



Beck Greener

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Reducing, reusing and recycling

Beck Greener is a firm of patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys, design attorneys and intellectual property (IP) litigators. Alongside filing and prosecuting patent, trade mark and design applications, the firm provides advice, information and assistance relating to all aspects of registered and unregistered IP.

Beck Greener has taken big steps to reduce the firm's environmental impact over the past few years. In order to improve the firm's waste management and reduce waste to landfill, Beck Greener asked the Alliance to conduct a waste audit and recommend areas for improvement. Beck Greener set a target to reduce waste sent to landfill, and increase the proportion of waste sent for recycling to 50% by November 2015.

Key successes:

- Since 2014 Beck Greener have surpassed their initial targets by achieving a 64% recycling rate by April 2015.
- Beck Greener have halved the volume of waste to landfill by implementing waste reduction measures and increasing recycling rates throughout the premises.
- The firm have reduced waste related carbon emissions by more than 20% in the last year.
- This has equated to £215 in annual cost savings as a result of reduced waste collection fees.
- Beck Greener have achieved the 'Going Green' [Mark of Achievement](#) and is on track to achieving the 'Cutting Carbon' Mark.
- There has been a reduction of contamination of recycling and liquids being incorrectly disposed of in bins, therefore reducing the need for cleaning up spills.
- The firm are seeing success in creating sustainable behaviour change within the organisation.

"The Alliance reviewed our existing waste management practices and identified key areas where we could improve. They provided valuable advice regarding implementation of new practices and methods for monitoring progress and measuring success, and have always been on hand to answer any questions that we may have had."

- James Stones
Beck Greener

The Camden Climate Change Alliance was formed by Camden Council and organisations in Camden that are committed to reducing their carbon dioxide emissions and helping to tackle climate change. For more information visit <http://camdencca.org/> call 020 7974 5011 or email camdencca@camden.gov.uk You can also follow us on twitter: [@camdenclimate](https://twitter.com/camdenclimate)



The problem:

Beck Greener wanted to reduce their carbon footprint in line with the [Climate Commitment](#) of the Alliance and work towards achieving the Cutting Carbon [Mark of Achievement](#), whilst saving costs and increasing staff engagement. They set themselves the target of increasing the amount of waste that they recycled from approximately 33% to over 50% by November 2015.

The solution:

The Alliance conducted two on-site audits, reviewed Beck Greener's existing waste management practices and identified key areas where they could improve, making recommendations on the practical implementation of new practices and methods for monitoring progress and measuring success.

The impact:

The benefits have been significant. Beck Greener are currently recycling approximately 64% by weight of their waste which is significantly more than their target of 50% by November 2015. This has enabled Beck Greener to renegotiate their waste management contract. Under the new contract, the capacity for collection of recycled waste has doubled, and they have been able to reduce the capacity for collection of general waste by half. This has led to savings of £215 per year under the new waste collection contract and waste related carbon savings of more than 20%.

Challenges:

In the early days of the new practice, Beck Greener did encounter some instances where the new practice was not being followed as closely as they might have hoped. However, regular checks and effective communication with staff seem to have overcome these problems.

What's next?

Beck Greener are now focusing on reducing their electricity and water consumption. They are in the process of replacing all halogen light bulbs in the building with equivalent LED bulbs. In addition, they have replaced all of the signage in the building reminding people to switch off lights and equipment when not in use.

Beck Greener have also installed water saving devices in all cisterns in the building where in-built devices were not already present. They calculate that the capital expenditure is offset by the savings over approximately 9 months.

To engage staff in what the organisation are trying to achieve, Beck Greener have also given two presentations on their sustainability aims. The presentations were warmly received.

Beck Greener's target is to reduce their energy consumption by at least 2% by May 2016. With the measures identified above, they calculate that they should reduce their energy consumption by 4-5% during this time.



Waste paper – photo from WRAP.

Further Information

For more information about the Alliance and our environmental auditing services, please contact us on 0207 974 5011 or email camdencca@camden.gov.uk

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