



CASE STUDY

St Andrew's University

St Andrew's is ranked as the third best university in the UK by the Guardian University Guide 2015. It is ranked fourth by the Times Good University Guide 2014 and the Complete University Guide 2015.

Overview

- Campus is spread over several locations with 140 buildings
- Estates Management team lead on Warp It
- Recouped investment on first day!
- Avoided 2.8 tonnes of CO₂ from supply chain emissions in first 3 months
- Diverted 970 kg of waste from landfill in first 3 months
- Saved £4,129 in waste disposal and procurement costs

The challenge

Like most large organisations, due to space and time pressures only a small number of resources at St Andrews were being reused within the University or deployed to local schools or charities for reuse and/or refurbishment. The Environment Officer at the University of St Andrew's, Barbara Aitken, was keen to change this.



St Andrew's University has a small store, but rely mainly on the direct transfer of assets from old to new owner.

Warp It is an easy-to-use online portal which provides a platform for organisations to redistribute (give, loan) resources legally and conveniently within an organisation, but also beyond - within other organisations. The platform

- Makes it easy for staff within an organisation to find colleagues with items to spare inside the same organisation or beyond - reducing procurement spend
- Makes it easy for individuals within an organisation, who wish to part with items, to find new owners -saving on waste disposal

Warp It: Benefits to the organisation

- Reduction of unnecessary procurement
- Reduction of waste
- Savings of staff purchasing time
- Better use of space
- Better internal collaboration
- Support local organisations
- Recording and tracking of assets across the organisation
- Convenient marketplace for staff
- Storage stock flow facility
- Loans of underused resources with idling capacity
- Opening-up of internal network to partners prioritising internal staff
- Downloadable management reports for procurement and environmental savings
- System management for whole building clearances
- Deals with waste legislation and liability
- Access control for staff
- Integration with existing portering or task management software

Message board system

Talking to other staff it was reported that the practice of disposing of items, rather than reusing and redeploying them within the University, was due in part to an underused message-board style system to advertise furniture for reuse, a lack of storage space and there being no formal re-use policy in place.

Barbara said, "As is demonstrated with the message board system, The Estates team recognises the potential environmental and financial benefits to the University of re-use and re-deploying valuable resources within the organisation. As well as the opportunity to demonstrate corporate social responsibility by supporting local schools and charities, so we were keen to find a better solution."

WARPit Club		Search organisations
Organisation Name	Status	
Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales	Enabled	
Clean Close Company	Enabled	
Phoenix Futures	Pending	
Frontline Fife Homelessness Services	Enabled	
Castle Furniture Project	Pending	
Cosmos Community Centre	Pending	
Wichita Recordings	Enabled	
University of Sussex	Enabled	
Tayside Contracts	Enabled	
University of Dundee	Enabled	

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Partnership Collaboration for Re-use and Resource Use

St Andrew's has a strong ethic in supporting local third sector.

Return on investment

When asked about any challenges faced when rolling out a reuse system Barbara said, "The introduction of Warp It required no changes to, or additional, infrastructure such as vehicles and containers, and was easily integrated by the University into existing estates management systems and procedures. However, initial challenges were encountered in gaining support from senior management for the upfront financial outlay for access to the tool. After trialing the system, we found we hit return on investment in the first day."



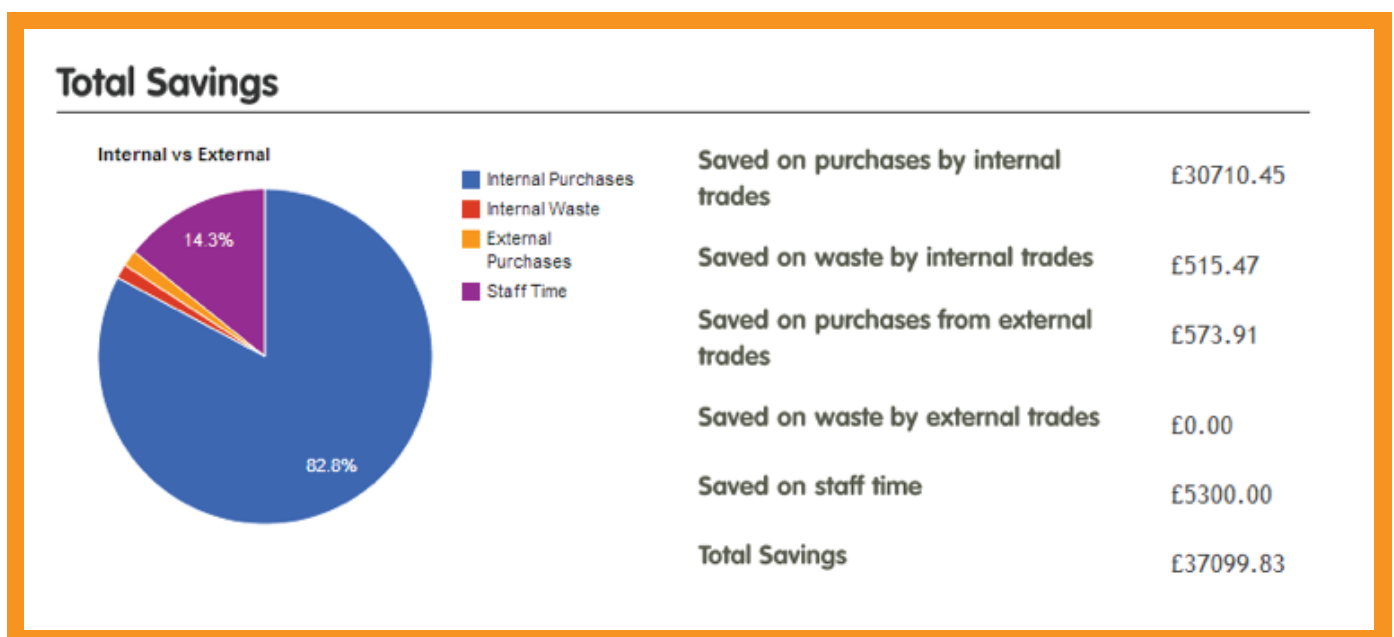
St Andrew's Current Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Any surplus assets

The system is used for any unwanted resource for example, furniture, electrical items, specialist items (such as engineering, medical research and lab equipment), fixtures and fittings and office consumables such as unused inkjet cartridges, stationery, etc.

Management reports

When talking about the importance of communication to staff and to the senior board Barbara said, "The system provides management reports so that the University can monitor carbon dioxide (CO₂) and financial and staff time savings, as well as how much waste has been diverted from landfill. This function can be useful to assist with reporting requirements as well as gaining further support from senior management and staff, through demonstrating the quantified savings of any planned re-use activities."



Total savings broken down into time, waste and procurement costs.

Stock control system

"I see the the Warp It tool as a very effective stock-control system, much like an asset register, so that the University is better able to manage its resource use and waste. By integrating re-use into the University's waste and procurement policies and using Warp It as a comprehensive asset tracking tool, furniture procurement activities can be more closely linked with departmental refurbishments to further reduce waste," said Barbara.

You can find out more from the St Andrew's experience by viewing the Independent Case study by Zero Waste Scotland:

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/estates/documents/Zero%20Waste%20Case%20Study.pdf>