



REDUCING GREEN WASTE TO LANDFILL

CATEGORY: WASTE

CASE STUDY YEAR: 2007

Business Details:

**Simonburn Tea Rooms,
Hexham,
Northumberland**

<http://www.simonburntearooms.com>



Description:

Simonburn Tea Rooms is a small B&B and busy tearoom in Northumberland. The business was graded at bronze level after the advisory visit but implemented recommendations and subsequently moved up to the SILVER level after the full grading visit. The business is subject to the Tynedale council collect and sort service for all recyclable materials. Due to the nature of the business it was producing lots of organic waste from the kitchen. One of the new measures implemented was the setting up of a three bin composting system to reduce the organic waste that was going in the bin. The business is now only putting approximately 2 bags of rubbish into its general waste in a week amounting to around 25 cubic litres in volume. This represents only 10% of the capacity of the bin being used. This means that the business has reduced its general waste by about 90% through recycling and composting. This is a very significant reduction and the owner is justifiably proud of this achievement.



Economic

The three bin composting system was bought through a subsidised council scheme and cost £24.00, saving the business £50.00. Similar systems can cost up to £150 or more. The business pays for waste uplift through its rates so there is no reduction in costs. But for larger businesses who do pay for waste uplift a reduction in waste of this size would equate to significant savings.



Environmental

In 2004/5 20 million tonnes of municipal waste went into the 2217 landfill sites in Britain and around 2/3 of this waste was made up of biodegradable materials. These materials produce around 20% of the UK's Methane emissions, which amounts to 2% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. They also attract vermin in search of food waste. Obviously any steps taken to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill is going to help address these issues.



Social

There is a finite amount of space in the country that can be used for landfill and we are filling it up quickly. There were 3400 working sites in the UK in 1994; this has been reduced to 2217 in 2005 because we fill them so quickly. The nuisance caused by increased traffic, noise, dust and odours have all been linked to increased stress and anxiety in communities living close to landfill sites. So, again any reduction in waste going to these sites is going to have beneficial effects.

WEB

Environment Agency: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>,
Composting Association: <http://www.compost.org.uk>,
Recycle Now: <http://www.recyclenow.com>,
Wiggly Wiggles (Composting and Gardening tips and tools): <http://www.wigglywiggles.co.uk>.