

Birmingham and Solihull Industrial Symbiosis (BASIS)

Case Studies

1. Case Study 1 – Pym and Wildsmith (Metal Finishers) Limited

1.1. Pym & Wildsmith Metal Finishers Limited in Uttoxeter is an SME that produces sand blast waste during its production. This sandblast waste was being being disposed of to landfill at an annual cost of £18,500. BASIS connected Pym and Wildsmith via a waste processor to an aluminium foundry that now adds this sand blast waste for capping molten metal. The sand waste from the foundry process further moves on into creating aggregate material. As a consequent Pym and Wildsmith has turned £18,000 cost into £5,000 in revenue. Not only does this case study demonstrate how the waste can be moved from landfill into other manufacturing processing but further down the line it is used in sustainable aggregates. This is a great example of how this project creates sustainable outcomes from manufacturing waste.

2. Case Study 2 – Wearwell UK Limited

2.1. Wearwell UK Limited is a manufacturer of personal protective equipment based in Tamworth. They approached the BASIS project to seek help in starting on their journey to install a management system in response to satisfying customer inquiries on their environmental performance. The BASIS team was able to support Wearwell in crafting an environmental policy as well as carrying out a baseline study to identify its environmental aspects and impacts. As part of this study, waste was clearly identified as one of their 'significant' process impacts. The BASIS team has been able to give additional support in turning textile offcuts, from products such as overalls, into oil wipes for use in local engineering companies based on the Lichfield Road Industrial Estate. The benefit to the business has been to reduce waste disposal costs by £15,000, reduce environmental impacts and the ability to secure future customer contracts through the implementation of an ISO14001 accredited system. The savings made could be reinvested into creating jobs and reduce the environmental impact of textiles waste.

3. Case Study 3 – Starbrands Limited

3.1. Starbrands Limited is a supplier of own-brand detergents and cleaning products to national clients such as Waitrose and B&M. The company is based in Redditch and as part of its manufacturing process creates effluent waste contaminated with detergent residues. The company was unable to discharge this effluent to the sewer because of these contaminants and as a result, the effluent was being collected in tankers and then disposed of offsite at an annual cost to the company of over £15,000. As part of a site-wide resource efficiency review, the BASIS team was able to assist the company in implementing a biological treatment technology supplied by ChemAqua, another West Midlands based company. Here, bacteria is used to naturally remove the detergent residues and make the water clean enough to discharge directly to Severn Trent, providing the company with significant disposal cost savings and a reduction in carbon emissions through reduced road transport impacts.