

Workplace Recycling case study: manufacturing

# TRB (Tokai Rika Group) St Asaph

## Background

TRB, part of the Japanese multi-national company, Tokai Rika, operate an automotive component assembly plant at St Asaph in North East Wales. Employing around 90 staff, the facility supplies parts to Europe's front line vehicle manufacturers, e.g. Toyota. The majority of the waste produced on site is packaging, the scope and quantity of which is dictated by up and downstream supply chain companies.



Image: TRB

# Putting workplace recycling into practice

The site has a strong regulatory focus, with ISO14001 accreditation and an established waste management procedure in place. Existing good (circular) practice includes the use of reusable tote boxes that flow up and down the supply chain containing components and assembled end product. TRB has been working with ASH Group since 2016, covering the collection, recycling and treatment of the majority of non-hazardous waste streams produced on site.



Workplace recycling has enabled us to standardise and improve materials separation and recycling on site, including the addition of a separate food waste collection service”

Sarah Nicholls, Quality Systems & Environment  
Manager



Image: TRB warehouse

# Responding to the workplace recycling law

In advance of the law coming into force, TRB placed posters in production areas advising staff of the changes. These helped communicate the new law, reinforcing existing recycling separation practices and explaining what materials can and cannot be recycled. All internal bin labels were updated, adopting the WRAP colours and iconography. Wherever possible, bin stations are laid out consistently to help with recognition across the site.

## Introducing separate food waste collections

Whilst there is no staff canteen on site TRB undertook weekly weighing of food waste early in 2024 to determine whether it met the (5kg/week) minimum threshold. Whilst it was below the threshold, at c.3kg/week, a separate collection (using a 140-litre bin) was established because it is considered the right thing to do.

## Embedding recycling behaviours

A new fleet of bins was rolled out by ASH linked to the new law starting. Consistently coloured bins are used in external areas with colour-coded lids for the individual streams being separated for recycling.



Images: Separate food waste bin and colour coded bins for each recycling stream

# Impact

## Waste production and management

Using weight reports for all streams collected, TRB maintain a recycling performance tracker as part of the site Environmental Management System (EMS). High levels of recycling are being achieved, as shown in this table.

| Year          | Recycling rate |
|---------------|----------------|
| 2022          | 85%            |
| 2023          | 87%            |
| 2024 (target) | 88%            |

## Ongoing initiatives

Beyond the use of reusable tote boxes within production areas, other waste-related initiatives on site include:

- Working with supply chain partners to ensure plastic packaging contains at least 30% recycled content and/or to explore alternative packaging materials
- Operating a 'zero glass' policy on site
- Separating plastic film for recycling. ASH have recycling routes for clean plastic film so are able to accept this stream from select customers.

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