

Category: Impact on Society
Winner: Recycling Lives
Sector: Waste Management

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Best Practice Learning Points

- ★ Recycling Lives successfully linked their facilities management operations to the needs of society, achieving the company's longer term mission of diverting waste from landfills, this was achievable by redistributing foods to enabling ex-offenders to work in the industry and find a more meaningful life on the road to recovery
- ★ Clients not only benefit from the company's soft facilities management offerings, but also see a positive social outcome from their investment with Recycling Lives and a tangible form of CSR
- ★ The company have shown that creating a social legacy directly associated with FM also achieves organisational success, and consequently Recycling Lives is one of the fastest growing waste management companies in the UK



Jeff Green of Recycling Lives and their Impact on Society Award.

About

Recycling Lives is a recycling and waste management organisation established to create social impact as a result of its FM services, offering opportunities for tangible CSR to clients via its charitable activities.

The company is now one of the fastest-growing waste management companies in the UK thanks to its ability to provide “soft” facilities management solutions and a “one-stop-shop” solution for clients, including increasing diversion from landfill, risk reduction, meeting compliance and maximising budgets.

In addition to this, the company also directly supports a CSR element for clients in the form of its charity. Its social welfare charity seeks to rehabilitate offenders through its HMP Academies Programme, offering employment and accommodation to tackle homelessness through its Release Potential programme and runs a food redistribution centre to deliver surplus food to those in need in order to tackle food poverty.

The successful HMP Academies programme operates across nine prisons in the UK, and enables men and women to “earn and learn”. Candidates are trained in core recycling skills, such as how to dismantle electrical waste, earn a wage and can begin to develop a new life. The workshops have aided a reduction in the rate of reoffending, seeing a 94% success rate, with just a 6% reoffending rate – compared to the national reoffending rate of around 67%.

The company's Food Redistribution Centre, run in partnership with national charity FareShare, connects food suppliers with charities to ensure that surplus food donations are distributed to food banks, breakfast clubs and homeless shelters across the North West. The scheme not only helps to tackle food poverty, but also food waste, and has already distributed over 1,000,000 meals since its inception in October 2015, feeding 5,000 people each week and diverting 331 tonnes of food waste from landfill.

Continued overleaf

The Judges said...

“ This outstanding scheme is put into practice by a truly exceptional team of people, founded by Steven Jackson OBE DL, who made a strategic and socially aware decision when he founded the business – which is based on creating social value equal to or greater than 10% of the business' annual sales each year. This inspiring team understand the need to be commercially successful in order to give back to the community. It is a sustainable and scalable concept that demonstrates that as a business they are ambitious, entrepreneurial and have a track record for committing to long-term programmes. ”

About (continued)

Recycling Lives' residential charity offers a six-stage programme to men who face serious barriers in regaining their independence. The programme helps with work and life skills, as well as accommodation, employment opportunities and personal support from its safe and secure residential facility.

In 2015/16, Recycling Lives delivered more than £4.1 million of social value within the UK, thanks to the buy-in and support of its clients, with a commitment to create social value equal to, or greater than 10% of Recycling Lives Ltd's annual sales.

The company boasts over 40 years of experience in the recycling sector, starting life as a small family business and now employs over 200 staff members. The social business model has always been a part of its business model, and was developed by founder Steve Jackson OBE DL to improve the lives and life chances of disadvantaged groups.

The company's FM offering is very unique – with FM solutions, planning, FM expertise and data management, plus the added and invaluable bonus of its unrivalled CSR initiative as part of the package.

Thanks to the company's environmental and social initiatives, Recycling Lives continue to lead the way in diverting waste from landfill, with a goal of achieving 100% diversion from landfill on all contracts. They are also dedicated members of social movements such as the Employers Forum for Reducing Re-offending, who work to create a Circular Economy Model in the UK to improve opportunities for ex-offenders across the country.

Recycling Lives' goal is to not only provide competitive rates and strong export relationships with revenue streams from recycling and FM expertise, but to also ensure that every contract has a strong social legacy – measured not only by revenue but also by the number of jobs created, number of ex-offenders rehabilitated, and number of meals served to vulnerable people.