Food Waste Management at Margaret Street:

- Like many offices within a city centre, the Savills head office at Margaret Street in Oxford Circus, London, is producing a regular volume of food and coffee grinds each month. Historically, Savills paid a waste contractor to remove this waste stream from the site, however, during spring 2015 Savills Office Manager Justin Howarth decided to trial a Wormery to assist us by removing this waste stream directly at site.

How is the Wormery used?

- Once the 125lt Wormery was installed, our worms then got to work on our weekly food and coffee grinds volume, turning this into useful compost, which is then is reused by our office plant company.

- The Savills Office Manager describes the experience so far as very positive, stating that the volume of compost generated is relatively small so easily handled.
The wormery is stored outside at basement level, however, the wormery has not caused any issues relating to vermin or flies to date.

Justin states that the Wormery needs a bit of extra attention from our cleaning manager to ensure the worms are being fed the right mix of food, but otherwise it is maintenance free.

The wormery can only deal with a small amount of food waste initially (approx 1kg per week), as this needs to be built up tray by tray. The unit comes with 6 trays in total and takes time to reach maximum usage of food waste. The unit can take approximately 10kg of food waste per week, working at full capacity. Therefore, even at optimum efficiency, the wormery will not consume the same volume of total food waste produced by the offices. Excess food waste will need to be thrown in the residual waste, to be disposed as waste to energy along with the other non-recyclable items.

The wormery has meant that this Savills office no longer requires a dedicated food waste stream to be collected by our waste contractors.

The main advantage of the wormery is that although it produces a relatively modest amount of compost it shows our tenants that Savills are doing what we can to recycle food without having a dedicated, and costly, food waste bin.

Savings

The total amount saved in food waste collections which are no longer required from the site was approximately £4,330 each year, this means the payback was made within less than 2 months.

Costs

The cost of the 125lt model Wormery was purchased £80, the existing cleaning staff were utilised to manage the new process, so associated staffing costs did not increase.

Useful Links
http://www.wormcity.co.uk/

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