

Implement an Effective Recycling System in Your Facility



Recycling is often seen as confusing, time-consuming and costly. However, the concept of Open Plan Recycling changes the way that individuals interact with waste and recycling in the workplace.

As Facility Managers, an operationally efficient recycling system needs to be:

- Cost-effective
- Easy to implement and maintain
- Easy and efficient for cleaners to service
- Effective at diverting waste from landfill
- Able to integrate seamlessly with the sustainable management of the building

A Solution For Modern Facilities

Open Plan Recycling is a workplace recycling philosophy that brings recycling out into the open plan of modern facilities. This concept has seen recycling rates increase significantly without intervention in a variety of facilities.

The foundation of Open Plan Recycling is eye-catching recycling bins in standardised streams. Placed together, they form flexible recycling stations, to be installed around a

workplace, or any open plan space.

Being visible within a space, the communal stations encourage people to actively consider their waste behaviours. Being out in the open also reinforces accountability, one of the key factors for progress. Individuals are encouraged, even subconsciously, to be more considerate about separating their waste accurately.

Further, communal stations save time and money with fewer bins and liners to purchase and service.

Continue reading to find practical resources to help you implement and optimise Open Plan Recycling in your facility.

What Bins Should I have?

Recycling bins should be visible and eye-catching within a space. Often recycling schemes are ineffective as there are too few bins available, bins are hidden away in cupboards, or both.

Recycling bins should be designed to help people to intuitively separate their waste. Such as, colour coding, graphics and supporting posters to edu

cate users as they approach a recycling station. This will become unconscious as users become practised at using the bins.



Open Plan Recycling works best with bins that complement the aesthetic design of your space, while capturing attention.

Read more about how Open Plan Recycling changes workplace behaviours [here](#).

Save Time and Money

With communal recycling stations, you have fewer bins and liners to purchase and service. This represents considerable savings compared to desk bins and time your cleaners can use elsewhere.

Method completed a financial case study comparing their communal recycling stations to desk bins and found that an office with 110 employees could save around \$2100 over the course of a year. In addition, you will save on the disposal of waste with increased recycling rates.

Read the full financial case study [here](#).

“An office with 110 employees could save around \$2100 over the course of a year with communal recycling stations”

Where Should I Place My Bins?

Recycling stations should be placed around the facility, one per every 30 - 50 employees in an office. As well as, replacing any stand-alone bins in open areas, for example in the foyer. These should be customised to the needs of a facility placing high-flow streams more frequently. Further, smaller stations or single bins should be placed where recyclables are produced, such as, a paper bin next to the photocopier and an organics bin in the kitchen.

Read more about optimising recycling with this handy [bin placement guide](#).

How Do I Engage My Tenants?

As a Facility Manager, you may have several teams or tenants that you manage. Implementing an effective recycling system can seem challenging, but with a planned communication plan it can be seamless. Organise a meeting with the tenants and communicate the impending changes and request they elect a ‘green captain.’ These individuals form your ‘green team’ organising all internal communications for their team and reporting on the successes and areas of concern for the system in their space.

Read more in the [Successful Recycling Guide](#).

How Do I Record + Assess Success?

One of the key factors to a successful recycling system is ongoing measurement and assessment. This also allows you to communicate the effectiveness of your decisions.

Use this [In House Waste Audit Resource](#) to complete preliminary and ongoing assessments of your waste and recycling system. A key indicator that is easy to measure continuously is the reduction of waste to landfill. This can utilise some of the time your cleaners save with fewer liners to change.

Check out [Westpac NZ](#) who recorded a reduction of waste to landfill from 70% to 30% with the introduction of Method bins.

About the Creators of Open Plan Recycling

Method spent three years in the development of their innovative bins and leading philosophy. The bins are flexible and scalable with the needs of a facility and have found great success in achieving significant recycling rates in many different facilities. Including design giant Canva, Qantas, UK architecture firm Foster + Partners, Auckland Airport, Atlassian and many more.

The system can be completed with specially designed accessories. The [HD Connectors](#) allow you to securely attach your bins side-by-side, back-to-back, or to a wall, so cleaners don't have to spend time moving them back into place every day. These are particularly useful in areas with a lot of traffic and can be extended easily for larger stations with the [expansion kit](#). While the [Precyclers](#) aid in the separation of waste at the desk, before it is transferred to a communal station - a good transition tool from desk bins.



“Westpac NZ recorded a reduction of waste to landfill from 70% to 30% with the introduction of Method bins.”



The Sydney Cricket Ground has over 1.5 million visitors a year, and needed a recycling solution that achieved higher sorting rates, while integrating with the design of the historical grounds. Read more about how Method have helped them achieve greater landfill diversion [here](#).

Conclusion

Open Plan Recycling is the solution for modern facilities, Method have made recycling for the workplace simple and effective.

The Method system was designed with Facility Managers in mind. Forming a complete, operationally efficient recycling solution for the modern facility.

Methods signature 60L Office Recycling Bins are designed to be visible, flexible and beautiful. Your facility can easily achieve greater landfill diversion, and Methods recycling bins become a visible statement of your organisations commitment to sustainability; while saving you time and money.

Join facilities around the world who are diverting more waste from landfill.
Get in touch [here](#).