

How to implement an effective waste management plan for your business

If you're setting up a new business, or an experienced entrepreneur with a long-established company, managing your industry waste is a challenge.

Disposable waste, that's thrown away by businesses can accumulate a cost up to 4.5% of your company's turnover according to CIPS, and in extreme cases, could cost 10% of a business's overall gross profits.

These costs can be dramatic for many businesses, if they haven't implemented an appropriate way to dispose of their waste. 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.

We've teamed up with Reconomy, providers of outsourced waste provider of [8 yard skip hire](#), to advise on how your business can dispose your waste properly, and how to implement an effective waste management strategy that can save your business money.

Business responsibilities

The UK legislation and government stipulates that a business has a key responsibility to dispose their waste in the proper manner.

The requirements that you should meet are broadly 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.

Organising and storing waste

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

- 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.

Disposing waste

If you require non-hazardous waste to be removed from your premises, then you'll need a waste transfer note or a document that contains the same information such as an invoice. 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 who 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.

Reducing the cost of your waste disposal

Most businesses aim to reduce the disposal cost of the waste they produce. However, this can be a leap the dark if business owners are uncertain on how to do this effectively.

An answer to this is segregation – However, in order to do this, the waste will need to be from you can set your strategy, highlighting your own targets and goals to ensure the best results possible when it comes to disposal closely monitored and reported to find out the volume, material and cost of waste.

It's important for businesses to be aware of TEEP – technically, environmentally, and economically practicable. 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 produced in 2015 – 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 their waste for many reasons, and one that stands with the highest ethical standard is whether there will be environmental benefit or reduced negative that currently exists.

Measuring the business's waste disposal

With the advance of technology, waste management providers are likely to use online automated systems that can help them monitor their waste volume and spend, which would give clients a greater overview of their 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.

Before going down the route of using a waste management contractor, it's best to test how much waste your business produces on a regular basis, monitoring the bins over the week until they are collected and document how much waste a bin holds and how full it is becomes before being collected.

It may be beneficial for businesses to reduce the amount of waste that they currently have, and from this set a target for themselves to be more thoughtful about what they throw away and from this, will eventually lead them to make better decisions and in the end, save money.

The landfill tax is on the rise, so this kind of evaluation are crucial when producing a waste management solution that aims to save an organisation money.

The landfill cost per tonne has risen rapidly over the years. On the 1st April 2014, it was £80 and then risen to £84,40 on the 1st April 2016, and again went up to £88.95 on the 1st 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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