



REDUCE... RE-USE... RECYCLE...

# AXA's rubbish...

This week is 'National Recycle Now' Week and Amicus is encouraging staff within AXA to consider the impact of the rubbish they throw daily into their office bins (even recycling ones...) Whether you take notice of the environmental impact your office waste has on the planet, or the direct financial impact on AXA's finances, it is important you consider the impact of your actions (or lack of them...).

Whilst figures vary, it is estimated that British industry produces over 75 million tonnes of commercial waste and nearly 70% of that ends up in landfills. Given the Government prediction that all the UK's current landfills will be full within seven years this is clearly a matter of concern (especially as no one wants a new one built down the road from them!).

A recent study of resource consumption and waste generation in the finance sector showed that 60% of office waste was paper waste, which should be being re-used or recycled.

So what can you do in your office?

The first step is waste reduction...

Whilst many waste minimisation steps can seem, on the face of it, quite trivial, the results are cumulative and can be quite startling. One small office found by using both sides of A4 paper it could save £4000 a year.

Staff can audit their own office to identify waste and look at opportunities to reduce, re-use or recycle (no manager is going to be unhappy with staff who present them with a plan to save money from their local budget in **AXA** these days!)

The second step is re-use...

Use scrap paper for notepads (why do **AXA** buy notepads and bin paper?), reuse envelopes internally, use paper clips not staples (it has been calculated that if ever UK office worker used one less staple a day it would save 72 tonnes of metal a year!)

Finally there is recycling...

A bit of effort on your part and maybe those new landfill sites won't need building for a while longer. This isn't someone else's problem, the Council's or the Government's. It is everyone's problem and it needs sorting now.



## The price to AXA...

The production of waste in business is increasingly being seen as a form of inefficiency and misuse of resources. *Envirowise* estimates that UK businesses typically waste the equivalent of 4.5% of their turnover.

For AXA UK this equates to around £15million!

Consider the fact that the required cost savings this year in AXA Life for *Project Libra* are £22million and the total UK pay award in 2007 was £8.6million, this estimate of waste cost is no small amount...

However, despite the scale of the potential savings AXA does not have a co-ordinated, harmonised, dedicated policy on waste management. Clearly it is about time that it did...

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