

Implementing an effective waste management plan for your business

If you've just set up your new business, or your business has been around for a while, managing how to get rid of your industry waste, has always been a challenge.

The waste that a business actually throws away, can bring costs up to 4-5% of a your business' overall turnover according to CIPS, and in some extreme instances, can account up to 10% of a company's overall gross profits.

This cost can be concerning for many businesses if they are not making sufficient attempts to recycle and dispose of their waste in the proper manner. With rising landfill taxes, as well as recycling and sustainability becoming a main concern within ethical business principles, creating a reliable waste management solution is more important than ever for any forward-thinking business that is looking to make a change.

Teaming up with Reconomy, the UK's leading outsources waste management provider of [8 yard skip hire](#), we advise on how to dispose your waste properly and how to put in place, an effective waste management strategy that can save your business money.

Duties

The UK legislation and government require businesses to take responsibility and dispose of their waste properly. The requirements that businesses should meet are generally as follows:

- Adopt the [Waste Hierarchy](#) principles in order to keep waste to a minimum by preventing, reusing, recycling, and recovering waste where possible.
- Store or sort waste securely in a safe environment.
- Complete a waste transfer note for each load of waste that leaves the premises.
- Check to establish whether your waste carrier is registered. This can be done by visiting the official [Environment Agency](#) website.
- Do not let your waste carrier dispose of waste illegally. As a producer of waste, the legal responsibility for safe and correct disposal falls on you, and not the waste carrier. You have a responsibility to ensure safe disposal through an auditable document trail.

Managing and storing waste

To store waste safely and securely, businesses are required as standard to:

- Use suitable and EU-approved containers to prevent leakage.
- Label containers in a way which clearly stipulates what type of waste they contain.
- Use waterproof covers — where appropriate — so that no contaminated run-offs are created.
- Use lockable containers to safeguard your waste.

Waste disposal

As required, for any non-hazardous waste that you remove from your premises, you will need a waste transfer note or a document that contains the same information, for example an invoice can be used. You should register online with the appropriate services if you wish to fill in a waste transfer note, or you can create a season ticket for a series of loads that will occur in the future.

Your business and the third party that collects your waste, will both need to do the following:

- Fill in the sections of the note that applies to them.
- Sign it.
- Keep a copy for two years.
- Be able to present it to an enforcement officer from the local council or the Environment Agency, if requested.

Reduce the cost of your waste disposal

Most businesses will have the aim to bring down the disposal cost of waste produced. However, this can be a leap the dark if business owners are uncertain on how to do this effectively.

Segregation is the solution – However, to do this the waste will need to be monitored closely and a report must be produced to view the volume, material and cost of the waste. From this you can set your strategy, highlighting your own targets and goals to ensure the best results possible when it comes to disposal.

Businesses need to be aware of technically, environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP). This determines whether a business should segregate and store various types of produced waste within the business premises prior to its collection by a waste management contractor you have teamed up with.

The EU Waste Framework – which is part of the EU legislation that was created in 2015, which Britain will likely adopt after Brexit – addresses that commercial and municipal waste producers are obliged to manage their waste correctly. They can use a third party to achieve this, but businesses will continue to remain responsible.

Businesses need to separate the waste that they have produced for many reasons, and one which stands with the highest ethical standard is whether there will be an environmental benefit or reduce a negative that currently exists.

Measuring your waste disposal

With technology advancing, waste management providers are most likely to use online automated systems that can assist with monitoring the business waste volumes and spend – giving clients a greater insight to their overall waste plan. Through waste management portals, each business can have tailored permissions that help provide them with an overview of waste statistics and management information.

To test how much waste your business produces, before going down the route of using a waste management contractor, it's best to access how much waste your company is disposing of on a regular basis, keep note of the bins over a week until they are collected and noting how much waste a bin holds and how full it is before the collection date.

Businesses may find it to be beneficial if they reduce the amount of times their waste is collected, they could set themselves a task to be more thoughtful with the waste that they throw away, which would eventually lead them to make better decisions and in the end save them money.

With the landfill tax on the rise, this kind of evaluation will be crucial when producing a waste management solution that aims to save an organization money.

The cost per tonne of landfill had risen rapidly from its price of £80 that was set on the 1st April 2014, to £84.40 on the 1st April 2016 and again went up to £88.95 on the 1st of April 2018. With the cost of landfill waste rising year on year, it's clear that businesses need to ensure that their waste solution system is driven towards recyclable methods to keep the costs of landfill waste to a minimum.

Sources

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