



Australian Beverage Corporation, 2013

Case Study Australian Beverage Corporation

Bin Trim – Waste solutions for a sustainable business

With the help of Bin Trim, the Australian Beverage Corporation’s (ABC) enthusiastic Sustainability Champion is leading the charge in the company’s efforts to recycle more and waste less.

What’s in the bin?

‘ABC is an environmentally friendly and ethical company and we wanted to reflect that in our office as well,’ says Receptionist Steph Vlandys, the company’s new Sustainability Champion. Vlandys is passionate about protecting the planet and volunteered to take on the role. As a coffee roaster and distributor of coffee, coffee machines and products, ABC’s main forms of waste are food, paper, plastics, plastic wrap and packaging, and hessian bags. ABC also runs a café. A Bin Trim assessment found the company could be recycling 10 per cent more than it was. Shredded confidential documents, in particular, added substantial bulk to

general waste collections and no plastic or glass was being recycled. ‘We do quite a lot of shredding; it would have been a real shame to waste all that paper,’ Vlandys says.

Priority materials for recycling or reuse:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastics

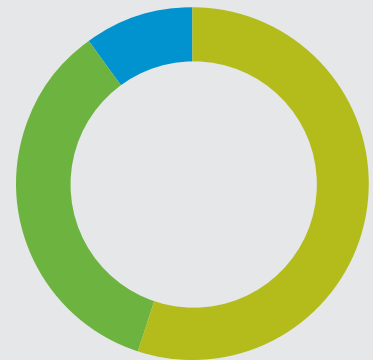
Actions to reduce waste and recycle more

A weekly 240 litre commingled recycling service and awareness program has successfully encouraged staff to become more conscious of what they throw out and recycling bins are now easier to access. The café now separates the large number of milk bottles and other glass and plastic containers it used to throw out, steaming plastic bottles to compress them first. Shredded documents are now being used as packaging material and an artist is collecting many of ABC’s hessian bags to make artwork, cushion covers and furniture coverings.



Potential recycling

Bin Trim identified that ABC had the potential to recycle 10 per cent more.



- 55% General waste
- 35% Currently recycled
- 10% Potential recycling

Bin Trim savings

- 5.6 tonnes of commingled recyclables



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Actions implemented included:

- Replaced café's disposable cups with compostable bio-cups for takeaway orders
- Staff are using ceramic cups instead of disposable
- Located empty print paper boxes under each work station for waste paper collection
- Placed recycling bins in key locations within the café and training room
- Commenced weekly 240 litre commingled recycling service
- Adjusted default computer settings for double-sided printing
- Plans to compost café food waste on site are underway.

Results and savings

Reusing shredded paper as packaging material has dramatically cut costs. 'Basically we're using it like bubble wrap to fill spaces in boxes,' says Vlandys. 'It's worked really well so far and has saved us money – we don't need to buy as much bubble wrap and other packaging materials.' Placing recycling bins in key locations has made it easier for staff to recycle and the Sustainability Champion's efforts to spread the word on how individual actions can make a big difference have paid off. ABC is now sending 5.6 fewer tonnes of waste to landfill. 'By adopting these approaches, ABC is actually saving money and resources; this was definitely a success!' Vlandys says.



For further information

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What is your business really throwing away?

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