

Challenges:

At Banners Gate Limited, our primary sustainability challenge was the high volume of commingled waste. As an SME, we lacked the dedicated infrastructure and internal expertise to effectively separate recyclables such as high-grade plastics, cardboard and paper from general office and production waste.

Furthermore, we faced challenges relating to space constraints for multiple bins and the infrequent collection schedules offered by local contractors for segregated waste streams. We also struggled with limited employee engagement; without clear signage or training, cross-contamination remained high. Overcoming these systemic and behavioral barriers was essential to transition from a "take-make-waste" model to a more circular, resource-efficient operation.

Impact:

Although these waste challenges led to a 15% increase in disposal costs, we achieved a significant improvement in recycling performance, increasing rates from 10% to over 75%. By moving away from landfill-heavy processes, we reduced our operational carbon footprint and enhanced our reputation with clients who prioritise sustainable supply chains. Internally, the introduction of clear segregation systems fostered a stronger culture of environmental responsibility among staff.

Engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School was the catalyst for these improvements. Their targeted workshops and "Waste & Resource Efficiency" learning pathways provided the technical knowledge we lacked as an SME. The School's Self-Assessment Tool enabled us to benchmark our performance and identify specific gaps in our waste management practices.

In addition, their library of toolbox talks and signage templates simplified employee training, ensuring that our new recycling protocols were clearly understood and consistently adopted across the organisation.

Value gained:

Overall, Banners Gate Limited achieved a 65% increase in recycling efficiency and a substantial reduction in waste sent to landfill. We have enhanced our competitive position in the marketplace, as our improved environmental credentials now align with the stringent sustainability requirements of major tier-one contractors and public sector tenders.

Membership in the Supply Chain Sustainability School has been transformative. Beyond technical waste management, the School has granted us access to a collaborative network of industry peers and experts, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. We have gained a more skilled and environmentally conscious workforce, as the School's resources have empowered our team to take ownership of sustainability.

Fact box

Banners Gate

EST. 1998

Company

Banners Gate Limited

No of employees

37

HQ

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Birmingham Street,
Halesowen, B63 3HN

Website

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Services

Civil, Structural and
Architectural Design

About

At Banners Gate, we offer integrated Architectural, Civil Engineering, and Structural Engineering services, delivering precision-driven, performance-focused solutions. Our multi-disciplinary approach ensures seamless coordination, providing holistic solutions that cover all aspects of design and engineering, from structure to sustainability.

Future proofing:

Looking ahead, Banners Gate Limited is committed to achieving a zero-waste-to-landfill target by 2030. We are transitioning from simple recycling towards a true circular economy model, working collaboratively with suppliers to eliminate single-use packaging at source. By integrating “design for disassembly” principles into our internal processes, we ensure that materials remain high-value resources rather than future waste liabilities.

The School remains central to our long-term resilience. We will continue to use its evolving resources on carbon reporting and biodiversity to stay ahead of tightening environmental regulations and mandatory ESG disclosures. The School’s network provides an “early warning system” for industry shifts, ensuring our workforce remains skilled in emerging green technologies. By embedding these sustainable practices today, we are future-proofing our business against rising landfill taxes and resource scarcity, securing our position as a preferred sustainable partner in the construction value chain.