

OUR 2020/2021 PLEDGE

To reduce waste

Why does this matter?

England alone generates around
177m tonnes
of waste every year



This is a poor use of resources and costs businesses and household's money. It also causes environmental damage, for example, waste sent to landfill produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

The UK Government
aspires to move towards a
**'zero waste
economy'**

This doesn't mean that no waste exists - it's a society where resources are fully valued, financially and environmentally. It means we reduce, reuse and recycle all we can, and throw things away only as a last resort.

To help people and organisations make the most of opportunities to save money by reducing waste, The Waste Prevention Programme for England has been launched. The programme sets out to:



Working with the food and drink sector to prevent food waste.



Making it easier for organisations to recycle more.



Making businesses responsible for what they produce so a proportion of materials they manufacture can be easily recycled.



Working with the waste industry to make it easier for organisations to recycle.



Working with local councils to improve waste collection services and infrastructure projects.



Supporting energy from waste where appropriate.



Addressing waste crime such as fly-tipping and the operation of illegal waste management sites.



Regulating landfill sites.



Working with the Environmental Agency to control hazardous waste.

Our goal: To reduce our amount of waste and increase the amount of recycling as much as possible.

What we've done in the past 12 months



99% of our general waste gets diverted from landfill.



Standardised our internal recycling, general and clinical waste bins and made it easier for our colleagues to procure these.



Standardised our pedal waste bin labels which indicate what can and cannot be disposed of in the receptacles.



Assessed collection frequencies to make sure our sites could recycle as much as possible.



Completed hundreds of pre-acceptance audits which helps us to understand how clinical waste is being managed and how we can improve waste segregation.



Introduced a waste compactor at a highly utilised site which allows us to compact waste and reduce our waste collections.



Developed waste management training, toolbox talks, procedures and guidance for colleagues to follow and support occupiers.



Recycling furniture, office equipment, stationary etc. by giving to NHS trusts, local authorities and charities. This helps us reduce waste costs and our environmental impact and helps other organisations.



Removed single-use plastic from our catering; replaced with Vegware which is compostable.



Blocked purchase of single-use plastic cutlery and plates in our system.



Implemented recycling at sites that previously had no recycling facilities.

What's next?

We are going to build on our current procedures and processes by:



Increasing the use of dry mixed recycling on our sites.



Ensuring that waste is segregated as much as possible.



Reducing clinical waste where possible.



Carrying out bin sizing exercises to ensure that sites have the correct bin.



Introducing internal recycling bins in sites.



Switching to low/zero plastic cleaning products

We will also be encouraging our employees to take an interest and active part in working towards our company goal.

Top Tips: How you can help reduce waste

- Put up our [waste posters](#) next to the bins to make sure people put the right waste in the right bin
- Raise any issues around incorrect waste segregation.
- Help introduce recycling at your place of work by speaking to your local Facilities Manager or our [Customer Support Centre](#)
- Do not use single use items such as water bottles, coffee cups and plastic bags.