“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”

The Practicalities and Benefits of Food Waste Collections.

By Harvey Mills, Forge Recycling Ltd
Introduction

- Introduction to Forge Recycling.
- Introduction to Food Waste Recycling.
- Why separate and recycle food waste?
- Main issues facing businesses that want to recycle?
- How Forge Recycling have addressed these issues?
- Case Study: Britannia Hotel, Leeds Bradford Airport.
- Summary / Questions?
Forge Recycling Ltd

- Help local businesses improve and increase recycling rates and to successfully offer cost effective food waste collections

- Funding received via CO2 Sense - Greenhouse Gas Savings Capital Investment Fund.

- What we offer and where we cover.
  - Food Waste
  - Mixed Recyclables
  - Cardboard / Paper
  - Glass
  - General Waste
Food Waste Recycling

• What is Food Waste Recycling?

• Types of Food Waste producers?

• What food can be recycled?

• What happens to the food we collect?
  - In Vessel Composting

YES:
- Meat and fish - raw and cooked, including bones
- All dairy products such as eggs and cheese
- Raw and cooked vegetables and fruit
- Bread, cakes and pastries
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Un eaten food from plates and dishes
- Tea and coffee grounds

NO:
- Packaging of any sort
- Plastic bags
- Liquid Oil or Liquid Fat
- Tins
- Cans
- Glass

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Why Separate and Recycle Food Waste?

- Historically food waste has been sent to landfill as part of General Waste Collections.
- Methane from food waste is 22 times more damaging to the environment than CO2.
- The recycling process is even better than CO2 neutral, as it can generate renewable energy.
- Your general waste containers will be cleaner and lighter.
- Potential cost savings.
- Increasing recycling helps to reduce your business carbon footprint.
Food Waste Recycling - Issues?

- Cost of General Waste collections.
- Cost of food disposal vs landfill cost.
- Weight of bins.
- Separation at source.
- Number of bins on site.
- Number of collections/vehicle visits
- Bin odour.
How have Forge Recycling addressed these issues?

- Split bodied collection vehicle allows the collection of two waste streams at each visit.
How have Forge Recycling addressed these issues?

- 240 / 360 litre bins for the collection of Food Waste.
- Supply a variety of internal bins and kitchen caddies to aid separation.
- Clearly label food bins.
- Use regular bin bags. Removed as part of the de packaging stage prior to treatment.
- Weekly scheduled collections mean food waste does not remain in the bins for long periods of time.
- Bin washing.
Case Study: Britannia Hotel, Leeds Bradford Airport.

- 137 Bedroom Hotel, 2 miles from Leeds Bradford Airport
- Restaurant/Bar/Gym/Spa/Conference Facilities
- Large kitchen

Previous Supplier:

1 x 8yd FEL container. Emptied 4 x per week.

Forge Recycling converted to:

General Waste - 2 x 1100 Litre bins - 2 x per week
Mixed Recycling - 2 x 1100 litre bins - 3 x per week
Food Waste - 6 x 360 litre bins - 3 x per week.
Case Study: Britannia Hotel, Leeds Bradford Airport.

- Price matched the FEL service. Cost saving over time due to landfill tax increase.

- The Hotel introduced procedures to ensure segregation in the food preparation areas and the correct use of the bins provided.

- Food waste is put into the bins in sacks.

- Large yard for extra containers.

- We currently collect and recycle up to 1 tonne food waste per week from this site. As well as all cardboard/plastics/cans etc.
Summary / Questions

• Relatively new service in the waste industry.

• Number of private and national contractors in the Yorkshire area that are starting to offer the service.

• Continued investment in the treatment of the Food Waste collected will mean more facilities become available.

• However, whilst General Waste collections from commercial customers remain relatively low the collection of food waste will always struggle to compete.

• Food waste collections will undoubtedly become more common as Annual Landfill Tax Increases.

• Until we see this increase it may be the case that the commercial customers that introduce Food Waste collections must accept a cost saving is not always possible. In many ways it will be necessary for the requirement of improving their environmental performance to out weigh the cost.
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