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# How to Improve Your Waste Management Strategy



**Waste management strategies are a crucial part of a business' everyday working methodology. Nobody wants to be caught in a situation where waste is piling up, affecting work, posing a hazard to health and causing an unwanted rise in operational costs - or worse.**

The right waste management strategy describes the specific solutions that make your waste management more efficient. This could be anything from effective recycling policies or introducing modern waste management machinery to your site.

Every business executive and manager wants a waste management strategy to be cost-effective and high quality. Now is the time to re-evaluate your waste management strategy and check if it's properly suited to your business' needs.



# Best Practices for Improving Waste Management Strategies

There are a variety of reasons why it's beneficial to invest in waste management strategies, the first being consumers are more concerned about their emission and waste outputs than ever before.

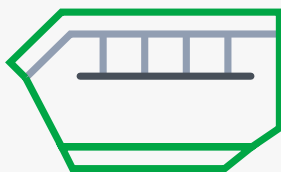
Secondly, as the UK government has introduced a 25-Year Environment Plan, pressure from legislation to run an efficient waste management process is growing.

Finally, when effective waste management strategies are employed company-wide, it can lead to a reduction in overall operational costs.

**Here's how you can apply best practices to your organisation.**

## 1. Review Whether Your Waste Disposal Meets Your Needs

After determining what your current waste disposal system costs, you need to work out what waste is being collected and how much of it is going to waste carriers. You should also determine any changes in waste production as you may find it's subject to change throughout the year. For example, a retail business might find they produce more waste in the run-up to Easter or the Christmas holidays.



You may even find disposal containers are never full when it's time for collection. If this is the case, then you should think about reducing the frequency of collections or the number of containers (such as skips) that you hire.



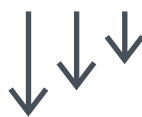
## 2. Set Your Waste Reduction Targets

As consumers move towards more sustainable practices, it's also a good idea for companies to become more eco-friendly - which is better for our environment and more appealing to everyday customers.

Making the effort with waste reduction is not only better for the planet but also for your business. You can use the waste hierarchy model to begin maximising your waste cutting practices and resource efficiency:



Eliminate unnecessary waste.



Reduce the necessary waste.



Reuse any waste if possible.



Recycle after reuse.



Dispose of waste responsibly.

### 3. Invest in Waste Management Machinery

Every business is different and that means every waste management process will be unique. With the right waste management machinery, there are a variety of benefits concerning cost-efficiency.



The effects we have on the environment is highly legislated and regulated. In fact, commercial waste that goes to landfill now costs nearly £100 per tonne of waste.

Depending on how much waste you produce annually, this can add up to a significant amount. By reducing the volume of waste produced, less skips are required, resulting in fewer trips to landfill which will therefore save more money.

Not only that but by investing in an effective waste management process and lowering the size and amount of waste you produce, less time and money will also be spent on labour. This means waste transportation, disposal and any contractual work will be less of a tax on your bottom line.

#### Consider these machines:

- **Vertical balers** are the perfect waste baling solution for businesses that produce a small to medium volume of waste. They have a small physical footprint, easily fitting into sites with less space and find themselves at home in many places, from retail stores to industrial sites.
- **Semi-automatic balers** differ from vertical balers as they're larger, longer, can have higher press forces and are also used for larger amounts of waste.
- **Fully-automatic balers** offer powerful performance, high-density bales, high energy efficiency and a maximum payload. All you need to do is load the waste and it's crushed, baled and wrapped in wire, ready for transport, disposal or sale.

To learn more about our products and services and how we tailor them to your unique needs, [click here](#).

## 4. Setup Sustainable Waste Management SMART Goals

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely goals need to fit the specific contexts of your working environment and not be 'up in the air'. Here's an example:

**As a business looking to reduce waste collections, this could mean investing in a semi-automatic baler (specific) to decrease the volume of waste collections (measurable). From the time of implementation, we shall record the volume of waste and the cost of waste collection over the year (timely) to see how much has been saved.**

Not only is this goal attainable but it's also realistic and shows a clear path towards a measurable ROI.

Although you can only be responsible for your business supporting sustainability, it also helps to have support from your employees as well.

To do this, you can work to help each department understand your goals and targets, including how they'll be tracked and measured. Similarly, make it widely known what kind of benefits the business stands to gain.

By including your waste goals and management policies within job descriptions, employee contracts and within the wider infrastructure of the business, you'll build these policies from the ground up. Plus, it'll also help your business become more marketable to an increasingly environmentally friendly customer base.

In today's society, people like to see businesses doing their part to limit their environmental impact. Sustainability is a huge business opportunity. This, combined with attracting eco-conscious customers and talent, will be a powerful marketing tool and enhance your brand.

That's why it's important to let your audience know about your green efforts by talking about it as part of your communications. When you get the feedback you've wanted, as well as the increase in business, you'll see it only further incentivises your staff.

## Keep Calm and Conduct a Waste Audit

It's important to analyse and understand your site as it currently is. If you don't, you won't be able to create the relevant goals needed to resolve any issues you're experiencing. To get started, you'll need to implement a site audit, review your waste and also your recycling policies and practices.

**It's important to make this audit as detailed as possible and include what kind of waste is being generated, what percentage is recyclable and how much is actually being recycled. If you're a large retailer, for example, you may produce a large amount of cardboard, polystyrene and polythene. If not properly managed, this can cause high waste disposal costs in terms of collection, skip hire and landfill use.**

When targeting either a zero-waste management policy - or even a more effective waste disposal process - collecting data to create your goals is the place to begin. Plus, you can even influence stakeholders to do the same, which will:

- ✓ Enable you to discover whether they're the right partners (for example, suppliers) for you.
- ✓ Enable you to potentially influence them to audit their own work, helping the supply chain as a whole become more transparent and sustainable, which helps to increase compliance with any corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies in place.

Green corporate responsibility extends far beyond the confines of your business, so your supply chain should reflect that. By creating goals, it not only gives you a framework to proceed but also incentivises your employees. Committing to sustainable waste management goals only captures true efficiency when everyone is on board.

## To conduct your own audit, use this template:

<b>Waste type and storage</b> <i>E.g. general waste bin</i>	
<b>How is the waste generated?</b> <i>E.g. warehouse removing raw materials</i>	
<b>Could this waste be prevented?</b> <i>E.g. reduce process waste</i>	
<b>Who collects the waste?</b> <i>E.g. Biffa</i>	
<b>Where does your waste go and what happens to it?</b> <i>I.e. Who is treating your waste, do they have a permit, what processes are they following, will your waste go to landfill?</i>	
<b>Is your legal paperwork up-to-date?</b> <i>Find papers from the last two years regarding waste transfers for hazardous and non-hazardous waste.</i>	
<b>Has your team been updated to ensure they know the latest waste management processes?</b>	
<b>Are there standardised signs above bins across the business?</b>	

At Greenbank, we're proud to offer complimentary onsite waste assessments, for new and existing customers. With an effective waste management strategy, you can enhance your environmental profile while also saving money and ensuring correct legal compliance.

**To find out more about our complimentary waste audit, [click here](#).**



# What to Look for in Waste Machinery

To make sure you invest in the right waste management machinery, there are a variety of things you need to consider first. The last thing you want is to purchase machinery that just isn't fit for the kind of waste you're producing.



## Choosing a Baler

When looking at balers, it's important to consider floor space, recyclable materials that need to be baled, the volume of material and desired bale weights. To ensure needs are met, each baler comes with its own specifications in the areas listed.

For example, here at Greenbank, we offer [two ranges of vertical balers](#), our standard B range and also an X range.

The X range is designed for challenging materials such as plastic bottles (PET) and expandable plastic, it also features a low loading height due to its cross-cylinder design.

**The B range is great for any ordinary recyclables such as cardboard and polythene.**



It's essential to choose the right baler for your needs as the life and durability of the equipment will be extended if it's used to bale the material weights it was designed to create.

## Finding the Right Compactor

Compaction has been proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways for businesses to dispose of their non-recyclable waste. This is because companies can send more waste to landfill in one trip due to waste being compacted together.

To choose the right compactor for your requirements, you need to consider the type of waste being compacted, the location and space available to place the compactor and the amount of waste you'll produce.

A portable compactor is better for smaller businesses that may have limited space on their premises as they require less room and can be easily moved if required. They come with low feed opening for ease of loading, differing configurations of feed hoppers, remote control box, bin lifters and also drainage points.

Some [portable compactors](#) also come with the added benefit of a self-cleaning compaction blade which helps to avoid the issue of leaking waste and unwanted vermin.



On the other hand, [static compactors](#) are bolted to a surface and are fit for larger volumes of waste. They're ideal for companies who produce plenty of waste but once bolted to the floor, they're difficult to relocate.

# What to Look for in Waste Management Providers

No machines last forever, but with the right care and attention, you can extend their ROI much further into the future. Balers, compactors and other types of waste management machinery need regular care and maintenance to assure their benefits are available well into the future.

By investing in a quality waste management system, you'll save your company time, space, money and also lower your impact on the environment. Not to mention you'll remain fully compliant with government regulations.

With many competing organisations out there, it's difficult to sift through them all and find the best one for you. That's why we've made it easier for you and compiled a useful list of the things you need to look for.

## An In-Depth Knowledge of Waste Management Machinery

Firstly, any waste management solutions provider worth partnering with will have complete knowledge of the machines they work with. They'll know intricate details such as the technical specifications of their machines and even the ROI they can guarantee.

**When choosing a provider, look for one that has a dedicated team of waste management professionals who know their machines. This means they'll have unrivalled product knowledge and will know exactly which machinery suits your requirements. By sharing their knowledge, you can get the most out of the machines you choose to invest in and ensure they're cost-effective and efficient.**



## Unique Products

A wide range of products means you can benefit from a larger field of choice. This means you can find the ideal machine for your needs in terms of product specifications and size.

**Plus, there may be types of waste you need to dispose of but are unsure about the correct process. For example, a common waste type which many people don't realise is recyclable is polystyrene. While it's not widely recycled, it can actually be a highly desirable waste product for the construction industry. However, you do need the right machinery to create a new revenue stream from polystyrene.**

Here at Greenbank, we actually offer [a range of polystyrene compactors](#) that make polystyrene recycling easy and reliable.

## Experienced, In-House Engineers

Even the most reliable machinery needs a little TLC throughout its lifetime. By investing in servicing your machinery, you'll create greater machinery efficiency and extend its overall lifetime. Plus, with preventative maintenance, you'll retain quality and cost-effectiveness. Machinery needs to be looked after.

Many waste management solution providers don't give the option of servicing for your products. Some organisations hire contracted engineers, which can present issues. For example, if the waste management solution has technical specifications unique to its parent company, engineers may find them difficult to repair.



The right waste management solutions provider will have their own team of engineers who fulfil the requirements of our first point - they'll have an in-depth understanding of each machine. If they work for the manufacturers, they'll know the machines the best.

## Opportunities for Training

A good waste management solution provider can install your machinery, but a great one will provide the training needed for best practices when it comes to tools such as balers or compactors.

**At Greenbank, we have our own Alcumus SafeContractor Approved team of in-house service engineers. They're continually providing top-quality technical support for those who need it. Our experienced team provides installations, maintenance and training on the best operational practices when it comes to owning a waste management solution.**

Ultimately, you want a waste management provider who can support and advise you on every part of your waste management policy - from investing in the right machinery to cost-effective practices.

As a business, you have a variety of legal responsibilities for sustainable waste management practices. Not only that, customers want to work with businesses that can show a transparent product chain, from sourcing raw materials to dealing with waste.



# Get in Touch to Improve Your Waste Management

Brand reputation is a major influence on enhancing your waste management policy, so it makes complete sense to invest in the process and ensure it works for the future. It's also another way of contributing to the corporate social responsibility your organisation can benefit from.

But it's not just about brand reputation - it'll also lower costs. By managing your waste, lowering the amount you produce and increasing recycling, you can reap the financial benefits such as fewer landfill costs and lowering spends on labour. You could even create a new revenue stream from your waste.

If you're ready to take a step towards a more sustainable waste management strategy, here at Greenbank, we offer a complimentary onsite waste assessment for new and existing customers.

Our experienced advisors will help you enhance your environmental profile whilst also saving money and ensuring correct legal compliance. We'll visit your site to evaluate your existing onsite waste management process, including gathering information on waste streams, existing machinery and labour requirements.

To get started, contact us today to discuss how we can help your business.

[CONTACT US](#)