



Livingstone International Pty Ltd, 2013

Case Study Livingstone International

Bin Trim – Waste solutions for a sustainable business

Sometimes a push in the right direction is all that's needed for people to adopt better recycling habits. Participating in Bin Trim delivered staff the motivation they needed to improve Livingstone International's recycling record.

What's in the bin?

Livingstone International is a medical, laboratory and pharmaceutical supply company, selling everything from first-aid kits and burn creams to disposable gloves and surgical instruments. Staff already separated all office paper for recycling, and collected plastic containers and aluminium cans for commingled recycling. Many recyclables were contaminated with food waste, however, and others were bypassing the recycling bin altogether. When the trained Bin Trim assessor checked what was really being thrown away, it was a reality check for the

business. Large quantities of food waste, aluminium cans, rigid plastic containers and plastic film were heading to landfill. All of these materials could be separated for recycling or reprocessing. The Bin Trim tool found 37 per cent of the general waste bin could actually be recycled. 'We have always tried to recycle but now it is more apparent as to why we have to,' says Administrative Assistant Lesley Duce. 'Bin Trim showed us what it really means to our business.'

Priority materials for recycling or reuse:

- Food
- Rigid plastics
- Aluminium cans
- Plastic film

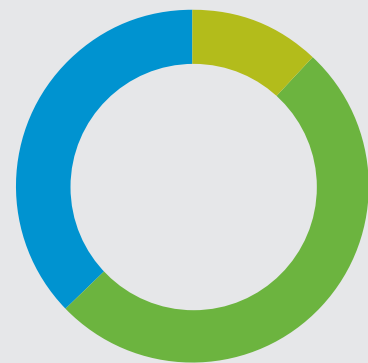
Actions to reduce waste and recycle more

The Bin Trim assessor worked with Livingstone International to come up with a plan focused on engaging managers and staff to reduce contamination in recycling bins. The plan also aimed to reduce the amount of recyclables ending up in the general waste bin. The business



Potential recycling

Bin Trim identified that Livingstone International had the potential to recycle 37 per cent more.



- 12% General waste
- 51% Currently recycled
- 37% Potential recycling

Bin Trim savings

- 78 tonnes less general waste
- Cost savings from reducing the size of the general waste bin



**FOOD ONLY
IN THIS BIN
PLEASE**

Livingstone International Pty Ltd, 2013

installed new recycling bins in optimal positions to encourage recycling. New and obvious signage also aided the source separation of recyclables in staff rooms. Bin liners were removed from paper recycling bins under desks to discourage staff to dispose of anything other than paper in their recycling bins. This helped to reduce overall contamination. Since participating in Bin Trim, the business has also purchased a paper shredder to shred non-security paper for reuse in the packaging of their products.

Actions implemented included:

- Purchased and installed new recycling bins in staff areas
- Placed recycling bins in optimal locations to encourage recycling
- Installed clearer signage on recycling bins
- Removed bin liners from under desks to reduce contamination of individual paper only bins
- Engaged with managers and staff to actively participate in recycling
- Purchased paper shredder to reuse shredded paper for packaging products.

Results and savings

Through simple changes, the business has reduced the size of its general waste bin from 6,000 to 3,000 litres. Duce says most staff members have 'caught the recycling bug' and embraced some positive new habits. 'You have to gently prompt them now and then but because it's a lot easier for them to recycle now – you don't have to nag them so much!' The company now recycles 67 per cent of its total waste and its use of shredded paper is cutting the expense of bubble wrap and other packaging materials.



For further information

Waste and Resource Recovery
Resource Recovery Unit
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim

What is your business really throwing away?

Download Bin Trim and see how you can save epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim

Published by

Environment Protection Authority 59–61 Goulburn Street, Sydney PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232
Phone (02) 9995 5000 (switchboard) **Phone** 131 555 (environment information and publications requests) **Fax** (02) 9995 5999
TTY users phone 133 677, then ask for 131 555 **Speak and listen** users phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 131 555
Email info@environment.nsw.gov.au www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Report pollution and environmental incidents: Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only)

April 2013.

EPA 2013/0206; ISBN 978 1 74359 043 0