

GRUNDON

creating value



guide to finding
value in your waste

The way we think about and treat our waste has changed dramatically in recent years.



Whereas once we threw it out with barely a second thought, today we are increasingly seeing waste as a valuable commodity that can help save money, boost environmental credentials and be good for the planet – providing it is correctly managed.

While recycling some materials, such as glass, paper and cardboard have become the norm, there are still many items whose recycling potential is largely untapped.

Likewise, whilst some facilities managers are now aware of the opportunities related to earning rebates on various waste streams, it is still not widely known amongst most. Research from FMJ and Grundon* revealed that over the last 4 years, FM's knowledge and understanding of earning rebates has increased by 10%, although this is still only 14% overall.

*Survey conducted by Facilities Management Journal and Grundon Waste Management

In this guide, we outline how you can identify those hidden gems and spotlight the waste streams that are often thought of as too difficult or costly to recycle or reuse.

Join us and find out how to find value in your waste!



Look around you and imagine every item in your workplace has a value attached to it.

Not how much it costs to buy – or indeed sell on the likes of eBay – but how much it might be worth in terms of a recycling value.





That stack of cardboard taking up space in the warehouse, the pile of polystyrene packaging and those empty plastic crates and plastic buckets that long ago contained anything from plant trays to foodstuffs.

Each and every one of those has both a recycling and a monetary value – the trick is to understand how to get the best out of those items, not just from a financial perspective but also diversion from landfill, reducing carbon emissions and helping you reach your environmental targets.

So, how do you uncover the hidden gems in your waste?



The first step to finding the value in your waste involves identifying which materials are being thrown away and what currently happens to them. This can be achieved by looking in bins at different locations around your premises.

The best way to do this is to call in an expert to undertake a waste audit, identifying the types of waste being thrown away and the new disposal routes which will deliver both value and environmental benefits.

Experts in waste management, like Grundon, can help organisations make those important decisions about increasing recycling opportunities. More and more we are seeing new waste streams come online together with innovative technologies that are making it easier to recycle, reuse and repurpose.





How much could you be earning from your waste?



Many businesses often don't realise that developments within the waste sector have meant there are many more opportunities to recycle a much broader range of products. However, to achieve this effectively and efficiently, it's important to understand both the quantity and quality of materials required.

The value of different waste streams will vary according to market demands, but as the average tonnage figures shown in this section of the guide demonstrate, there's plenty of scope for earning substantial rebates on a variety of materials.

Over the next nine pages, we guide you through a selection of the typical types of waste materials that arise in the workplace which are suitable for recycling. We shed light on the monetary value of the materials*, how much material you'll likely need to produce to earn a rebate, provide information on any collection and/or disposal fees you're likely to incur and outline the benefits recycling these materials will have for your business.

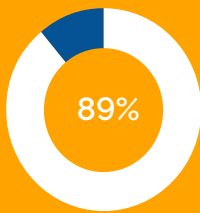
*Note: In this section we show only a selection of items suitable for recycling. All values and prices shown are for guidance only and were correct at the time of publication (May 2022). If you would like to discuss recycling a material which isn't included within this section or would like information on the latest values and prices, please email recycling@grundon.com or call 01753 686 777

cardboard



Cardboard could easily be referred to as 'beige gold' and has the potential to become a revenue generator for your business, helping to offset your other waste collection and disposal costs.

Cardboard is typically made from



recycled cardboard and some recycled paper for fibre strength, or sometimes pulp derived from trees

The huge increase in home deliveries and requirements for recyclable packaging has led to a huge increase in demand for cardboard. The value of cardboard has steadily increased over the last few years in response to market demands.

Typically, every tonne of cardboard recycled can save up to 17 trees from being cut down, whilst also helping to reduce the carbon emissions associated with manufacturing new cardboard and importing in paper and cardboard from overseas.

Did you know

Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex earned **£24,000** in rebates within the first six months of baling and recycling their cardboard.

Value

Baled = **£80 per tonne** if a minimum of 10 tonnes is collected

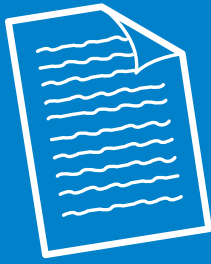
Collection/disposal fee

No fee to collect baled cardboard
Loose cardboard may incur a small fee
Cardboard in a wheelie bin will be charged

Customer benefits

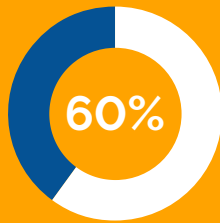
Rebate available
Increases recycling
Reduces disposal costs (subject to quantity etc)

paper



In the UK we use over 9.9 million tonnes of paper each year, however, paper remains one of the most widely recycled materials.

It takes



less energy to recycle paper than it does to make it from raw materials

Each tonne of paper recycled saves:

380

gallons of oil

7,000

gallons of water

and around **three cubic metres** of landfill space

When you look at the statistics relating to recycling paper, when compared to producing it from virgin materials it's easy to see why.

Value

Baled = **£50 per tonne**, minimum of 10 tonnes collected

Collection/disposal fee

Collection costs will be incurred if in a wheeled bin

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Increases recycling and sustainability

paper cups



As a nation the UK disposes of 2.5 billion disposable cups every year – that amounts to 7 million a day!

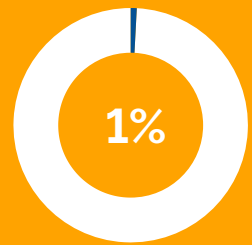
Coffee cups are notoriously difficult to recycle, mainly due to the fact that they are made of paper which has a polyethylene film bonded to it. This film makes the cup waterproof and helps it to retain its structure.

This does present a problem when it comes to recycling them, as traditional paper recycling facilities find it difficult to separate the paper from the polyethylene film.

However, some waste management providers (such as Grundon) offer a dedicated service for the collection and recycling of paper cups. Once collected, the cups are taken to a specialist cup recycling facility, where 100% of the cup is recycled leaving zero waste.

You can even purchase recycled office paper made from your waste cups, providing a closed-loop process that further enhances your company's green credentials and brand value.

It is widely reported that less than



of those cups disposed of are currently recycled at present

Collection/disposal fee

Collection costs will be incurred if in a wheeled bin

Customer benefits

100% recyclable

Reduces weight in general waste

Opportunity to buy back paper made from cups = contribution to the circular economy

plastics



Plastics have become so ever-present in our lives that it's hard to comprehend that it has only been around for the last 70 years or so.

One of the biggest issues with plastic is that the strength and durability of plastic is both a winner and a loser. It's great that it has so many uses, but because none of the commonly used plastics are biodegradable, it creates an ongoing problem as they will be in the environment for hundreds of years.

This is a problem not helped by the many different types of polymers, resins and synthetic fibres and additives which make up plastic.

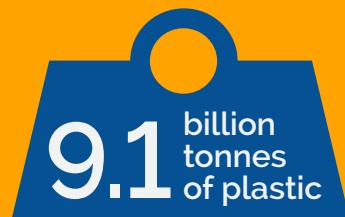
The holy grail of recycling is to keep materials in use and in the loop forever if you can, and with plastic it's entirely possible to find an outlet to recycle it, whilst also earning a healthy rebate.

Over the next four pages, we've selected some of the most widely used plastics which are suitable for recycling and outlined their value.

Did you know?

Southside Shopping Centre in London bales its waste clothes hangers, which are then **collected free of charge** with other waste streams and sent for recycling.

A study in 2017 revealed that since the 1950s,



have been manufactured

It also revealed that if we continue to throw away plastic at the current rate, we will have generated a massive

12 billion tonnes of plastic

in landfills or elsewhere by 2050!

plastics



LDPE Plastic Film or Pallet Wrap

Value

95% clear LDPE or Pallet Wrap - **£250 per tonne**

Other % can be coloured LDPE film, other types of plastic film or labels.

No organics or other waste

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will depend on quantity but on average will be a less than £350 per load.

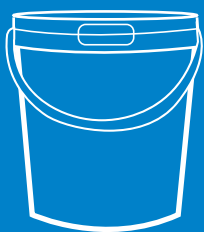
Maximum collection load is 23 tonnes

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Diversion from landfill

Reduces disposal costs (subject to quantity etc)



Polypropylene (PP)

White plastic buckets (often used in the food industry)

Value

£200 per tonne if clean and free of food residues

£50 per tonne with food residue

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will vary depending on quantity

22 pallets per load

32 euro pallets per load

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Increases recycling and sustainability

plastics



HDPE Drums and Cans

Value

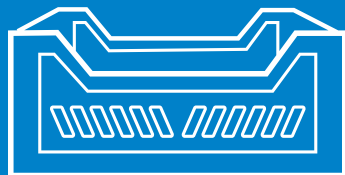
£80 per tonne if already baled
£10 per tonne if free and clear of residue

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will vary depending on quantity
22 pallets per load
32 euro pallets per load

Customer benefits

Rebate available
Increases recycling and sustainability



HDPE/PP Plastic Crates

Value

£100 per tonne if free and clear of residue

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will vary depending on quantity
22 pallets per load
32 euro pallets per load

Customer benefits

Rebate available
Increases recycling and sustainability

plastics



Polystyrene

Value

Baled = **£400 per tonne** if a minimum of 5 tonnes is collected

Must be clean and free of residue

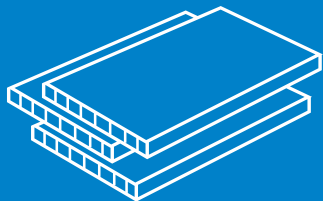
Collection/disposal fee

Minimum collection is 5 tonnes and transport costs will apply

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Increases recycling and diverts from landfill



Corex

Value

£200 per tonne depending on grade and amount of filler

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will vary depending on quantity

22 pallets per load

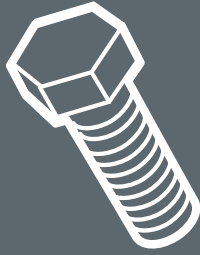
32 euro pallets per load

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Increases recycling and diverts from landfill

metal



Metals are some of the most widely used materials that are easy to recycle.

Whilst different metals will have different recycling values, aluminium is worth up to 20 times more than other packaging materials. In fact, estimates suggest that at any one time, there are over £30 million worth of aluminium cans waiting to be collected and recycled.

Of the 24 million tonnes of aluminium produced annually in the UK, approximately 51,000 tonnes ends up as packaging for food and drinks. Aluminium is really easy to recycle and can often be back on the shelf as a new product within 60 days. In fact, recycling just one tonne of aluminium uses 95% less energy than it does to make new aluminium and saves up to 9 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Value

Different metals will have different recycling values but, typically a collection of mixed metal = **£40-£80 per tonne**

Collection/disposal fee

Transport costs will vary depending on quantity

Customer benefits

Rebate available

Increases recycling and diverts from landfill

Other metals such as steel are 100% recyclable too.



glass



Glass is a fantastic material.

It is 100% recyclable and can be reused and recycled over and over again, without losing quality.

Every tonne of glass recycled saves around 246kg of CO₂ emissions and the need for over a tonne of natural resources needing to be used.

Value

Up to **£3 per tonne** for a full load of bottle glass
Does not apply to crushed glass

Collection/disposal fee

Glass will be collected in bottle banks or skips with a transport and disposal fee, circa £15 per tonne or via 240ltr wheelie bins with a lift charge of £5.50

Customer benefits

Increases recycling

Reduces weight in general waste bins

Provides opportunity to save in excess weight fees

Top tips for uncovering hidden gems in your waste



Ask waste experts to carry out an audit and identify the hidden potential of your waste – it costs nothing and delivers huge potential



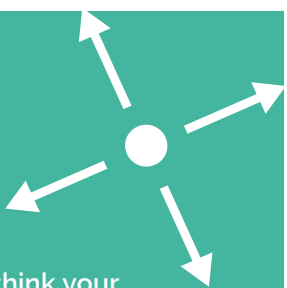
Think outside the (waste) box to reveal an item's true recycling value – you'd be surprised at the list of materials now suitable for recycling



Work with a waste company who can recycle ALL your waste streams – it's much easier and more cost-effective



Rethink your outdoor space to maximise storage if possible – this will help cut collection costs



Wherever possible, keep recycling materials clean – the better the quality, the better the rebate



Ask about buying or renting compactors and/or balers – the higher the amount of waste you have ready for collection, the higher the rebate available**



Implement a waste strategy and ask your waste provider to help undertake training and waste awareness days for your employees – if they understand the reasons why, staff will be much more willing to come on board



Use data from your waste supplier to keep track of waste savings and reward successes – saying thank you to your teams will encourage them to do more in the future



Enter awards to celebrate your achievements – a great way to raise environmental credibility, which also helps with engaging future employees and boosts your corporate reputation



GRUNDON

Start creating value from your waste today!



So, as you can see there will be hidden gems in your waste waiting to be uncovered.

Take a look at which materials are being thrown away and what happens to them – most will have a recycling and potentially a monetary value.

The easiest way to uncover these valuable materials and find out how much you could be earning from your waste is to speak to an expert like Grundon.

To find out how your business can improve its recycling performance and potentially earn rebates book your free waste audit today

✉ recycling@grundon.com

☎ 01753 686 777