

- European legislation such as the Landfill and WEEE Directives will raise waste costs, and require much more recycling, over the next decade
- Waste minimisation often creates financial as well as environmental benefit

Highly Commended:

University of Cambridge

- Information Underpins Recycling

Recycling at Cambridge requires co-ordination of activities at over 300 operational buildings, many with severe space constraints and restricted access. To improve communication the Environmental Office provides regularly updated web information including:

- A Waste Handbook, which provides detailed guidance on all aspects of waste management, including information on legislative requirements and details of recycling, disposal and waste minimisation options.
- A map of recycling facilities – currently static but likely to be interactive in future.
- A University Environmental Bulletin, Green Lines, highlighting new regulations and issues.

There is also regular e-mail contact with a network of over 100 Departmental Environmental Co-ordinators.

Specific measures include recycling facilities for paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium cans, fluorescent tubes and off-site composting of green waste.

Ian Watson, the Environmental Technician working on the initiative, believes that Cambridge's decentralised approach to waste management "avoids the risk of large-scale failures, and allows quick wins to be achieved so that others will follow."

University of Glamorgan

- ISO14001 Drives Waste Reduction

When Glamorgan became the first UK university (and one of the first in the world) to gain certification of its environmental management system to ISO14001 in 2002, improved waste management and recycling emerged as priorities for improvement.

Since then recycling rates have grown to 52 tonnes of glass, 91 tonnes of metal and 26 tonnes of cardboard a year, creating a financial saving of £23,000. The number of collections has also been reduced through a compactor, which has saved £15 -£20,000 a year. Use of crushed glass as an aggregate for surfacing the university's car parks is also being examined. Paul Rossiter, the University's Assistant Energy and Environmental Manager, believes that "the new waste management systems have required minimal capital expenditure but have cut out 58 skip collections a month, and saved over £40,000 per annum."



Judges' Comments On Waste Minimisation

"Universities and colleges are facing increased regulation, and stakeholder pressure, to achieve waste minimisation. Leeds Metropolitan University provides a best practice example of what can be done if ambitious targets are set, and there is committed and sustained action to achieve them. Its reuse of electronic equipment, training of cleaners and porters, and involvement of a wide range of students, are especially noteworthy.

The University of Glamorgan shows that waste volumes and costs can be cut even within a couple of years. As with Leeds Met, ISO14001 highlighted the importance of, and opportunities for, improvement in what is often a 'cinderella' area, and education and training of staff and suppliers was given high priority. Provision of reliable and user friendly information is also a feature of the University of Cambridge's recycling initiative, and has helped to overcome the problems of taking co-ordinated action within a federal college system."