

Case study GreenAgenda™

The remanufacture of toner cartridges by one innovative company is dramatically reducing the number of spent cartridges finding their way into landfill and creating a cycle of use and re-use that is contributing to the development of a circular economy.

Zero Waste Scotland aims to support the further development of a circular economy in Scotland. One of the methods for doing this is to showcase innovative business models as an example for others to follow.

Background

GreenAgenda, based in Bellshill, Glasgow is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Effective Consumable Solutions and is the recycling division of the only Scottish toner cartridge remanufacturer, Tinto Toners.

The company employs over 60 staff and operates one of the largest toner cartridge recycling schemes in the UK. The company's remanufactured cartridges, drums, chips & components are shipped to distributors across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

GreenAgenda remanufactures over 8000 units per month, this opens up the economic potential of the circular economy model – in some cases leading to 50-70% savings - and moves away from today's "recycling" which generally downgrades materials, leading to eventual waste and continuing high demand for virgin materials.



GreenAgenda estimate that every year over 500 million toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges are sent to landfill. Approximately 3.5 litres of oil is required to produce every new laser toner cartridge. GreenAgenda has devised a complete solution for total recycling of all print and copier consumables and parts; there are three important factors driving the programme: -

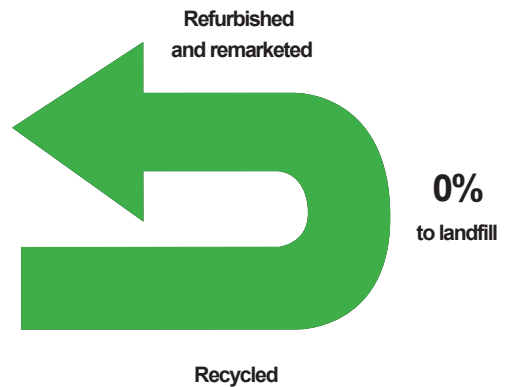
1. A desire and requirement for GreenAgenda to continue to improve its green credentials.
2. A zero to landfill philosophy which the company are fully committed to.
3. A critical need to preserve precious raw material.

GreenAgenda remanufacturing business model

Used copier & printer toner cartridges



GreenAgenda



Remanufacturing is an important part of Scotland's journey toward a circular economy. Remanufacturing focuses on restoring a product, extending its life and keeping it circulating within the economy. A report on Remanufacturing by Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Enterprise found that the remanufacturing industry in Scotland has the potential to grow from its current value of 1.1 billion by an additional £620m by 2020, creating an additional 5,700 jobs.

Why remanufacture toner cartridges?

- ✓ Cost - remanufactured cartridges can be up to 70% cheaper than a new product
- ✓ Waste reduction - remanufacturing re-uses approximately 85% of the original components
- ✓ Reduced lead times - most models are kept in stock orders so can be dispatched the same day
- ✓ Additional jobs - 'green jobs' in reprocessing, sorting and collecting of recyclables.

Spent cartridges can be remanufactured up to seven times which greatly extends the life of the product and further reduces the carbon footprint of the business using them.

Testimonial

"Upon learning about the amount of toner cartridges which are sent to landfill each year we were not at all comfortable with being part of the problem, so we sought a partner who could help us not only meet our obligations, but lead the way in sustainable business. GreenAgenda have brought us to the forefront of this environmental change and allowed us to become an organisation which can demonstrate our commitment to a greener tomorrow."

Smith & Valentine Solicitors

"GreenAgenda has identified that there is huge potential for remanufacturing in the UK. Its uptake can contribute greatly to the UK economy and enhance skilled job creation, as well as forming a key part of the move towards a truly 'circular economy'. Complementing the economic and employment opportunities are the environmental benefits related to remanufacturing."

CEO Felicity Rabbitte

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