



CASE STUDY: Enva – Recycling in Construction

Plastic Waste in Construction

An estimated 25% of plastic waste during construction comes from packaging. Enva works with our customers to follow the waste hierarchy by first looking to prevent waste from arising. In the case of construction, this means smarter ordering and making use of take-back schemes.

Every year, construction companies waste thousands of pounds in putting usable materials into skips. Therefore, the potential for financial savings is just as significant as the environmental benefits.

Where plastics cannot be ruled out of the waste stream completely, our robust processing facilities ensure a high percentage of plastics are recovered for recycling, with the remainder being manufactured to produce a fossil fuel replacement.

Recycling and Sustainability in Construction

For wider sustainability initiatives, Enva take on a partnership approach with our customers, allowing us to closely align their requirements and targets with the services we deliver. For example, by regularly attending sites and conducting waste audits, common waste types and problems can be identified; therefore tailored toolbox talks, signage and guidance can be devised to combat them. Moreover, this engagement takes place from a contract management level through to all levels of the workforce, truly embedding a waste focus in the company and assisting with a culture change.

The efficient use of container systems on construction sites provides the dual benefit of making the use of space, along with the opportunity for improved utilisation and segregation, ultimately delivering higher recycling rates. Additionally, it is estimated that up to 30% of the space in a skip is not actually filled. Therefore, training staff on careful loading can save multiple exchanges. This not only drives down costs, but also reduces emissions as a result of fewer transport movements.

In Practice

In November, Enva and Robert Woodhead were awarded a silver level Green Apple Award for their work in improving resource efficiency on site. The companies have embedded the waste hierarchy in their approach to focus on waste minimisation and re-use opportunities across Woodhead's project portfolio.

From the point at which a new project commences, careful efforts are made to ensure the lowest impact on the environment. A site audit is carried out between Enva and Robert Woodhead to establish the requirements of the project and to ensure the most appropriate containers are selected to optimise container utilisation and resources, while providing the best recycling systems. In addition, the necessary signage is agreed to maximise efficient segregation, assist with on site awareness and reduce cross contamination.

Following on from this, a toolbox talk is given to workers where two-way discussion techniques and appropriate visual aids are utilised. These sessions tend to have a good response and embed the environmental performance ethos across all people on each site.

In addition, all sites have a 'Sustainability Implementation Plan' which is completed at the start, periodically throughout the duration of the project and on completion. This includes a 'lessons learned' section to help with future planning.

Key to making improvements to environmental performance is the ability to measure and monitor activity. Woodhead has access to a suite of customisable reports via Enva's online reporting system, giving accurate and up-to-date information on the performance of each site.

Links and Further Information

In addition, Enva will be using the guidance in the recently announced 25 Year Waste Strategy by DEFRA to help constructors continually achieve their sustainability targets and work towards a circular economy.

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