



## **CASE STUDY: Aztec – Working Towards Zero Waste**

Established in 1988, Aztec has become one of the UK's best known and most respected construction specialists. Alongside construction, Aztec specialises in fit out and refurbishment, and provides a vast range of high quality furniture, fixtures, and finishes, derived from sustainable solutions, including reclaimed wood and recycled plastics, in efforts to reduce its impact on the environment.

Aztec is highly conscious of the negative effects plastics and packaging are exerting on the environment, and recognises that its processes and procedures can have a significant impact on the local ecosystems surrounding its projects. Aztec is taking responsibility for protecting the environment and is striving to achieve zero waste to landfill across its sites and projects by 2025.

The fundamental ways in which Aztec is working towards preserving the environment include: introducing an Environment Policy, educating the workforce, and improving recycling practices in both the office and on its sites.

### **Environment Policy**

Aztec has introduced an Environment Policy which emphasises that the organisation must work towards achieving the following objectives:

- Improving energy efficiency and waste minimisation through each department.
- Establishing objectives and targets to drive continual improvement programmes and regularly reviewing environmental performance.
- Reducing its environmental impact, protecting the environment, and preventing pollution from its construction and fit out processes.
- Assessing its impact on the environment from all aspects of its operations to ensure all preventative and protective measures are taken to protect the environment.

### **Educating the Workforce**

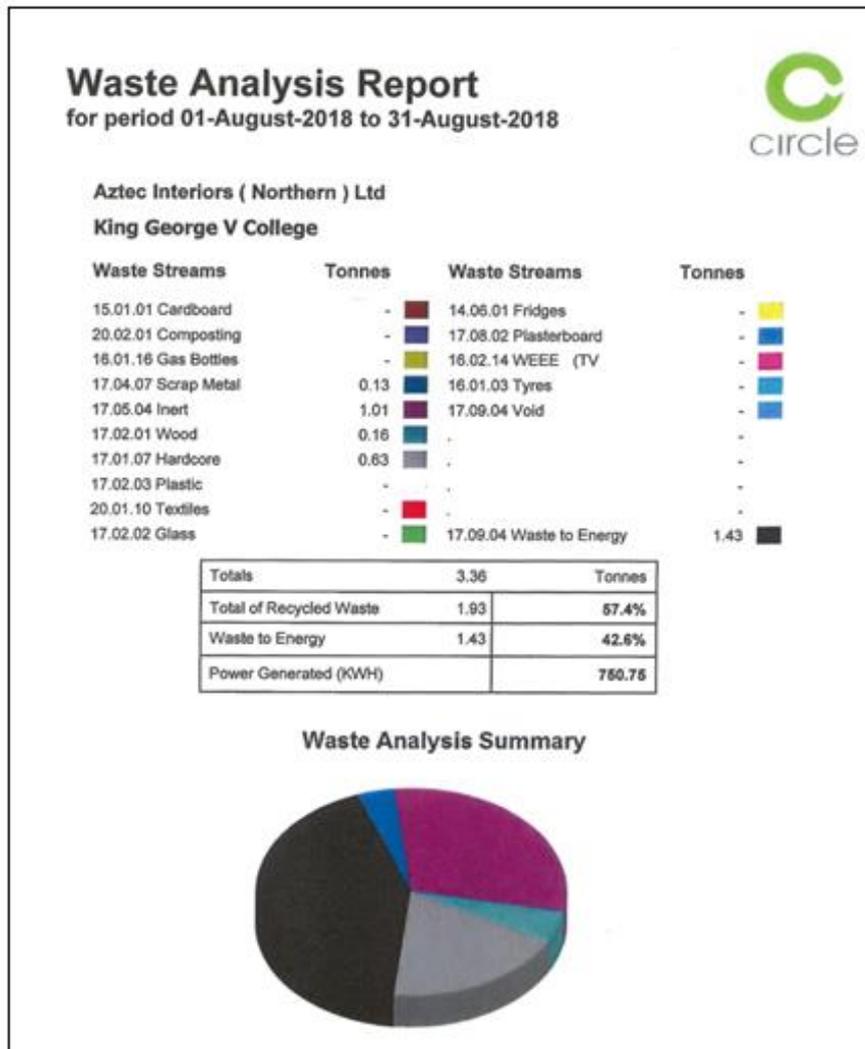
Aztec is working hard to educate the workforce on its sites and in the office to ensure all staff respect and protect the environment. On site, regular toolbox talks are delivered to communicate environmental and sustainability issues. Aztec is currently in the process of delivering specific toolbox talks on protecting the environment to make sure the workforce is aware of its zero waste to landfill ambition.

While in the office, Aztec encourages the workforce to go plastic free by promoting the use of recyclable cups, water bottles, lunchboxes, and other reusable containers, rather than single-use plastics that are discarded and disposed of to landfill.

**Improving Waste Management**

Aztec has introduced a number of recycling bins in its office to ensure that waste is segregated and separated correctly. This prevents plastics and packaging from being incorrectly recycled and in turn, avoids unnecessary waste disposal to landfill.

As illustrated, on site, Aztec uses 'Circle Skips' which provides a thorough breakdown of what materials have been recycled on its sites and how much waste has been converted into energy. At present, Aztec achieves a 95% recycling rate across all of its sites and projects.



**Supply Chain**

Aztec is in the process of contacting all of its suppliers and contractors to ensure they have policies in place which support the movement towards zero waste and to decide if the values of its current suppliers mirror those of Aztec.

Aztec is working with suppliers in particular to encourage them to reduce packaging, reuse packaging where possible, and to supply materials with a high recycled content. Managing

Director, Neal Maxwell, has been working with companies who specialise in the development of compostable materials and bioplastics to discuss whether they can incorporate such products into everyday construction.

Although Aztec is aware that reducing plastics and packaging will not be an overnight or simple task, Aztec is working hard towards eliminating waste, particularly single-use plastics and packaging, to protect the environment and improve sustainability.

To find out more about Aztec, click [here](#) to visit their website.