



Case Study

Woodies
DIY

aesrecycling.ie



AES's sustainable journey with a market leading DIY, home and garden retailer

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?

- Jack Healy - AES Recycling Sales Representative

WHY CONTINUE ON THIS JOURNEY?

- Woodie's is Ireland's largest DIY, Home and Garden retailer. With over 35 stores they are a proud member of local Irish communities for over 30 years.
- The DIY giant is eager to proactively seek to ensure their business is being as sustainable as possible whilst responding to new recommended sustainable practices.
- AES Recycling have worked with Woodies for a number of years but recently the growing concern for climate change and environmental concerns prompted them to prioritise sustainability. They know that small changes now will impact the future of their business.
- AES partnership with Woodies is aimed at helping them and revising their waste management processes, providing on site education and training and directly helping them achieve their sustainability goals.
- This change would also help ensure their stores meet current and future compliance regulations.

INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

A number of new initiatives have been implemented to date;

- AES continuously carry out in-depth waste audits to understand the types and volumes of waste Woodie's generates as this is changes over time.
- AES implemented an enhanced recycling program. This includes the monitoring and evaluation of all waste practices and directly examining waste generation rates, recycling rates, and diversion rates across their range of stores.
- Waste reports are generated regularly for review by senior management.

- Woodie's come to AES at times with waste opportunities and problems such as certain waste types that they only have to deal with seasonally such as polystyrene which they have a lot of prior to both Halloween and Christmas.
- A separated waste disposal system for internal bins was put in place where both workers and customers are encouraged to dispose of their rubbish correctly into the right bins through the use of images and a colour coded bin system.
- A special paint disposal system which included separate bins was set up and supplied to all stores. AES Recycling removes the paint cans from their stores and brings them to a hazardous waste disposal facility which is equipped to handle and dispose of the material safely. Empty cans are recycled and are disposed of in a separate bin.
- Education sessions at management seminars and training materials were provided to store management and staff to ensure everyone was involved, understood the new disposal system and they could further reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

KEY RESULTS

- All cardboard and plastic generated are 100% recycled.
- Paint cans are all deposited into a designated paint bin and disposed of correctly by AES Recycling.
- The DMR goes to AES Recycling's state of the art MRF which uses the latest technology to segregate material into its component parts.
- 100% of Woodie's general waste goes for energy recovery and generates green electricity.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The waste journey of AES and Woodie's will continue to be shared with their customers in stores and online and will continue to improve overtime.
- Quarterly reviews are conducted to set targets, track progress, and identify areas for improvement.
- Woodie's staff members are empowered to be responsible for recycling in their designated area and disposing of hazardous waste (paint cans) correctly.
- By continuing their waste journey with AES and implementing these waste management practices Woodies will continue to minimise their environmental impact, contribute to a circular economy and promote sustainability within their industry.



30 Woodie's stores throughout Ireland



Woodies, Newbridge

