

CASE STUDY

Waste minimisation surveys and waste reduction guidance (Plastics processing)

The task

Waste is a significant cost for most plastics processing companies but too often it is regarded as simply the 'cost of the skips' whereas it is really the cost of what is in them.

Tangram was commissioned by Envirowise to carry out waste minimisation surveys for plastics processing companies and to provide them with concrete guidance on how to reduce the 'cost of waste' and the environmental impact of their waste.

What we did

Tangram visited each company for a single visit and carried out a pre-programmed visit taking in a variety of topics such as waste in the main plastics processing technology through raw material losses, waste in packaging usage, waste in water usage, waste in office activities, waste in product losses and general management and motivation of the staff.

Tangram produced a structured report for each company giving:

- The possible reduction in the cost of waste if standard industry benchmarks for waste were achieved,
- Actions to be taken to achieve the reductions and indications of the likely cost of achieving the reductions,
- An implementation timetable for achieving the reductions,
- Information on the available resources and further information for achieving further cost reductions.

Each visit was followed up after 3-6 months (depending on the implementation programme) for a review discussion on the success of the implementation.

The benefits

- Companies were given details of methods to achieve an average of 25% savings in the annual cost of waste.
- Companies were shown a variety of simple methods of raising the profile of waste minimisation in the organisation.
- Companies achieved an average of 10% savings in the annual cost of waste within 3-6 months of starting the programme.
- Companies had clear programmes for further future reductions in their cost of waste (up to 10% in most cases).

More details?

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