

“Waste Not, Want Not” - the Greening of the UK

How many times have we heard this phrase and actually cared or wondered what it really meant? As kids you had to finish what was on your plate because of the starving people in Africa. That was decades ago and we still have starving people in Africa.

contaminated because food is still prevalent in a tin of beans or ketchup still inside the bottle, then the whole load from all the recycled bins is contaminated and goes to landfill. Either we all conform or our council tax will continue to rise as more and more sorters will be needed.

It has been ingrained in us from a very young age not to waste your food, don't waste water with a running tap, don't throw out waste vegetables but compost them and yet the world today is in more of a crisis than ever before.

They say in the UK alone we will run out of landfill space by 2020. Landfill taxes will continue to increase, waste management

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companies and the 'golden' certificates they issue on what you've done with your waste

will become more and more important. Documentation and record keeping will be mandatory and will become the standard practice among companies who want to keep those corporate accounts, those government contracts.

The UK has been slow to recognise the merits of recycling in keeping reusable materials out of the solid waste stream. This has been a way of life in parts of Europe such as Germany, Holland, Belgium and France for many years.

There are some things that require very little effort – it's easy to rinse out your recyclables and many of us do it without thinking now. They say that if one recycling bin in a neighbourhood is

There are now sections in the council tips for your waste electrical goods, cardboard, paper, wood, garden waste, etc.- its quite selective now and there are 'helpers' to make sure you're putting your waste in the proper skips and bins.

But what about our company waste?

There are channels now for waste paper and waste cardboard packaging and some waste collectors are now supplying hazard waste bins for used solvent bottles, empty paint tins, etc. But the remanufacturing and office supply industry in the UK still has the problem of what to do with the used non-original toner and inkjet cartridges - unwanted by the re-use industry because of one reason or another - where the only option that has been open for them up to now is landfill.

OEMs won't take them - their producer responsibility only extends to their used originals. Because of their unknown history and quality issues, remanufacturers prefer only used originals or their own brand cartridges returned. And cartridge collectors can no longer shoulder the expense of treating them.

One in five cartridges sold in the world are inkjets but if you put it in the perspective of tonnage, 70% of cartridge waste is from toner cartridges. Printer cartridges do not bio degrade and toner leaching causes sludge and contaminates the soil.

Another day, another used printer cartridge just thrown away, takes us all closer to...

use **Kleen Strike's** own brand of toners and inkjets. You'll save more than just money. A big bonus in the scheme of things.

Millions of used toner and inkjet cartridges end up in UK landfills every month or are 'recycled' (crushed and incinerated) which again, wastes vast amounts of energy.

Help reduce carbon emissions. Don't buy new 'original brand'. Ask for remanufactured toners and inkjets produced only in the UK and from suppliers with take back schemes.

Zero landfill policy in place

Our waste printer cartridges, used components and waste toner is sent for recycling with a 94% recovery rate into reuse channels.

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The move towards zero landfill of recyclables, carbon smart products and self sustainability is gaining momentum with the Carbon Disclosure Project, the Nottingham Declaration, the 20-20-20 by 2020 challenge by the Government and many other climate change bills now on the horizon.

When up to 95% of a waste toner cartridge can be recovered into reuse channels, it is one solution that can be achieved with very little effort.

When my company began in 1983 there were less than 20 environmental laws or Directives in place. Now there are almost 120 and rising. About fifteen years ago I went to a seminar sponsored by the Environment Agency. I asked the question even then on what their views were regarding waste toner cartridges and waste components. His response was "Are we bothering you"? I replied "You may not be bothering me now but what about in five or

ten years time, will you say the same thing to me then?"

As was demonstrated not too long ago by Dr. Michael Gell, of Xanfeon, a company that provides consultancy and advisory services to businesses in the areas of energy, water, renewables, ecodesign and carbon footprinting: "It's like iron filings on a piece of paper whilst bringing a magnet closer and closer. The filings are scattered all over the page but as the magnet moves closer to the paper, the filings all slowly begin lining up in a row. The magnet is the future environmental laws, the new Directives, the Government and the corporate pressure and the filings are the conforming companies that have waste management practices and carbon reduction targets in place."

Those that now understand the importance of 'waste not' will not be wanting when it comes to the reasons why for their future success.



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