The articles in this edition have been collated to showcase the wide range of initiatives being undertaken by our suppliers, demonstrating their commitment to responsible procurement.

The articles show that responsible procurement is a genuine and ongoing priority to NWUPC and our members and they are continually working on ways to improve.

We are on the journey together!

If you would like to feature in our next edition, please contact David McIntyre.
Don’t throw away textiles…… no need to even recycle…… Get them Re-used through Thomas Kneale

Thomas Kneale & Co Ltd are suppliers across all lots on the Framework Agreement for Residential Textiles, Student Starter Packs and Window Coverings. We offer a wide range of products to satisfy the requirements of the University or College, whether it be for the student or for conferencing. We will guide you in line with available budgets and end user expectations. TK have earned an unrivalled reputation for raising standards through quality, competitively priced products and the highest levels of service.

Our sustainability journey has evolved over a number of years with initiatives including Fairtrade cotton used in all our towelling and bedding items, recycled content across much of our product range, and partnerships created and developed with a number of recycling companies that avoid products going to landfill when their initial use has come to an end.

While recycling items is unquestionably a better option for the environment compared to placing in to landfill or burning for energy, we felt that this was only a ‘half way’ position rather than a true circular approach. After researching ways of progressing this area further we discovered Re-Use Network. Home - Reuse Network (reuse-network.org.uk).

Re-Use Network support a network of members, (many of whom are registered charities) with objectives of reducing poverty, tackling waste and helping to support a better future for isolated individuals in society. We felt after discussions with them that it was a logical approach to join forces and became a ‘Friend of Re-use’, promoting and actively supporting their work and ethos to our hundreds of customers, across the public and private sectors.
How the process works

Prior to goods being finished with, near the end of term or conferencing season, if you contact the team at Thomas Kneale, we will guide you on the process of how to arrange collection of goods. There is also a ‘Donate Items’ page on the Re-use website which allows the University to select the product category(ies) and site postcode. This allows different members to then be offered the goods if they would be of use to them. There are a number of benefits to the University as follows:-
- There is no cost to the University or collection/gate' costs- the service is free
- The Re-use member(s) that will uplift the goods are in the majority of cases local to the University- this heavily reduces the carbon footprint of the collection compared to other forms of removal/disposal
- Goods to be provided are to be collated into a collection area by the University, but the Re-use member will come and collect- this will save time and money
- It helps with sustainability objectives and ‘all of us doing our bit’
- The project delivers benefits against environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability

Working with Re-use Members

Beyond the core objectives of the re-use of the goods, each member, most of whom are registered charities, have their own cause and purpose. Members & the University close to each other geographically can then join forces in much broader ways- for example offering students the opportunity to volunteer in the member’s organisation.

At Thomas Kneale, we have also become further involved with Re-use members. One example is working with Stella’s Voice, a Member charity who provide care, education, and jobs, protecting the world’s vulnerable from human trafficking in Moldova. Given the conflict in Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have fled over the border from Ukraine to Moldova and Stella’s Voice have been providing refugees with a wide range of products that are much needed for everyday use. Thomas Kneale joined forces with Re-use Network, Stella’s Voice, John Lewis & Partners (Logistics support) and additional donors, supplying free of charge 15 pallets of our own bedding and 100 bags of bedding from another manufacturer to get these items on to vehicles and transported over to Moldova.

The full article released by Re-use Network can be found here for more information Responding to the Ukraine crisis - Reuse Network at reuse-network.org.uk.

If you would like to discuss any of the above in further detail, or to find out more, please contact the team at Thomas Kneale you can Telephone: 0161 274 4464 or Email: karen@thomaskneale.co.uk

Thomas Kneale can be found on the Residential Textiles, Student Starter Packs and Window Coverings Framework, for more information on this Framework please use the link or contact Matt Porter, NWUPC’s Furniture Category Manager.
Your data is important. As an approved supplier on the IT Reuse, Recycling and Disposal framework, Rapid IT take your data seriously. As an award winning, secure IT Asset Disposal, Recycling, and Reuse company; GDPR compliance is at the forefront of our services, in addition to helping you reach your sustainability and social value goals.

SUPPORTING YOUR SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

As a producer of electrical waste, NWUPC members have a duty of care to ensure that it is removed, processed, and disposed of sustainably and ethically.

Rapid IT’s state-of-the-art premises in Padiham have been designed to meet the specific demands of their industry, with an emphasis on security, sustainability, and efficiency. It’s their ambition to help you achieve your sustainability goals by choosing an IT Disposal partner with a passion for sustainability.

Rapid IT have begun rolling out an electric vehicle fleet, and are now able to collect equipment from you, using 100% green energy generated from their own solar panels! They have LED/PIR automated lighting throughout and to date have planted over 5500 trees & offset 203 Tonnes of carbon (and counting!)

HOW ARE WE HELPING NWUPC MEMBERS?

With a purpose beyond profit, Rapid IT are on their own journey to net zero. By using Rapid IT as part of your supply chain, you are consciously making a positive change without compromising on service levels to deliver the IT Disposal services you need.
SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

We believe in giving back; and that you should be the change you wish to see in the world. As a community driven organisation, supporting charities and schools both locally and worldwide is paramount. As part of our service, we offer a platform for you to be able to do exactly that.

We can help you support projects you are already involved in, or help us by further assisting projects we are supporting.

Whether that’s donating equipment no longer required by your institution to a school, charity or community project; or using the rebates from your end-of-life IT assets to supply clean drinking water to villages in Africa, we can be your chosen partner to make these positive changes.

Examples of Rapid IT’s community initiatives are as follows:

- FRIENDS OF BURNLEY FC IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME
- FURNITURE FOR EDUCATION WORLDWIDE (FEW)
- TECH 4 ALL KIDS
- SUPPORTING LOCAL GRASSROOTS SPORTS CLUBS

YOUR SUSTAINABLE IT RECYCLING PARTNER

Rapid IT Recycling is passionate about sustainability and the environment. At their core they have a “purpose beyond profit”, derived from a deep rooted desire to positively impact the local and wider community.

Rapid IT is intent on looking after their staff, making sure their well being is looked after and they’re happy in their roles. Whoever joins the company needs to have an interest in recycling and sustainability - not just from a career standpoint, but also in their personal lives.

Rapid IT pride themselves on actively promoting this as a key part of their culture, communicating this with their clients and employees.

AWARDS

Rapid IT Recycling has won various awards over the years, including COMPANY OF THE YEAR IN THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CATEGORY at the North West Business awards 2018.

Managing director, Jack Bannister, was also shortlisted for ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR at the Sub36 Lancashire Business View awards in 2018 and more recently won the SUB36 GO GREEN AWARD in 2020.

CONTACT RAPID IT RECYCLING TODAY

You can contact Chris Stevenson, Customer Relationship Director at Rapid IT at chris@rapidit.co.uk or you can book a call here or call on 01282 798239.

Rapid IT are available through the IT Equipment, Reuse, Recycling and Disposal Framework. For more information on the Framework agreements, please contact Paula Lister, NWUPC’s Computing Category Manager.
In March 2022, NWUPC Ltd working in partnership with the HE consortia who operate under the umbrella of UKUPC (APUC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC, SUPC, TEC and TUCO) along with CPC, contacted our supply base that were considered to be impacted by the Plastic Packaging Tax 2022 (PPT). The suppliers were given a short survey to determine if they were directly or indirectly implicated and asked what mitigating action the supplier was taking.

You can find the results of the survey here.

We want to be able to provide our membership with information on the likely applicability of the tax on the products they buy through our agreements, in order to manage potential cost impacts and to identify and highlight the positive steps our suppliers are taking to optimise recycled plastic or alternative materials within the packaging used in fulfilment of supply under our agreements. UKUPC will continue to liaise with the supply base, chasing up those who have not yet responded and advising those who want or need further information.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Dodd-Williams NWUPC's Head of Strategic Procurement

Over the last year new guides have been added to the UKUPC.ac.uk website to help our members. By visiting the Responsible Procurement page you can find a range of helpful documents that can be accessed by members such as those below. You will also find a list of external resource links related to sustainability, modern slavery and social value.
Students are always on the move, frequenting all types of areas from classrooms and lecture theatres to athletic facilities. GOJO products are available through Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies on the Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies - NWUPC Framework (JAN3058 NW) and can help reduce the presence of germs across campus with effective sustainable solutions that are convenient and easy to maintain.

- Hand hygiene is one of the most important steps in helping to stop the spread of germs to others
- Show your commitment to a healthier learning environment by placing GOJO hand soaps and PURELL hand and surface sanitising solutions accessible in high-touch areas throughout campus
- GOJO soap formulas; Freshberry Foam Hand Soap, Luxury Hair, Body & Hand Foam Wash and Mild Foam Hand Soap are Ecolabel certified
- Dispensers offered free of charge, with a free installation service for a minimum of 30 dispensers
- Easy Recycling and Disposal. PET bottle and refill components are easy to disassemble
- GOJO Industries-Europe Ltd was awarded the 2021 Greener Path Landfill Diversion Award for achieving ‘Zero Waste to Landfill’.

Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies are available through Cleaning Equipment - Supply and Maintenance and the Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies - NWUPC, Framework Agreements, for more information on these Frameworks please contact Matt Porter, NWUPC’s Domestics Category Manager.
StudyLink have specifically chosen projects that enable the offsetting and continued sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, but also provide numerous benefits to local communities.

To bring tour emissions down to net zero, university travel bookers are provided with a unique link with the option of offsetting the remainder of their CO₂ emissions, by supporting a Carbon Footprint project of their choice.

StudyLink recognises the social and environmental issues arising from increased travel and acknowledge and accept the responsibilities they have to the communities in which they operate. StudyLink are committed to their environmental policy and work alongside their customers, teams, and travel partners to improve environmental practice, by:

- Providing responsible tourist advice to their customers
- Providing customers with environmental information & promoting the use of greener travel options & third-party environmental schemes
- Disposing & managing waste in a responsible manner
- Using water & energy saving systems in office sites
- Using licensed waste removers who provide appropriate documentation for the transfer of waste
- Introduced a rolling programme to replace their company fleet of vehicles with electric and hybrid cars
- All documents saved to their online travel management tool and travel app to reduce paperwork
- Encouraging team awareness of environmental issues & ensuring they use this awareness in their daily roles
- Promoting awareness of environmental issues with travel partners
- Working alongside key travel partners to support the increased use and practice of environmentally friendly products & initiatives

First and foremost, StudyLink recognise that carbon reductions should be prioritised in travel before any offsetting takes place. So, to support universities and their travel bookers StudyLink provide the greenhouse gas emissions on each and every quote. This information is broken down to display CO₂ emissions by flight, accommodation, and transport. By having access to this information, this can help university staff to get a better understanding of the greenhouse gas emissions culminating from their tour.

To support customers further, the StudyLink Account Executive team have undergone extensive training and are able to make recommendations for travel bookers to reduce the CO₂ emissions from their trip; this might be suggestion a different mode of transport, different route, or even a different destination that still allows the group to have their learning requirements met. In addition, for every trip booked with StudyLink, a Maya nut tree will be planted in Peru supporting reforestation, providing benefits to local communities, and supporting forest biodiversity. They have also committed to offsetting one tonne of CO₂ emissions through the Portel-Para reducing deforestation project in the Brazilian Amazon.
StudyLink are also part of the NET positive Supplier Engagement Tool, which is designed to support and develop the supply chain and embedding sustainability in the procurement process. And, from summer 2022 StudyLink are delighted to be a company member of the EAUC (www.eauc.org.uk). The EAUC is an organisation that has sustainability at its heart, promoting collaboration, education and best practice for universities to achieve their sustainability initiatives and targets. Through this membership, StudyLink are pleased to be able to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and to supporting their university customers on the road to zero.

**Ethical practice**

Working in the global community StudyLink recognises their role in preventing slavery and human trafficking. Information about their approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and the steps they will take to prevent slavery and human trafficking can be found on their website.

**Carbon reporting service**

StudyLink can provide you with carbon consumption data for the transport you use. Their award winning, independently validated carbon footprint calculator uses the latest methodologies and DEFRA/BEIS carbon metrics.

**CONTACT STUDYLINK TOURS**

Contact David Hickinbottom at Studylink Tours via email at david.h@studylinktours.co.uk or call on 07876 841 170.

Studylink are available through the Travel Management Services Framework. For any questions of queries please contact Dave Yates, Category Manager for Travel or call on 0161 234 8002.