



Case study

Resource awareness

Who: UnLtd

Where: Birmingham

Recycling needs: Office paper and printer cartridges

The problem

For Development Manager Shamiela Ahmed, recycling is something we all need to take responsibility for. Funding organisation UnLtd employs 70 staff across a number of UK locations, with five staff in the Birmingham office, but Shamiela believes any sized business can do its bit to help the environment and realise the benefits.

"I decided to get involved in recycling for purely environmental reasons," explains Shamiela. "For me, it's a case of each of us being aware of the resources that we use."

Shamiela is a dedicated recycler at home and was keen that the new office should be recycling its materials from day one.

The solution

She contacted a local recycling service provider to arrange for the office's waste paper and empty printer cartridges to be collected and recycled. The service provided boxes and bags to store recyclables, and organised a flexible collection service that was tailored to meet UnLtd's needs.

"Because it's a relatively small office, we need a service that can collect our materials on demand," explains Shamiela. "The recycling service provider is great, because they charge us for each bag we fill rather than requiring a lump sum payment for a service that we may not use."

Shamiela has also been impressed with the reliability and cost-effectiveness of the scheme, but key for her is the feel-good factor: "It feels great, and it really becomes a force of habit. The recycling influence is slowly growing on everyone else in the office!"

Key facts

200kg

On average, each person in the UK uses over 200 kg of paper per year. 66% of this is collected for recycling.*



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UnLtd.

The future

Shamiela is keen to be as sustainable as possible in the workplace. As some of UnLtd's printer cartridges cannot be recycled, she sends them back to the manufacturer so that they can be reused. She's also quick to encourage others to get involved.

"I would recommend using a local recycling service provider to other small businesses", she says. "It's important that we all do our bit for the environment."

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Key facts

7 weeks

On average every person in the UK throws away their own body weight in rubbish every 7 weeks.*

*Source: Waste Watch

Waste & Resources
Action Programme

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