



## NEWS RELEASE

Pictured: EiE waste auditor Mohammed Kamselem, left, with Steve Jebbett (steve1) and with, Sue Emery (lizzie 1)

### **Waste audits show Oxford traders route to 60%+ cut in costs**

Traders in Oxford's Little Clarendon Street and North Parade Avenue have been shown how they could cut more than 60 per cent from the cost of getting rid of their commercial waste.

13 traders in North Parade and 14 in Little Clarendon Street agreed to have a free waste audit as part of a joint initiative by the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network and city centre management company OX1. The audits, which look at the commercial waste produced by a business and recommend ways to cut costs and recycle more, were funded by Oxfordshire County Council and carried out by specialists from the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) at Oxford Brookes University. Now free waste audits are being made available to more Oxfordshire businesses.

The waste audit reports show that, between them, traders in Little Clarendon Street could cut £12,000 a year (69%) from the £17,000 cost of disposing of their commercial waste. In North Parade Avenue, the total annual cost of waste disposal for the traders involved was £16,600 with potential savings in excess of £10,000 (61%).

OX1's Alison Nicholson says: "This is the second 'greener' business initiative OX1 has run and follows our successful battery recycling pilot. The potential savings for businesses that take up the waste audit recommendations are stunning and we are keen to work with OTCN, the county council and EiE to encourage more businesses to have one."

Little Clarendon Street trader Sue Emery, a partner in women's designer clothing shops Lizziejames and Poshfrocks says: "The free waste audit made us focus on better ways to dispose of our cardboard packaging and so cut our commercial waste costs."

Steve Jebbett, who runs Town Garden in North Parade, says: "It was really great to get some free advice on how to dispose of trade waste more effectively. Being a garden shop we also have to consider how to dispose of our green waste, so the free audit was a real help on that too."

Cost-saving recommendations for the two shopping streets included businesses working together on joint recycling initiatives, arranging cardboard, paper and plastic recycling, reducing food waste through careful management and composting, arranging to recycle wood and doing more to reduce paper use (such as encouraging double-sided printing).

EiE's Michael Esvelt says: "The waste issues for these businesses are no different from those we have seen hundreds of times across the county. What was special about these audits is that the businesses already work together to improve their financial and social success so adding an environmental and cost saving element was second nature to them."

Dan Dempsey, Sustainable Business Officer at Oxfordshire County Council. says: "This is great news. Little Clarendon Street and North Parade are great places to shop; now we can go there knowing that the traders are doing their bit to reduce their environmental footprint. Cutting waste bills by more than half will make a big difference to these businesses and I would encourage others to follow their excellent example."

Oxfordshire businesses who would like a free waste audit should visit [www.otcn.co.uk](http://www.otcn.co.uk) for more details or contact EiE by calling 01865 483299 or email [eiewaste@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:eiewaste@brookes.ac.uk).

The Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network ([www.otcn.co.uk](http://www.otcn.co.uk)) is a communications network for town chambers and similar business groups. It covers 18 business groups with 1,400 member businesses between them plus seven events networks.

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