

Castell Howell signs up to the Waste to Wealth commitment

...and here are the Magnificent Seven steps they've taken.

BITC Cymru member Castell Howell Foods was the first company in Wales to sign up to the Waste to Wealth commitment. Below, the business' CSR Manager Ed Morgan outlines the steps the company has taken on their path from Waste to Wealth – and we know that there are further plans in the pipeline.

Castell Howell's commitment is an inspiring one, and their story will prompt other responsible Welsh businesses to make the same commitment to Wales' – and the planet's – future.

A summary of the Waste to Wealth commitment can be found at the bottom of Ed's piece – and follow this link if you would also like to sign up:

<https://www.bitc.org.uk/campaigns-programmes/environment-sustainability/wastetowealth>

Fourteen companies in Wales already have. And, of course, do speak to the team at BITC Cymru, either at our Waste to Wealth summit at Cardiff Business School on 12 June or indeed anytime.

We were proud to be the first Welsh company to be signatories to the Waste to Wealth Commitment. In truth, it was an easy decision to take, as Waste to Wealth aligns so well to our other commitments to WRAP and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We recognise that the food sector has a significant environmental impact, hence why we are engaging with our supply chain to work together.

- **We have a baseline figure for our internal Green House Gas emissions, with like-for-like targets to reduce annually**
- **Substituting the majority of cardboard boxes, used for the delivery of fresh meat, in favour of returnable crates, reduced our cardboard purchases by 28 tonne in 2018**
- **Capital investment in a 'Styromelt' machine that reduces polystyrene boxes to small, recyclable, briquettes will yield an estimated £8k per annum from numerous savings**
- **Working in collaboration with key customers, such as Bluestone, initially helping to redesign the packaging around cases of toilet paper to reduce packaging**
- **Managing the waste stream of compostable cups by working with our waste management partner, CWM environmental, on a pilot study sending them with the food waste to their composting unit**
- **From June 2019 our sandwich-making unit will work on an innovative project with Cardiff Metropolitan University to reduce manufacturing food waste**
- **Promoting staff ideas on environmental issues, such as the Terracycle initiative to segregate packaging, such as crisp wrappers, bread bags and chocolate bar wrappers and send them for further recycling, with a charitable donation to Tŷ Hafan.**

Environmental issues have never been as high on the public agenda and we hope that all businesses can work in collaboration, on a voluntary basis, to reduce our impact on the environment. There are undoubtedly numerous obstacles ahead. However, doing nothing isn't an option.

The commitment requires signatories to:

1. **Set targets** to improve the productivity of resources that are key for our business.
2. **Work collectively** towards doubling the nation's resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2030, contributing in the way that is most relevant to our business.
3. **Redesign** how resources are used in our products, services and operations.
4. **Collaborate** across our organisations, value chains and sectors.
5. **Reconvene and report** on progress annually to share learning and demonstrate results.