

# Beckettsphere Case Study



*This project case study template will help you to summarise the scope and impact of your project. You should fill it in as fully as possible and upload it to your One Drive folder. Your auditor will use this case study to assess your project and decide your final award level.*

Name of Team: Cares campus services

Project Title: Reduce waste generation through improved recycling & reuse

Project Level you are aiming for: gold

## Project summary:

Our project aim was to establish better waste practices, focus on the core messages around recycling and reuse plus work towards making improvements on campus in how our waste is handled. Working with our waste contractors, we aimed to improve education amongst staff & students

## Measurable Outcomes of the project:

Outcomes are the specific changes, learnings or benefits that came about as a result of the project (i.e. what you achieved). This could be (for example) a reduction in waste sent to landfill, an increase in use of sustainable transport, an increase in the amount of vegan food eaten at team lunches etc. You should include measures wherever possible.

- An increase in recyclable waste collected at source during September Celebration Event 2021.
- An increase in the number of bins on campus, specifically targeting single stream waste segregation
- Improved education to the staff on the handling and management of confidential waste (during office clear-outs) through better briefing documents
- Reduce the amount of glass and food in general waste
- Improve team participation in waste management issues (food waste)
- Increase in re-usable items donated to students
- As a result of the success of the new waste bins in LSA and CSS Building, we invested a further £5145 in multi-waste stream bins for Bronte Hall and Sports reception.
- Our food bank collection generated 96kg of supplies for a local charity
- Our focus on waste segregation and awareness during both the Celebration Event and Freshers Fayre (same week) generated 3 social media mentions for our teams by both Forge and LBU comms team

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- For the week of celebration event Sept21, Sam Gordon received no contamination reports or photos of bin misuse across all campus. A normal week, she had been receiving on average 10 photos per week. The weekly report from Forge listed no contamination either for that week
- We were able to remove approx. 104 boxes of re-usable stationary items from across the office clearances in Nov/Dec '21 and Jan '22 which were put out for students to take
- We packed up 2 cages of text books from Caedmon offices and donated them to the library to put into stock or re-cycle via their specialist book recycler
- Glass recycling increased from 1% to 5% during the Celebration event which highlighted the improved targeting of the single waste stream (out of general waste)

## Outputs (how did you achieve the outcomes):

*Outputs are how you achieved the outcomes above – what you actually did as part of the project. This could be (for example) held an awareness raising event, conducted a litter pick, held a fundraiser etc.*

- Provided an improved segregation of waste at a major event, with bespoke collection points in the guest area, targeting glass, paper/card, cups and general waste. The cleaning teams wore t-shirts promoting better recycling with messaging for guests to ask if not sure. A very visible presence on site by our waste contractor during the event.
- We showcased the new style of bins at Freshers Fayre at both campuses, with a competition run by our waste contractor, Forge. We have continued to invest in more bins of the same style as placed in CSS and LSA. With new bins in the sports reception and Bronte Hall. These will be rolled out in newly refurbished spaces, such as Caedmon Hall in 2022.
- With the historic problem of non-confidential items (folders, plastic wallets) ending up in confi waste bags, we worked with Space Team in Estates on the office clear-outs of Portland, Calverley and Queen Square House. We provided clearer messaging on move-out instructions to staff at the start. We regularly visited staff as they cleared out to tackle issues or offer guidance. We addressed issues as they arose with email comms and support. It was great to see the cleaning team actively involved, with a really good understanding of waste segregation.
- Our team actively participated in the handling of waste management this year, with more staff involved than ever. At City Campus, a number of our cleaning team worked extra hours to support the emptying of offices to bring re-usable items down to student areas for giveaways. At Headingley, during the Summer Celebration for Graduates, a number of our cleaning team from City volunteered to switch campus and support another area. During Bronte clearout, which was extensive – all the porters and cleaners got involved as well as a couple of the Estates staff, to help move waste, sort through re-usable items and transport WEEE waste to collection points.
- During the celebration event, we provided bespoke glass bins which were monitored by the porters. They not only swapped out bins regularly for collection, they sorted through to remove any

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contamination and checked the recycling bins (clear bags) for any glass bottles too. We had NO contaminated waste during the event.

- We held a raffle for staff in exchange for them bringing in food items for a local food bank. We were able to donate 96kg of food to the Leeds North and West Foodbank Team

## Which Sustainable Development goals does your project contribute too?

These can be found [here](#)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. No poverty <input type="checkbox"/>                                     | 2. Zero hunger <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                             |
| 3. Good health and well-being <input type="checkbox"/>                     | 4. Quality education <input type="checkbox"/>                                  |
| 5. Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/>                                | 6. Clean water and sanitation <input type="checkbox"/>                         |
| 7. Affordable and clean energy <input type="checkbox"/>                    | 8. Decent work and economic growth <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>        | 10. Reduced inequalities <input type="checkbox"/>                              |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 12. Responsible consumption and production <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Climate action <input type="checkbox"/>                                | 14. Life below water <input type="checkbox"/>                                  |
| 15. Life on land <input type="checkbox"/>                                  | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 17. Partnerships for the goals <input type="checkbox"/>                    |  |

## Where did your project have an impact?

Home x

On Campus x

Beyond the university x

Our support of the local food bank had immediate impact for people in the community in that we were able to donate 96kg of food items. It will have a lasting impact within the wider community and for staff at home – not only will we do this every year as a team, we want to expand it to our entire department. We saw such a positive impact with staff bringing in unused/surplus food items from home, we want to make it an annual thing.

On campus, our work with teams moving out has made many people realise how much they were holding onto and hoarding for no reason. The situation with COVID and staff working from home has made people save things electronically so the need for printing and having things sent in the post has changed. We have seen this in the many areas that have had to clear out their office spaces (Bronte,

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Caedmon, QSH, Calverley, Portland) and we fully expect to see a reduction in paper waste going forward.

The impact of the new single waste stream bins in CSS and LSA has reduced the amount of contaminated waste that we had seen previously, especially with targeting bottles/cans as well. The new stickers to stop coffee cups being put into paper recycling are also working well, with less contamination here too. This success has led to us investing in more single-stream quad and trio bins for the new Bronte Hub.

## Could your project be repeated in the university or by external teams?

Both, A number of our actions could be replicated in other departments or at other Universities. The raffle to promote food item donations for local food banks could be done as part of a Christmas fundraiser or a coffee morning, or even at the end of term in student halls.

Office clear-outs and the re-use of items around the University could be an annual team building exercise and help save the University and students money

Everything we have done as part of this project could be done by other Universities.

## Will your project have a lasting legacy beyond this project year?

Our project had many levels, not just targeting one aspect of waste management. The sub-projects we've worked on will all have a lasting legacy and will continue to form new projects going forwards.

- We will support the local food bank annually.
- We will invest in more quad and trip single-stream waste bins.
- We will target freshers fayres and move-in weekends with our waste contractor to get the messaging right early in our students' life at LBU, which they in turn can take out into the wider community.
- We will work more closely with our halls of residence (a newer project which is just starting at Carnegie Village).
- We will develop a better process for building decants on campus and encourage more re-use amongst our staff community.
- We will invite our waste contractor to speak to students (we have something planned already for 5 march, helping an academic colleague with a hospitality case study project)
- We will have dedicated recycling stations at our graduation festivals following the success of the Celebration event in September 2021

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## Reflections – what did your team enjoy, what might you have done differently etc.?

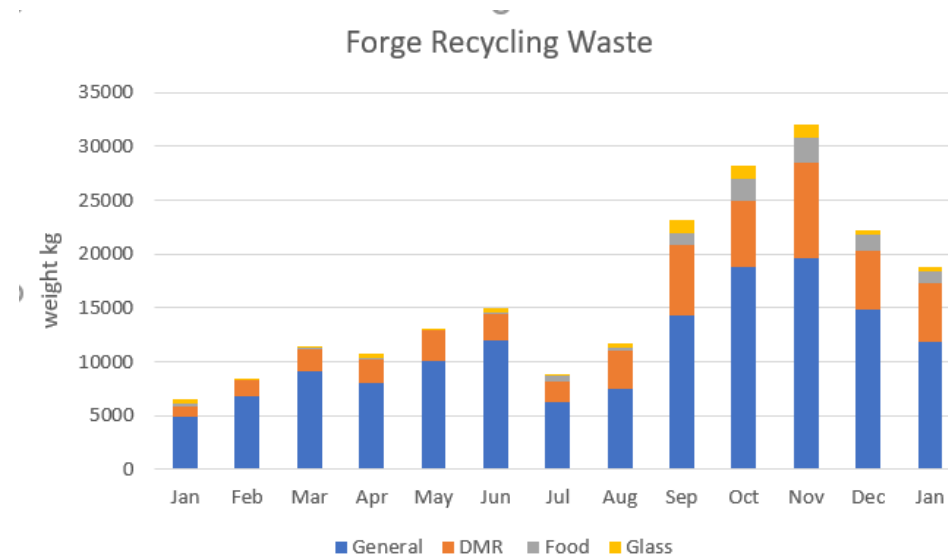
Good waste management takes a lot of effort. It's not something you can control as you're dealing with people. You can't be there every time someone puts something into a bin to re-educate them or challenge behaviour. You can only put the tools in place to assist everyone and hope you've got it right.

Some of the things we've achieved as part of the project have come naturally as part of our daily work, they were things we wanted to do to improve all aspects of waste management. The project will be something we will continue to do but matching this to the Green Impact criteria, it's made us think a little more about the legacy and reach, how what we do affects the wider community, especially our students who live in the local areas and what we can teach them on campus.

For our staff too, educating them on how they manage waste in their offices can have an impact at home. So it's very important to us that we educate as well as provide bins and remove waste. We're not just a team of staff who pick up after everyone, we have a real passion for getting it right, reducing waste, providing good recyclable materials for our contractor and helping people re-use too.

## Further evidence and photos:

Waste Management data from January 2021 to January 2022



Since September 2021, the team have seen an increase in waste collected on campus as students returned. In November, we started the office clear-outs and whilst the waste quantities went up, so did the rate of recycling in relation to general waste. We also saw an increase in glass coming out of general waste.