

What goes around...

Running an efficient business in 2009 involves a lot more than seeing how many units you can produce per week. Ely-based Holloseal Glass has realised that the waste it produces not only costs to dispose of, but in many cases can earn it money.

In June 2008, Holloseal's director of logistics Peter Simpkins decided to take it upon himself to specifically tackle the issue of waste. Peter's first concern was the plastic film that protects the glass in transit. Holloseal found that a lot of plastic waste was being produced, which, being light, found its way into every corner of the factory. Fortunately, Holloseal's glass recycling partner, Viridor Richardsons, found that not only was the plastic recyclable, it actually had a value. Therefore, a compactor was bought, and Holloseal quickly benefited from less waste around the site, lower landfill charges, and an income of £150 per ton of plastic film waste.



Holloseal soon found that much of the waste it produced had a value, or, at the very least, could be diverted away from landfill, avoiding landfill costs. "Recycling our waste has been a real eye-opener," said Peter. "To be honest, I wasn't really that interested in the business side of the waste – I just wanted to tidy our site up and save a bit on landfill costs. But once I got started, the process snowballed.

"Among the more obvious earners for us are: our bales of plastic film, which earns around £1,800 a year; clean glass cullet now earns us a very good return (and we can produce 20 tons of glass cullet a week at peak times); the £60,000 we've spent in April this year on improving the electrical efficiencies of our glass processing equipment will result in annual savings of £40,000; and landfill costs have been cut by more than half."

Photo Caption:

Holloseal's Director of Logistics Peter Simpkins' recycling programme even includes the plastic film that protects the glass in transit, from which the company now generates an income of £150 per ton of plastic film waste.

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