



Bunzl adopted paper tape and is saving a hippo's weight in single use plastic

A key theme in Bunzl's Sustainability Strategy is operating a responsible supply chain. This means Bunzl Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies (BCHS) is committed to being a responsible supplier to its customers. One simple yet effective manifestation of this strategy is in the reduction of single-use plastics in the packaging of customer orders.

Many of Bunzl's branches across the Cleaning & Safety division have swapped plastic parcel tape to a paper gum-based tape and invested in machines that produce pre-cut lengths of paper tape, reducing waste of single use plastic and saving time. Across the board, every site has seen savings in both the cost of consumables and plastic waste entering the supply chain.

The division's Wednesbury site has achieved the biggest savings. The team swapped to paper tape and invested in five tape machines. The site now expects total savings on consumables per annum to be 1,005kg of plastic with a 2.26 year payback period on the investment.

The savings of each branch are dependent on the volume of products processed at that site. However, the average annual saving per branch is 219 kg of plastic. With all BCHS branches now using the paper tape and dispensing machines, they expect to save around 3,942 kg of plastic annually, which is the equivalent weight of a hippo.

CHSA's Roadmap to Sustainability

The CHSA's Roadmap to Sustainability is designed to help members move toward more ethically and environmentally sustainable business practices, policies and procedures, whatever their starting position.

The Roadmap to Sustainability offers value by:

- Informing and educating members on the sustainability agenda and associated issues;
- Providing members with a good strategic way forward for developing their approach to sustainability; and
- Helping the membership align on sustainability and so drive the industry forward.

The Roadmap to Sustainability offers a framework built on five key pillars:

1. Product: the product as it is received and disposed of by the end user
2. Packaging: product packaging and packaging used in transit
3. Transportation: encompassing the movement of raw materials and delivery of product to the end user
4. Social value and ethics: encompassing the whole organisation
5. Corporate environmental impact: emissions, waste and water