIANT
with new
laws

39%
projected
cost savings

32%
estimated
improvement in
recycling rate

“ Not only do the new recycling stations look smart at our centres, they are driving higher rates of recycling throughout the facilities. As well as making significant strides towards our sustainability targets we're also cutting costs so we are delighted with the results so far.”

Owen Thomas, General Manager, TLT



RECYCLE THE RIGHT WAY

How to choose the right systems for each area of your facility

With multiple types of waste to be separated and different areas of your facility generating different waste, it can be a challenge to know what to look for when choosing recycling systems.

Here are our top tips:

Modularity

Choosing modular systems allows you to separate waste into the appropriate streams easily and minimises the risk of costly cross-contamination. You can tailor your solutions to each area of your facility, implementing the streams you need in the areas you need them. This consistency will help you maximise correct recycling by your users. Modular systems are also typically easier to maintain and clean versus 'all in one' systems.



Visible signage and colour coding

Signposting the correct waste stream with striking, clear and colour-coded signage helps users to quickly understand what type of waste can be recycled and where, reducing cross-contamination and allowing for optimal waste separation.



Different solutions for different areas

Different areas of your business have different needs, so a one-bin-fits-all approach isn't going to work. Throughout your facility, you'll require a variety of bins, from robust containers back-of-house for handling large volumes, to sleek bins front-of-house designed with aesthetics in mind, and slim containers that don't interfere with operations for tight spaces such as kitchens and small offices.



Durable containers and warranties

Investing in waste and recycling containers that last longer means you buy better and waste less, helping you to support sustainability targets and cut costs. Prioritising durability when selecting your bins could see you cut their environmental impact by 72% and commercial costs by 1/3.*



*RCP Love Sustainability insights report: Why product longevity is a powerful first step to improving commercial sustainability



All of our waste and recycling containers are manufactured to stand the test of time and come with up to 10 year warranties to provide you with added peace of mind.

GETTING STARTED



Where to start your journey to better – and compliant – recycling

At Rubbermaid Commercial Products, we're committed to informing and educating our customers to support them to achieve their sustainability goals. We've created a series of free resources and tools to help you start your journey to better recycling.



Conduct your own online waste audit

Use our [free online audit tool](#) to find indicative waste and cost savings in just 90 seconds.

Answer 6 simple questions to get an estimate for your business.



Cultivate a culture of recycling

Our four interactive [online recycling training modules](#) will help your team understand the importance of recycling, how it works and how it can be improved. [Download thought-provoking poster prompts](#) to promote better recycling and embed a culture of best practice and compliance within your business.



Request a 'waste walk'

To request an in-person audit of your current recycling products and processes by one of our waste and recycling experts, click [here](#).



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The information presented is based on our current understanding of recycling requirements in Wales.