

CARDIFF COUNCIL

Cardiff Council Upgrades Waste & Recycling Manager System With Help From Ikon

Cardiff Council's Waste Management department oversees 140,000 households in the capital city of Wales. It is continuously evaluating its Waste & Recycling Manager System (WRMS) to find ways to improve the quality and quantity of recyclable materials gathered by its refuse collectors.

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The Challenge

Cardiff Council believed that educating households on the health & safety issues relating to overloading and side waste would lead to dramatic improvements in the quality and quantity of recyclable materials collected. It therefore required a solution that enabled refuse collectors to track issues such as contaminated recycling, overloading, side waste or damaged bins, and provide educational information to residents relating to issues identified.

The Solution

Cardiff Council implemented a fully automated bin barcoding system from Waste & Recycling Solutions Ltd. (WRS), a partner of Psion Teklogix, which generates letters to educate residents on how to manage waste and recycling issues responsibly. WRS provided Cardiff Council's workers with Psion Teklogix' Ikon rugged PDAs equipped with built-in barcode scanner, colour camera, and phone. It links directly with Cardiff Council's WRMS via GPRS, which enables automated task scheduling for home visits, inspections, and more.

As issues are recorded by refuse collec-

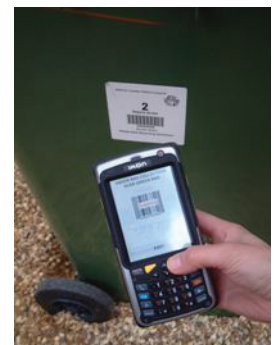
tors on their Ikon, information is sent back to the central database and the WRMS is configured to automatically print educational letters to send to offenders. The WRMS also stores all issues, actions, tasks, and letters with date and time. This information can be used for monitoring repeat offenders, issuing warning letters and penalty notices, and demonstrating reasonable effort has been taken to inform residents of issues.

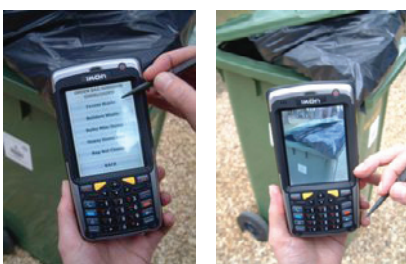
Key components to the solution provided by WRS are the ruggedness and functionality of the Ikon. Ikon's IP65 rating, which means it is protected from dust and water, ensures that refuse collectors will be able to work uninterrupted throughout their shift. The rich functionality of Ikon also enables refuse collectors to perform all tasks efficiently and effectively, such as using the colour camera to better identify bins.

The Benefits

The new WRMS implemented by Cardiff Council led to a drop in health & safety issues relating to overloading and side waste. This in turn has led to an overall improvement to the health & safety of both residents and collection operators. The WRMS provided Cardiff Council's

Enforcement Teams the ability to better monitor issues and crack down on repeat offenders, and as a result, Cardiff Council were able to meet its own recycling targets. Furthermore, the WRMS reduced operational costs due to a more overall efficient system.





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