





# Ashford Business Food Waste

<b>Location</b>	Management Suite, County Square Shopping Centre, Ashford. Kent			
<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2009	<b>Time:</b>	9.30am to 12.00pm	
<b>Invited delegates</b>	300 Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce postal and electronic Ashford Waste & Singleton Shops Survey participants; 51 emails, 42 postal and 12 face to face			
<b>Number of delegates</b>	Expected	15	Cancelations	0
	Actual	9	Failed to attend	6
<b>Sector information</b>	<p>The key stages in food waste production were represented including food production and packaging (including seafood), food wholesale and hotel restaurants (hospitality). Of the 9 delegates who attended;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 were food manufacturers</li> <li>• 2 were from the hotel and hospitality sector</li> </ul>			
<b>Delegate background</b>	<p>Generally participants were interested in support available for business regarding food waste and were keen to share their knowledge and understanding. All participants were aware of the importance of waste minimisation and recycling for their organisation but not necessarily aware of the best way to deal with the issue.</p>			
<b>Recycling methods and Research</b>		<p>Participants had undertaken varying degrees of research around food waste. All businesses were aware of the increasing cost of waste disposal and recognised that food waste is a heavy (therefore expensive) item within the waste stream. Most organisations had established recycling schemes for dry recyclables. Most believe Awards schemes can motivate companies. One company had managed to change the way their produce was shipped to them to reduce packaging waste.</p>		
<b>Obstacles or Barriers Preventing Recycling</b>	<p>General opinion – it costs to be green, it must also be in the company’s best interest financially to recycle. General opinion – it takes so long to call around to find companies’ details, then when a suitable company is found it’s hard to get them to collect regularly, collect the amounts that are produced or provide an ongoing service. This means there is an added cost to the business spending time researching.</p>			