



Orange Credit Union, 2013

Case Study Orange Credit Union

Bin Trim – Waste solutions for a sustainable business

Confusion over what is and isn't recyclable can hinder even the best of intentions. Bin Trim helped Orange Credit Union overcome this barrier to almost double what it recycles.

What's in the bin?

When the Bin Trim assessor arrived to take stock of Orange Credit Union's waste, the business announced a lofty goal – to increase recycling rates to 90 per cent. But first they needed answers to the questions staff had about recycling. Some coffee cups are biodegradable, some aren't, so which cups go in which bin? And what about paper towels and tissues? Should these be recycled? The Bin Trim assessor solved these mysteries and more. 'Going through the Bin Trim assessment has made us identify that we could recycle a lot more and that basically we just needed to implement a plan to achieve that,' says Retail Support Officer Deanne Wilton.

'The visit helped "put it on the table" and forced us to do something.'

Priority materials for recycling or reuse:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Plastic film
- Plastic rigid
- Food waste

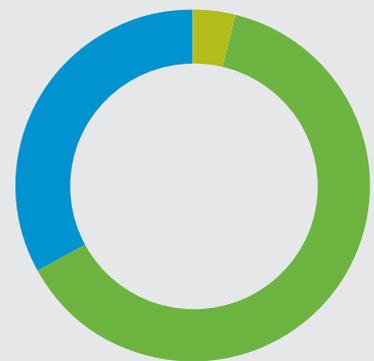
Actions to reduce waste and recycle more

Orange Credit Union's newly appointed Green Team set about putting sustainability at the forefront of staff members' minds by launching a challenge to make artworks out of recycled odds and ends. 'Since then, monthly training sessions and sharing info from Bin Trim has shown staff the potential to increase recycling,' Wilton says. Changing desk bins from general waste to recycling has made a big difference, and two new recycling bins have been placed in the office to make recycling easier. Board members have been issued with iPads, and all reports are now sent out electronically.



Potential recycling

Bin Trim identified that Orange Credit Union had the potential to recycle 33 per cent more.



- 4% General waste
- 63% Currently recycled
- 33% Potential recycling

Bin Trim savings

- 23,000 sheets of paper a year
- \$9000 printing and photocopy costs
- 10-15 per cent increase in recycling



Orange Credit Union, 2013

Actions implemented included:

- Set default computer settings to print on both sides of paper
- Replaced general waste bins with recycling bins under desks
- Educated staff and cleaners to see waste reduction as a cost saving
- Raised awareness on reducing contamination of recyclables
- Replaced paper reports with e-reports
- Issued iPads to board members to reduce paper use.

Results and savings

The simple act of eliminating paper reports has saved the business 23,000 sheets of paper a year and \$9000 on photocopying costs. Four recycling bins are collected each week, instead of two, and these will become progressively fuller as habits continue to change. 'Over time, we aim to get rid of one of the general waste bins,' Wilton says. A shredding machine has increased the Credit Union's capacity to recycle paper and a toner recycling box is now in place.



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 2013/0207; ISBN 978 1 74359 044 7