



This report sets out the measures which Haringey Council is taking to encourage business to recycle their waste.

## **Background**

Haringey Council does not operate a commercial recycling service as the Council is responsible only for domestic recycling collections. However, legally all businesses must have a valid waste collection contract with a licensed waste contractor, whether for waste disposal or recycling.

Enterprise, the Council's nominated commercial waste collector, holds around 30% of all commercial waste contracts in the borough (approximately 2000 contracts). Enterprise offers a cardboard, glass and mixed recycling service, with collections twice daily in many parts of the borough. In spite of this, to date the company has only a limited number of commercial recycling customers.

## **Encouraging Businesses to Recycle**

WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) studies have shown that many small businesses are willing to recycle, so long as they do not incur any additional cost, and that they are keen to reduce their impact on the environment. Haringey Council is encouraging businesses to recycle by:

1. **Addressing the barriers to commercial recycling** - The Council's new Integrated Waste Services Contract, which is due to commence April 2011, will provide an opportunity to overcome the barriers to recycling faced by small businesses in the borough.

The new contract is currently being procure and is going through a competitive dialogue process. However, the successful bidder must deliver a commercial waste and recycling service and seek to increase the level of commercial recycling in the borough. The contract will include specific KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for commercial recycling services and will incorporate a partnership arrangement between the Council and the appointed waste contractor, which will provide the Council with a much greater influence on how commercial recycling services are provided in the borough.

2. **Raising awareness that recycling can save businesses money** - Recycling is often less costly than waste disposal, meaning that businesses can save money by diverting waste from disposal to recycling. This financial incentive will become stronger in future as, due to landfill tax, the cost of waste disposal will continue to rise.

The current activity the Council is taking to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling includes:

- **Providing online information** - to make it easier for businesses to set up a recycling contract a list recycling companies which operate in Haringey is also available on the Haringey Council website [www.haringey.gov.uk/green\\_business](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/green_business)
- **Engaging businesses through businesses networks** and trade associations

- **Providing environmental workshops** which include advice on how and why businesses should recycle.
- **Providing environmental audits to business.** These audits are resources intensive; however they provide a tailored and comprehensive environmental action plan which includes information on recycling.
- **Providing fact-sheets**, specifically written for businesses, which include information and advice on waste reduction and recycling. The relevant fact-sheets, which will be available on the Haringey Council website shortly, are:
  - Waste - your duty of care
  - Waste Reduction
  - Responsible Purchasing
  - Hazardous Waste

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