

MOST BUSINESSES WE TALK TO DO NOT HAVE A WRITTEN WASTE SYSTEM.

HERE ARE OUR 3 STEPS TO WRITING ONE:

1 DRAW YOUR WASTE MAP

– who generates how much, of what types of waste, in what quantities, how often and where?

Typically, these will include:

- Cardboard
- Plastics
- Films (stretch wrap/pallet cover/polythene bags)
- Polystyrene
- Wood
- Glass
- Metal
- Food
- Confidential waste paper
- General mixed waste
- WEEE
- Hazardous waste



Of course, there are many individual types of waste, but broadly speaking, these are the majority.



2 ESTABLISH YOUR WASTE SYSTEM

– liaising with your colleagues, work out how everyone can 'do the right thing, first time'.

All waste is currently having something done with it, often the wrong thing. What infrastructure, bins/cages/containers, signage, training, planning, etc do you need to put in place so that waste is something that everyone understands and knows how to 'do the right thing' with?

What is 'the right thing'? –

The answer will likely depend on how much and how often?

Do you need equipment such as balers, compactors, shredders etc to do the right thing, first time with your materials?

Do you need new or extra waste collection services?

Use the business principle 'Divide to multiply' – break it down to the little steps to get a better end result.

Consider how you as a business can implement a set of Standard Operating Procedures that will systemize your waste.

Mentally at least, add your recyclable waste streams to your business's product list. Treat waste as something with value that you sell. Commoditize it!

This way, most of your packaging waste can become free revenue streams given to you by your suppliers!

Remember – 'It's not mixed up until you throw it away' – if you sell eggs,

when a client orders a lorry load, you are unlikely to mix in any bananas... so when you sell cardboard don't mix in any plastic strapping, stretch wrap and label backing!



3 WRITE YOUR WASTE MANUAL

– take pictures of each waste type, in each area of your business and the system you have put in place to capture and collect it. Clearly define what should be done with each; step 1. step 2. step 3. etc.

Make your waste manual an integral part of your business's culture, your onboarding, your team meetings, toolbox talks and training.

FOLLOWING THE ABOVE WILL SEE YOU REDUCE COSTS, OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND CUT YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT... AND THAT IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE!

#recycling #waste #plastics #warehouseoperations #packaging #manufacturing #automation #equipment #distribution #warehouses #retail #retailers #wholesale #warehousesolutions

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