

‘On the Go’ Sustainable Recycling for Ofsted

Since 1995, Options have been developing their supporting recycling service and are now positioned to offer a range of automatic recycling machines, ideally suited to accompany vending units or support over the counter sales in both small and large corporate businesses. Success is evident in schools and colleges in Wales, London and the North West where recovery rates are now on course to grow to around 10 tonnes of used bottles per school per annum. More recently Options have also secured a contract with Ofsted based in Nottingham.

Bernard Sullivan, Facilities Manager for Ofsted said, “Ofsted are delighted to be entering into association with Options Management, for the provision of their vending services within our Nottingham office. We were particularly attracted to Options management due to their commitment to sustainability through offering a user-friendly recycling initiative involving reverse vending units that actively encourage individuals to participate in the recycling of used vending products, which in turn help Ofsted to drive sustainability policies forward whilst making a positive contribution towards carbon reduction.”



Ofsted FM Bernard Sullivan (right) and Options Sales Executive, Ian Dawson agree to introduce Options Vending & Recycling Programme In Nottingham

Uniquely, Options reverse logistics programme recovers collected material to a central recycling unit for further processing and baling before material is despatched for recycling.

At the point of recovery, pupils/consumers are rewarded on a random basis by tokens which may be exchanged for free drinks. This brings an incentive for customers to recycle and adds a ‘bit of fun’ to their recycling experience.

Options recycling facility has been installed over the past six months and fully operational since January 2011. It handles all materials separating, where necessary, plastic bottles, aluminium and steel cans, paper and plastic cups, producing valuable secondary materials. In addition Options are able and licenced to process cardboard,

and other materials. With a business plan to introduce catering containers and waste in a recovery programme in the future, operations have the potential to provide a total closed loop recovery/recycling solution for customers.

Concurrent with these developments is the placing of recycling machines at high street convenience stores, also branded vending units in public locations, with trials in London and Sheffield to begin this year. These will lift the profile of Option's business, put a positive message in the market place, associating vending with sustainable recycling.

Last year Mr Ure said 'That to be 'green' was good for employees, corporate image and responsibilities and when it results in cost savings against facility and waste management budgets, that is always attractive. In the education sector this is particularly attractive because they have limited funds and in many cases can only introduce recycling with free-on-loan machines. Once installed the benefits become apparent; student habits change, litter on campus is reduced and the 'protecting the environment' ethos is overtly demonstrated'.

Paul Ure concluded, 'Our recycling has developed with the growth of our catering and vending operations, even during these difficult times. One has become synonymous with the other. We have a well thought through business model and are happy to discuss this attractive 'green' option with any organisation.'

Option's Management Recycling Unit

