



SITA UK'S GREEN STEPS

- » Working for a leading recycling and resource management company, SITA UK staff put a lot of effort into diverting as much waste from landfill as possible – including waste generated at our offices.

Thanks to a collective push by staff at our offices in Maidenhead and Weston-super-Mare three years ago, an internal programme of green initiatives has now been put in place at SITA UK offices across the country. What began as a trial has quickly developed into a company-wide campaign to lead by example.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2007, staff at the SITA UK head office in Maidenhead and administrative centre in Weston-super-Mare wanted to make sure that they were doing all they could at work to minimise the amount of waste they were producing.

Drawing on the collective knowledge and experience of our employees, a number of initiatives were proposed on a trial basis to improve the offices' sustainable credentials.



THE SOLUTION

We have introduced a bin-less office scheme at major sites around the UK – where staff no longer have personal waste paper bins by their desks and instead use communal recycling bins on each floor (with a reduced-size general waste bin in specific areas only), as well as a kitchen caddy for food waste. A small weigh station has been installed at our head office and all recycling collected there is weighed each day. In 2009, we recycled 60 per cent of our waste arisings at Maidenhead – almost four tonnes of paper, cardboard, cans, plastics and food waste.

We are carefully monitoring the electricity consumption of high energy-use equipment, such as the air conditioning and computer server room. Energy-saving lighting has been installed in the building, heating and hot water temperatures have been reduced and water coolers have been replaced by more efficient models with sleep mode. Dishwashers are used only on eco-cycles and all equipment is maintained to ensure maximum efficiency. In addition, we have swapped our plastic vending cups for biodegradable alternatives that can be composted.

Car sharing, using public transport in lieu of car journeys whenever possible and cycling to work are encouraged by the company. We also offer alternatives to business travel through virtual meeting tools, such as telephone and web conferencing. Our principal regional administrative hubs are linked by tele or video-conferencing facilities.

At the end of 2009 a sustainable procurement policy was introduced, which ensures that all our suppliers are as committed to achieving the same green targets as SITA UK.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS

All areas of our business are working hard to be as sustainable as possible. In 2010, we introduced the Green Steps programme, which is a company-wide initiative designed to combine existing trial schemes – such as the removal of waste bins from desks and the introduction of communal recycling points – into one comprehensive programme.

