

Trimming our waste line

Demonstration of the implementation of ISO20400 Sustainable Procurement Standard

Through effective and sustainable procurement, South Western Railway has successfully achieved a 75 per cent recycling rate, and sends zero waste to landfill.

We are committed to improving our environmental impact, and we recognise the value of sustainable procurement and the ISO20400 Sustainable Procurement Standard in doing so.



What is sustainable procurement?

Procurement, which is the acquisition of goods and services that we need to operate, accounts for a large proportion of South Western Railway's (SWR) business expenditure.

Effective procurement can be used to manage both risk and opportunity, and sustainable procurement considers the environmental, social, and economic impacts of purchasing, supplying, or manufacturing the goods and services.

In short, sustainable procurement means:



Getting lasting value for money



Avoiding or reducing environmental damage



Delivering social and economic benefits locally

How does SWR procure goods and services sustainably?

Over 2020 and 2021, we developed our sustainable procurement strategy, and as part of this strategy, we are working to align with the International Organisation for Standardisation's ISO20400 Sustainable Procurement Standard.

As ISO describes it:

"ISO20400 provides guidelines for integrating sustainability into an organisation's procurement processes. It covers how to align procurement with an organisation's goals and objectives and create a culture of sustainability."

What does it mean for waste?

Effective waste management is key to minimising the environmental impact of our operations. It is achieved by maximising recycling, which not only diverts waste from landfill and contributes to the circular economy, lessening the depletion of natural resources, but also reduces associated pollution and contamination risks.

On average,

SWR generates

2,115

tonnes
of waste per
annum, as a
result of:



Customers using trains and stations



Station retailers



Operational and maintenance activities

As such, it is critical that we procure suppliers - and work closely with them - to manage the movement and treatment of this waste effectively and sustainably. In doing so, we incorporate the principles of ISO20400 by taking accountability of our environmental and social impact, and by taking steps to minimise risk and embed efficiencies.

We're on a journey to better

Our partnership with SWRnewstar

For non-hazardous waste, we are proud to partner with one of the UK's largest outsourced waste management companies – SWRnewstar.



SWRnewstar's mission, "To deliver innovative, sustainable solutions that benefit our customers and the environment", aligns with our ambition to reduce our environmental impact, as demonstrated by our targets to achieve a 75 per cent recycling rate and send zero waste to landfill.

Importantly, in line with our sustainable procurement strategy, these targets form part of SWRnewstar's contract with us – recycling rates and landfill diversion are key performance indicators in the service level agreement.

How is the waste managed sustainably?

SWRnewstar oversees the collection, segregation, and sorting of waste from our trains, stations, and depots.

Waste left by customers on our trains is collected and segregated by hand at our depots by SWRnewstar Segregation Officers, alongside waste from the depots. The Segregation Officers sort the waste into paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminium, and metal streams, which are taken to a materials recycling facility for a final sort and processing.

At our bigger stations, waste is segregated by "general waste" and "mixed recycling" facilities, which are collected by SWRnewstar, and taken to a materials recycling facility. There, it is further segregated and sorted into relevant recycling streams for processing.

All remaining waste from our trains, smaller stations, and depots is also taken to the materials recycling facilities to try to tease out any additional recyclable materials. The minimal amount of waste which ultimately cannot be recycled is incinerated for energy.

Close collaboration and continuous improvement

The success of our partnership with SWRnewstar is rooted in close collaboration, ensuring issues are resolved in a timely matter and practices are continuously improved.

Several supplier-customer continuous improvement initiatives are currently underway, including:



Expansion and improvement of the on-site segregation programme and reduction of unnecessary waste collection and therefore saving of associated carbon emissions.



Station and depot surveys to identify where additional facilities can be added to increase further increase our recycling rate.



A **heatmapping** exercise to better understand the sustainability risks and opportunities across SWRnewstar's supply chain.

We are committed to improving our environmental impact, and we recognise the value of sustainable procurement and the ISO20400 Sustainable Procurement Standard in doing so.

We have an opportunity to play a big part in the UK's zero carbon future, and we are proud to already be making progress.

Sustainable and environmental outcomes in FY 2020/2021



234 tonnes of paper segregated and recycled

saving around **5,616** trees

24 trees for every tonne

352 tonnes of cardboard segregated and recycled

saving around **5,984** trees

17 trees for every tonne

11,600 trees saved

25 tonnes glass segregated and recycled

saving around **6,150kg** of carbon emissions

246kg for every tonne

11.25 tonnes of carbon emissions saved

34 tonnes of plastic bottles segregated and recycled

saving around **51 tonnes** of carbon emissions

1.5 tonnes of carbon for every tonne (recycled plastic)

78 tonnes of food waste segregated and processed generating

23,400kWh of renewable energy

300 kWh for every tonne

enough to power **70 UK** homes for a month

South Western
Railway