

NEWS RELEASE

'Move to Improve' rewards employee ideas

An ingenious idea which has helped to improve efficiency scooped the top prize in The Hills Group 'Move to Improve' awards.

The winning 'Move to Improve' idea for 2016/17 came from Chris Wheeler, a shift supervisor at Hills' Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (Northacre RRC) in Westbury, who received a £600 voucher.

Chris' idea of adding metal rings to the outside of the trommel, which separates household waste into oversize and undersize fragments, has helped reduce the required daily cleaning time for the trommel from three hours a day to just 15 minutes – a 91% improvement in efficiency.

Talking about his suggestion Chris Wheeler said: "I had an idea that adding an extended ring on the back of the trommel sections would prevent material from attaching itself and blocking the holes. I'm really pleased it's proving so effective."

As Northacre RRC plant manager Paul Scriven explained: "Employee welfare and safety is paramount and Chris' excellent suggestion makes it easier to carry out the daily task of cleaning the trommel and improves the operational efficiency of the plant. It's a win win."



Chris Wheeler receives his prize for the best 'Move to Improve' idea in 2016/17 from Mike Hill, chief executive of The Hills Group.



Sections inside the trommel clear of waste where the metal rings have been fitted and clogged holes without external rings.



Metal rings fitted on the outside of the trommel help keep the holes clear of waste.

Since the 'Move to Improve' incentive scheme started in 2011, Hills Group employees have submitted nearly 650 ideas which have helped reduce waste, improve business efficiency and provide better customer service.

Mike Hill, chief executive of The Hills Group said: "The Move to Improve scheme has been a great success and shows that our employees welcome the opportunity to engage with us and suggest improvements for our business."

ENDS



Notes to editors:

Hills Waste Solutions offers a range of specialist waste management and recycling services to both the public and private sector. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest providers of waste solutions. Hills Waste Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. www.hills-waste.co.uk

The Northacre Resource Recovery Centre is operated by Hills Waste Solutions under a 25 year contract agreed with Wiltshire Council. The site achieved certification to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & BS OHSAS 18001 in June 2014. Further details on Northacre RRC can be found at www.northacrerrc.co.uk

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