

Workplace Recycling case study: conservation and tourism

The National Trust: Tredegar House, Duffryn

Background

Tredegar House sits within 90 acres of gardens and parkland on the outskirts of Newport in South-West Wales. The late 17th century house and grounds have been cared for by the National Trust since 2012.

Facilities on site include the mansion house and gardens, tearoom, parkland (open to the public), toilets (in 3 locations), staff offices with kitchens and tenant businesses.



Image: Tredegar House

Putting workplace recycling into practice

National Trust sustainable resources and facilities management teams have worked closely with site staff to share good practice and encourage internal and external stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices.

Examples include giving away free coffee grounds at the tearoom (to reduce food waste) and promoting a plastic free shop (Sero Waste), operating as a commercial tenant on site.



The workplace recycling regulations have encouraged us to focus on our recycling practices across Wales. We are keen to make further improvements now we have seen how well received this has been by the public and our own staff as well as a focus on reduction of all types of waste.

Matilda Pears-Cooper, Assistant Climate and Environment Advisor – Wales at The National Trust



Image: Tredegar House and recycling bins in the park

Responding to the workplace recycling law

In advance of the law coming into force, internal National Trust teams worked to assess bin requirements and develop appropriate signage (using WRAP standards).

Coinciding with the introduction of new bins, and the repurposing of existing bins, a training presentation was shared amongst property staff. The changes were also communicated at operational meetings.

External bins and labelling

- New external bins were ordered from Woodberry, ensuring full separation of common materials arising in outdoor environments.
- Additional signage advising no dog waste has been added to avoid contamination, with multiple dedicated bins provided for dog walkers to use across the site.
- Bin label illustrations were updated to make them more appropriate to the types of waste being produced on site.
- Posters have been placed in the staff areas near the bins to help staff with what can and cannot be placed in each bin.



Image: Staff recycling bins and food waste caddy



Image: Park recycling bins with dog poo signage



Image: Staff posters

Impact

Waste production and management

- Waste and recycling quantities are recorded monthly, with overall levels averaging just under 3 tonnes per month.
- The table shows how recycling rates have increased over the period since the change in law was implemented.

Time period	Recycling rate
July - August 2023	28%
July - August 2024	43%

Ongoing initiatives

A wide range of initiatives are being progressed across the National Trust to embed more sustainable resource use and minimise waste:

- **Internal Swap Shop** – encouraging staff to link up with other properties to see if they would swap/lend/give rather than buy new
- **Reviewing transport packaging** and requesting that retail suppliers delivering products on pallets take these back (for re-use)
- **Commitment to tackle single use plastics** and pollution by working on avoiding them in the first place. If this is not possible, efforts are made to only source plastics that include recycled content and can be easily recycled at end of life

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