

Frylite: Leading the Fight Against Food Waste

With the war on food waste being stepped up, one Northern Ireland company is leading the way in helping food producers stay compliant with the latest legislation..

Founded in 1988 by its current Managing Director Eamon McCay, Frylite has placed itself at the forefront of the fight against food waste by offering businesses a specialist service that in many ways is both timely and unique.

The company has set up a new division: Food Waste Diversion (FWD) to offer a food waste collection service to businesses throughout Northern Ireland.

The UK wastes a staggering 15 million tonnes of food every year, and here in Northern

Ireland some 36,000 tonnes of commercial food waste is sent to landfill every year, but

legislation to tackle the problem is being extended to encourage businesses to further reduce

"Our move towards providing customers with an even more general food waste collection service is seen as a natural progression for us."



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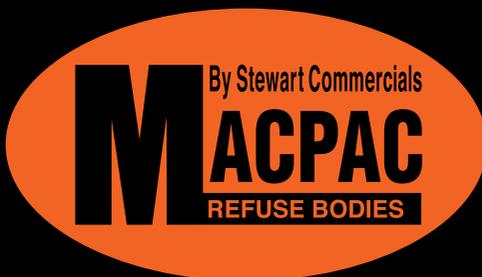
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Pictured here (l-r) are Alan Espie, TBF Thompsons, Drew Stewart, Stewart Commercials, Eamon McCay, Managing Director of Frylite, and Peter Jones, FWD's Project Manager.

waste, enable the recycling of quality materials, and be more resource efficient.

From April 1st any business producing more than 50kg of food waste per week must have arrangements in place to ensure it is segregated and collected separately from other wastes.

The legislation covers a wide range of food producing companies and

organisations – from hotels and hospitals to pubs, restaurants, supermarkets and schools. And the regulations will be tightened even further in 2017 to include those producing as little as

5kgs of food waste per week.

If you haven't already planned on how to meet the requirements

of what is known as The Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, you need to be talking to the team at FWD who will guide you through the process.

Over the past three decades, the Frylite Group has grown to become the leading supplier of vegetable oil - and collector of used cooking oil and hard fats - in both the north and south of Ireland with its Head Office in Strabane, Co Tyrone, and depots in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Slane and Coleraine.

"Today, our company continues to invest to remain at the cutting edge of the industry. Our move towards providing customers with an even more general food waste collection service is seen as a natural progression for us.

"We've already built a substantial customer base collecting waste oils, so it makes sense on all sorts of levels to extend that service to include other types of food waste."



Peter Jones, FWD's Project Manager, adds: "Although the food waste legislation has been some considerable time in the planning, its imminent 'arrival' has caught a significant number of businesses off guard, not least because there has been so little advance publicity or promotion.

"FWD, however, has worked tirelessly to ensure our clients and others are aware of the regulations, and to help them establish if their businesses will be affected."

REGULATIONS AT A GLANCE

A food business is any business that carries out activities related to the processing, distribution, preparation or sale of food. This includes:

- Restaurants and cafes
- Shopping and food courts
- Canteens
- Hotels
- Pubs that serve food
- Shops that serve food
- Supermarkets
- Schools and colleges
- Prisons, nursing homes and hospitals
- Bakeries



FWD is also offering clients advice and guidance on how they can reduce the amount of food waste produced in the first instance

- Outdoor/mobile catering facilities

If you are a food business then you must be prepared to present food waste for separate collection:

- by 1 April 2016 for large producers
- by 1 April 2017 for small producers and Health and Social Care trusts.

A 'large' producer is deemed to regularly produce more than 50kg of food waste per week, while a 'small' producer is deemed to regularly produce between 5kg and 50kg of food waste per week. As a guide, a 120 litre bin holds approximately 60kg of food waste, while 5kg is roughly equivalent to a full domestic kitchen caddy.

PILOT SCHEME

Over the past year, FWD has carried out a series of trials and pilot schemes for a selected number of its key account holders to discover the extent of food waste they were producing and if they needed to take action.

"The data we collected in the course of those trials makes very interesting reading," says Peter. "Up until now, available figures for food waste generally covered

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also contains bits and pieces of burgers, baps, chips and other waste foods and this has to be separated at Frylite's state of the art processing plant in Strabane.

With a focus now on general food waste, the service being offered by FWD includes the free provision of reusable plastic buckets and wheelie bins. It also offers clients advice and guidance on how they can reduce the amount of food waste produced in the first instance. Indeed, it recently helped one client reduce food waste by 50% in the space of just two months, and make some not insignificant financial savings into the bargain!

SPECIALIST VEHICLE

FWD has recently invested in a purpose built vehicle from Stewart Commercials, the Antrim based manufacturers of the MacPac multi-purpose refuse collection vehicle.

"We've enjoyed a long association with Stewart Commercials and have used the MacPac design in the past.

all of the UK, but now we have some idea of Northern Ireland's contribution. The amount of food waste produced here by some of

our customers has surprised even them." FWD is well placed to offer a comprehensive waste food

collection service as Frylite already handles and processes used cooking oil. Invariably, used cooking oil





site operations. Widely regarded as the UK market leader, VWS specialises in the design, manufacture, installation and service of on-board weighing, bin weighing and axle load protection systems.

DRIVE LOCK

The vehicle is also fitted with a sophisticated driver recognition system that offers the very highest levels of safety and security.

The Drivelock from Maple Fleet Services will instantly immobilise an unattended vehicle with an idling or running engine, in the event any unauthorised person attempts to move or drive the vehicle away.

It is ideal for vehicles that require engines to remain running in order to operate ancillary equipment as part of their normal operation, such as the new Frylite/ FWD waste collection vehicle; a number of local safety-conscious councils here are already using the system.

Drivelock automatically scans anyone trying to operate the vehicle. If the system does

not recognise the operator, as soon as an attempt is made to release the handbrake the engine will cut and air is vented from the brakes locking them on (where applicable). This controlled immobilisation secures the vehicle mechanically and electronically. Any attempt to restart the vehicle will result in the horn sounding / lights flashing, drawing attention to the breach in security.

ORGANIC DIGESTION

FWD has also called on the services of the Granville Anaerobic Digestion Organic Waste Plant in Dungannon; this state of the art organic digestion plant is able to separate a variety of contaminants from waste food and is the only one of its kind in Ireland that can handle packaged food waste.

“The reality is that there is no such thing as ‘clean’ waste food; you are always going to find other items such as packaging, broken crockery, and discarded cutlery, especially in waste that is collected from hotels and restaurants,” explains Peter. “So we are very pleased to be able to work along with Granville.”

Another benefit of the Granville plant, he points out, is the fact that the organic waste is sent to the digester where methane gas is produced and used to create electricity that can be sold back into the electricity grid. The process also produces a nutrient-rich digestate which can be used as fertilizer.

CLIENT SATISFACTION

“There are other added benefits, too, from processing waste food such as helping cut CO2 emissions from landfill, and we are happy to play our part, and encourage our customers to do likewise in contributing to a more healthy and sustainable environment.”

As one customer commented, “We have been customers of Frylite since we opened in 2007 and we are very pleased with the service they provide. We find them to be competitive, quality driven and reliable. I would not hesitate to recommend Frylite to others in the industry.”

And added another: “We have been working with Frylite for the past five years and have received an excellent professional service; we are delighted to have them as our partners.”

It is also fitted with a GRP storage box between the MacPac body and the cab, enabling the crew to carry spare bins and other associated equipment essential to the efficient delivery of our service.”

The new vehicle, which was built on a 16 tonne DAF chassis supplied by dealers TBF Thompson, features an onboard weighing system from Vehicle Weighing Solutions (VWS), enabling FWD to provide customers with detailed reports on food waste volumes, especially useful to clients who have multi

Best Wishes & Continued Success to

Food Waste Diversion

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