

How Fabrications implements a 'waste hierarchy'

"The best way of managing our waste is not to produce it in the first place. Then we can consider how to where possible to reuse the waste and the options available for disposal "

Waste Hierarchy: Reduce > Re use > Recover > Dispose > Zero waste (www.wasteonline.org.uk)

Customers: Due to the nature of the shop selling handmade textile items, I do not allow food or drink to be brought onto the premises (there is a sign on the door) which also eliminates people leaving behind items such as coffee cups, packaging.

Cleaning: I use low impact cleaning products and refilling services (eg 'unpacked') and now a local shop on Broadway Market offers a refill service on Ecover washing up and laundry liquid. I sweep up dust, small pieces of thread etc and this gets composted

I bring my lunch in a reusable box and drink tap water in a glass. I encourage any freelance employees or visitors to do the same. These items are washed up and re used. At the most 4 cardboard toilet rolls a month are produced; these are ripped up and composted.

Office: I re use boxes, padded envelopes and regular envelopes. Any plastic bags / bubble wrap gets used as packaging or used in my educational workshops.

I try to use electronic rather than paper based communications. I re use paper (if it has a clean side) for making notes, record keeping, photocopying and pencils / refillable pens. The small amount of unusable paper, envelopes, junk mail is separated into a small laundry bag and deposited in a recycling centre.

I refill ink cartridges (approx. twice a year at Cartridge World, Morning Lane)

Procurement: 80% of our products / supplies have green credentials, either through use of recycled, re used, from sustainable sources materials, using renewable energy to produce or are locally produced and delivered in person (thereby reducing packaging and transport)

Studio: I design and make products and offer services that use recycled and re used materials that other Hackney based business do consider 'waste'. I've built in a 'cradle to cradle' closed loop system into the business. I collect other business material 'waste' needed and transform it into new and usable products, using design principles and methodology to create minimal or zero waste myself. Any small fabric off cuts produced are separated and stored in the studio for re use in our educational workshops or passed onto other educational projects.

Awareness: My business model, products and services have been used in various contexts to promote recycling and environmental issues. I've worked with local authorities (including Hackney Council) and schools, Rethink Rubbish Campaign (which became 'Recycle Now'), WRAP, London Remade to name a few as well as been featured in local and national press.

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