

Case Study: Bardyke Chemicals Ltd

Manufacturing company reduces waste costs by working in partnership with its supply chain



GETTING READY FOR THE REGS
AND ALREADY SAVING

Bardyke Chemicals Ltd Benefits

Founded in 1968, Bardyke Chemicals specialises in developing and manufacturing copper compounds that are primarily used as anti-fouling coatings on yachts' hulls. The company is based in Blantyre near Glasgow and has 18 employees.

This case study demonstrates the business benefits that small companies can achieve by working closely with their supply chain to prevent waste being generated. By doing this, Bardyke Chemicals has achieved the following:

- Avoided 24 tonnes of waste being sent to landfill for disposal
- Annual cost savings of nearly £2,000 through reduced waste collections
- Improved working relationship with supply chain



You can do it too

Bardyke Chemicals Ltd took advantage of the free support available through the [Zero Waste Scotland website](#). Useful resources that are available to help you work in partnership with your supply chain to prevent waste and save money include:

On Course For Zero Waste – Module 7: Supply Chain Management and Sustainable Procurement

Supply Chain Management and Sustainable Procurement – A guide for Scottish SMEs

Background

The nature of Bardyke Chemicals' business means that it has a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) licence issued by SEPA and has always looked at reducing its process waste. However, when a member of staff attended a Zero Waste Scotland training workshop, it became clear that there were additional opportunities to prevent waste arising from supplier's product packaging and, ultimately, to reduce the cost of waste being sent to landfill. With management support, the business began to engage with its supply chain to get a clearer picture of all the waste that it generated and to identify opportunities for waste reduction and cost savings.

Identifying waste reduction opportunities

For businesses of all sizes, the first step in reducing waste is to understand the types and quantities being generated. And this does not have to be a difficult thing to do. Simply performing a site walk around and inspecting skips and bins can reveal problem materials and waste reduction opportunities.

By accurately understanding its waste, Bardyke identified several opportunities to work with its suppliers to reduce waste.

Working with the supply chain to...

...remove 20 tonnes of plastic bags from the waste stream

One of the raw materials used in the production process was supplied in a dry form in 25kg plastic bags. The company did not produce sufficient quantities of empty bags to justify setting up a regular collection with a recycling contractor and it didn't have the space to store them until there was enough for a one-off collection. So, the bags were put in a skip.

In the past, Bardyke Chemicals had investigated the possibility of the product being supplied in a liquid form, but this was not economically viable. However, following a change of supplier in 2011 and in preparation for the implementation of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations, this was revisited. Working with its supplier, the company has now installed equipment to store deliveries of liquid product. This action has resulted in 20 tonnes of plastic bags being completely removed from the waste stream.

...eliminate 4 tonnes/year of cardboard from the waste stream

Another raw material used in Bardyke's production process comes from Australia. On investigation, it was discovered that 100kg of cardboard 'slips' were used in each container to protect the product during transportation. The slips were ending up in skips and being sent to landfill. By engaging with its Australian supplier, Bardyke learned that it, too, was very interested in preventing waste across its supply chain and was keen to find less wasteful practices. To determine if the slips were really necessary, the two companies agreed to a trial involving three containers where no slips were used. This has proved successful and it is estimated that this will remove 4 tonnes/year of cardboard from the waste stream.

...reduce waste collection frequency

Because Bardyke Chemicals has reduced the amount of material being sent to landfill, the annual number of skip uplifts has reduced from 46 to 26, saving nearly £2,000.

“Reducing the amount of waste we produce is good for our bottom line, reduces our environmental footprint and helps us to prepare for the implementation of the new waste regulations. Working with our supply chain was, and continues to be, vital in helping us to achieve this.”

Duncan Norman
Managing Director,
Bardyke Chemicals



New storage vessels reduced Bardyke's disposal costs by removing 20 tonnes of plastic from the waste stream



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