



# Depot Cinema in Lewes Leads Comprehensive Waste and Recycling services

January 2026

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## Introduction

Depot Cinema is an independent, community-focused venue located in Lewes, East Sussex. More than just a cinema, Depot combines film, food, and learning in a thoughtfully designed space that includes a vibrant restaurant and dedicated areas for events and educational activities.

Founded on environmentally responsible principles, Depot is committed to embedding sustainability into every facet of its operations - from its eco-conscious architecture to its zero-waste initiatives.

As a cultural hub, Depot fosters local connection and creativity while setting a benchmark for green practices in the entertainment sector.

## Problem

The bin storage area was small and difficult to access, which made setting up a recycling system a real challenge.

With several businesses operating alongside the cinema, it was essential that the new recycling system was simple, user-friendly, and easy for everyone to use.

## Solution

To make recycling work in a space with limited access, a tailored approach was introduced to boost efficiency and staff engagement.

Compact vehicles, live data tools, and hands-on training helped streamline operations.

New initiatives like waste audits, colour-coded bins, and flexible plastics recycling were added to support ongoing improvement.

## Impact

This year, the Depot has made great strides in sustainability, reaching a 77% recycling rate and saving 10 trees while avoiding nearly 9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

With seven waste streams now in place including food, coffee grounds, and confidential shredding, all carbon emissions are fully offset.

The site's efforts have earned industry recognition, including a top award and a strong environmental audit score.

# Problem

The Depot Cinema site faced a tricky setup as the bin storage area was small and tightly packed. The access route to it was also narrow and awkward to navigate, restricting the type and size of waste containment to use.

These physical constraints made it difficult to introduce a full recycling and waste segregation system, especially one that required multiple containers and regular collections.

Coordinating space, movement, and storage within such a limited footprint posed a real challenge for day-to-day operations.



# Solution

**To address the challenges around limited space and difficult access, a tailored approach was introduced to make recycling and waste management more practical and effective on-site.**

The strategy focused on improving efficiency, visibility, and staff engagement.

Key actions included:

- Their waste management company rolled out compact collection vehicles fitted with bin-weighing tech to accurately track waste – smart, efficient, and data-driven!
- Running on-site walk throughs and training sessions to support staff with day-to-day waste handling and disposal.

To build on these improvements, several new initiatives were launched:

- Annual waste composition checks to spot patterns to guide waste reduction efforts.
- Clear, colour-coded bins placed throughout the venue – including dedicated bins for coffee cups in cinema areas.
- A new flexible soft plastics recycling stream introduced in response to audit findings showing high levels of snack packaging.



# Impact

The site has seen strong progress in its recycling efforts this year.

The overall recycling rate climbed from 71% in January to 80% by June, averaging 77% across the year.

In total, 16,786 kg of waste has been recycled - helping save 10 trees and avoid 8,785 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Key highlights include:

- Not only is the waste service fully compliant with the Government's Workplace Recycling Law, Depot Cinema has gone above and beyond by collecting seven regular waste streams - including confidential shredding.
- Coffee grounds are reused as biofuel, and food waste is turned into fertiliser and energy.
- The Depot offsets all waste-related carbon emissions through a tree planting scheme.

## Recognition and achievements:

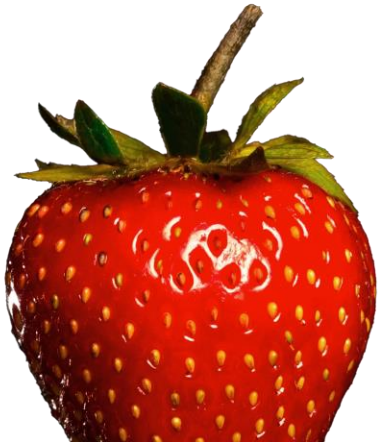
- Winner of the Highest Achievement for Commitment at the Creative Green Awards 2020.
- Scored 4 out of 5 stars in its first environmental audit by the Cultural Climate Action Organisation.



# Impact

Together, the Depot Cinema and their waste management provider are aiming to:

- Exceed a recycling rate of 80%.
- Continue leveraging waste composition data to guide ongoing sustainability strategies.



“

**We're thrilled to work with a local recycling company that truly puts sustainability first -and delivers great customer service.**

”

Depot Management

“

**Being able to track our recycling online and see exactly where our waste goes gives us real peace of mind.**

”

Depot Management



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