

A sustainable partnership

A strong working relationship between a skip-hire company and a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) is key to providing customer service as well as commercial value. Four years in the making, the synergy between Essex-based Lowe Brothers Contract Management and the McGrath Group has streamlined the tipping and sorting process to the benefit of all involved.

The family-run waste business now discharges all of the 8000 tonnes of wastes its skip division collects at McGrath's state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility in Barking.

Wastes, made up of print, recyclables, general waste and mixed skips are tipped at the Barking MRF, conveniently located in the East of London – ideal for the Essex based company – on a daily basis. McGrath has proved an ideal recycling partner since 2012 offering a reliable and sustainable process of waste management and recycling that has been instrumental in converting its customers to a circular system by applying the Hierarchy of Waste to all wastes processed.

McGrath's zero-to-landfill system uses mechanical, magnetic and manual techniques to sort Lowe Brother's wastes:

- » Large, identifiable materials are removed mechanically from general wastes which then pass through a trommel to segregate them by size. Larger items pass through the picking station where they are manually segregated by material type while smaller items pass through a series of mechanical and magnetic filters. Wastes that have been pre-segregated at source will typically be re-sorted at the picking station as part of the quality control procedures.
- » Aggregates which are processed at the MRF from inert wastes such as concrete, hardcore and masonry are sampled to demonstrate compliance with industry standards.
- » General office waste including print is segregated into individual waste streams for recycling.
- » Vinyl is baled and sent to a specialist re-processing plant where it is shredded, ground, melted down and molded into a new range of plastic products.

» Small items of municipal waste such as plastics, paper, wood and other non-mineral items which are too small to sort into individual material streams are wrapped in durable bales secure for transportation to Waste to Energy plants. Reports, issued as standard to all of McGrath's customers and passed on by Lowe Brothers to their own customers, supply a detailed breakdown of destinations of these wastes by hierarchy categories i.e. re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal, demonstrating compliance with the Waste Regulations. The level of detail that McGrath is able to supply is notable with the inclusion

of carbon emissions produced during the waste management process included. This information suits the growing number of businesses wishing to take their sustainability seriously.

Lowe Brother's customers appreciate the stringent approach taken to ensuring that all the wastes they tip are dealt with responsibly. Joanne Lowe explains "One of our main reasons for using McGrath is the knowledge that none of the waste goes to landfill. We can tell our clients that 95% of wastes are recycled and 5% sent for recovery and back this up with McGrath's detailed reporting system."

