

Case Study: Halving Waste to Landfill

Opportunities for Waste Management Contractors

Sivyer



A family run business, H.Sivyer (Transport) Ltd. is a medium sized waste contractor and transport operator operating from four locations in the UK.

The firm's work consists largely of utilities contracts and handling waste materials for major contractors such as Skanska and Morrison. At its Thameside facility in North Greenwich, Sivyer processes construction and demolition waste into a range of recycled construction aggregates. The waste accepted at this site is typically a mixture of materials from construction work carried out on roads and other metalled surfaces, and material from demolished buildings.

Sivyer takes a pro-active view on the question of halving waste to landfill. Because every consignment of waste received and dispatched generates income for the business, the company recognised the commercial need to divert more material away from landfill. In recent years it has been actively seeking ways in which material can be converted into a product for use. Currently Sivyer has zero waste to landfill in its operation.

Signing up for business benefits

A signatory to WRAP's Halving Waste to Landfill agreement, Sivyer has already established a comprehensive system of data capture and monitoring. These systems mean that the company is already able to quality assure the products they produce.

The aims of the WRAP initiative – to enhance recycling rates - are closely aligned to the Sivyer's business plan because it makes commercial sense for the business to recover more waste and divert it from landfill.

With a number of leading construction contractors across the UK publicly supporting Halving Waste to Landfill, waste management companies are increasingly being asked for robust data on recycling and recovery rates in order to satisfy contractors' reporting requirements. For Sivyer the WRAP agreement is an opportunity to show contractors that they have enhanced options for managing and recovering waste. This differentiates Sivyer from other waste management contractors, which may result in increased competitive advantage.

Additional benefits from signing up to the Halving Waste to Landfill agreement include an improved corporate image, and a better perception of the company from potential and existing clients.

Sivyer only needed to make minor changes to its working practises to meet the requirements of WRAP's agreement. Despite this, the company recognises a need for continual improvement and it believes that becoming a signatory will provide valuable benefits.

Helping industry through data capture

Sivyer operates a comprehensive system of data capture which records loads as they enter and leave the Thameside facility. The system tracks each load until the point it is reused, recycled or landfilled. By employing this approach a detailed data trail can be formulated for each load, outlining features such as weight, composition, cost and outcome. This information is of great importance to contractors trying to meet their own waste reduction objectives.

Quality the key to future success

Despite the current downturn Sivyer is convinced that increased demand on material resources in the medium to long term will help drive demand for recycled aggregate materials.

The company is working hard to raise quality and reduce potential contamination hazards by ensuring that the materials it receives are of a high enough standard.

An important aspect of this work is Sivyer's efforts to get more input material converted into a product that can be returned for use by its clients. This not only means that contractors have a vested interest in maintaining quality, it also provides a partially closed loop and local usage dimension to the operation - minimising the environmental impact associated with transporting materials long distances.

Construction Commitments: Halving Waste to Landfill

Construction activities produce an estimated 120 million tonnes of waste in the UK every year. Of this total, more than 20 million tonnes are sent straight to landfill without any form of recovery or reuse.

In October 2008 WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) launched ***The Construction Commitments: Halving Waste to Landfill*** - a voluntary agreement to help the construction industry to halve the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste sent to landfill by 2012.

Organisations that sign up to the voluntary agreement can realise a number of business benefits, while at the same time supporting the sector's goal of halving waste to landfill and demonstrate their commitment to waste reduction targets.

For more information visit:

www.wrap.org.uk/construction/halving_waste_to_landfill

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