



## Top 10 Ways to Reduce Waste and Save Money

By Waste Consult – Making Waste Simple

### Introduction

Neil Smith, Founder and Managing Director of Waste Consult, brings over 17 years of high-level experience in waste management, utilities, and environmental independent expert consultancy. With a career spanning senior leadership roles across major UK firms such as SUEZ, Biffa, Greenzone, and Red Industries, Neil has built a reputation for delivering exceptional results in sales growth, ensures compliance, and sustainable operations.

Having led national sales and marketing teams, managed complex waste portfolios, and overseen multimillion-pound tenders, Neil understands the challenges that businesses face when trying to balance compliance, cost-efficiency, and environmental responsibility. That real-world insight is what sets Waste Consult apart.

In 2025, Neil launched Waste Consult to provide independent, no-ties advice—free from supplier influence. His hands-on approach, strategic acumen, and in-depth understanding of UK waste legislation enable clients to make informed decisions with full peace of mind. Whether advising a local manufacturer or a national education provider, Neil combines practical knowledge with an unwavering commitment to client success and making waste simple.

Whether you're a manufacturer, retailer, school, or service business, waste isn't just a by-product — it's a cost centre. At Waste Consult, we help businesses cut waste, boost compliance, and reduce costs across all waste streams.

This free guide shares 10 proven strategies to help you reduce your waste footprint and you spend — without sacrificing operational performance. Some are quick wins. Others take a little more planning. But every one of them has saved our clients real money.

### 1. Conduct a Waste Audit

Why it matters: You can't manage what you don't measure. An audit identifies waste types, volumes, and collection frequency. It highlights over-servicing, contamination issues, or rogue streams you're being charged extra for.

**Savings Tip: Businesses we audit typically find 5-15% cost savings just by right-sizing containers and collections.**

## 2. Separate Your Waste Streams Properly

Why it matters: Mixed waste is expensive and usually not compliant. Separating recyclables like cardboard, plastic, and food at the source reduces general waste volumes and ensures Simpler Recycling compliance (mandatory for all UK businesses).

**Savings Tip: Source separation can halve your general waste volume, reducing landfill tax and collection frequency.**

## 3. Right-Size Your Containers and Collection Frequency

Why it matters: Oversized or under-used containers = wasted money. Match container size and pickup schedules to your actual volumes not what your supplier initially offered.

**Savings Tip: Weekly instead of biweekly collections can reduce your annual waste bill by £1,000+ per site.**

## 4. Train Staff on Waste Handling

Why it matters: Most waste issues start at the source your staff. Simple training around waste separation, contamination, and correct bin use ensures fewer mistakes and fewer penalties.

**Savings Tip: Proper training can eliminate contamination charges of £50 to £200 per incident (based on contamination it could be more).**

## 5. Eliminate Single-Use Packaging

Why it matters: You're paying for packaging twice once to buy it, and again to bin it. Switching to reusable or returnable packaging can cut waste volumes dramatically and support sustainability goals.

**Savings Tip: One manufacturer cut skip use by 30% through returnable crates.**

## 6. Re-Negotiate Your Waste Contract

Why it matters: Waste contracts often lock you in on unfavourable terms. We regularly uncover clients paying inflated prices or extra fees hidden in the fine print. Independent procurement can lead to better pricing and service.

**Savings Tip: Switching supplier after a review can save 10-30% annually.**

## 7. Recover Value from Waste Streams

Why it matters: Some waste has value cardboard, metal, certain plastics. Rebates might be available if you produce volume, or if materials are clean and baled. Let someone pay you for your waste.

**Savings Tip: One of our retail clients generates £8,000/year in cardboard rebates.**

## 8. Use Compactors or Balers

Why it matters: Reducing volume = fewer collections. For businesses with high waste output, compactors or balers (especially for cardboard/plastics) reduce container size and collection frequency cutting both costs and carbon.

**Savings Tip: Compaction can cut collection costs by up to 50%.**

## 9. Review Hazardous or Specialist Waste Handling

Why it matters: Non-compliance with hazardous waste rules leads to fines. Improper handling or poor documentation also means overcharging. Regular compliance reviews ensure you're using the right service at the right cost.

**Savings Tip: A recent client reduced hazardous waste costs by 40% through proper classification and segregation.**

## 10. Partner with an Independent Waste Consultant

Why it matters: Supplier-led advice isn't always impartial. An independent expert (like us) can audit your setup, benchmark your costs, and help you find the right suppliers not just the ones who sell bins.

**Savings Tip: Most clients recoup our fees within 6-12 months through savings alone.**

## Final Thoughts

Waste doesn't have to be confusing or expensive. By acting on even just a few of these strategies, you could save thousands a year while improving sustainability and compliance.

At Waste Consult, we work with businesses across the UK to simplify waste, reduce costs, and ensure full regulatory compliance.

## Get in Touch

Ready to take control of your waste costs?

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Book a free 30-minute call and we'll identify your top 3 cost-saving opportunities - no strings attached.

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