

Change Waste Recycling Case Study

2025 Event Operations Winner

Overview

In 2022, waste management at the Scottish Open did not meet DP World Tour sustainability standards, with services delivered via the cleaning contractor rather than waste specialists.

- Performance data highlighted the need for change: only 6% recycling, 58.49 tonnes of general waste, 3.9 tonnes of recyclables, minimal food waste segregation 0.38 tonnes), and no glass was separated.
- A new approach was required to support a world class event while improving environmental outcomes.

Objectives

- Transition waste management from cleaning teams to specialist waste operatives.
- Double recycling in Year 1 and improve performance year-on-year.
- Introduce effective segregation across all back-of-house and public areas.
- Reduce carbon emissions through efficient collections and local processing.
- Achieve 100% diversion from landfill.

Implementation

- Waste and cleaning contracts were separated, allowing trained waste operatives to take full ownership of segregation and material recovery.
- Back-of-house areas were upgraded with food caddies, clear signage, staff training, and dedicated bins for glass, cardboard, food, and mixed recycling, supported by daily bin swaps.
- Public areas were improved with paired recycling and general waste bins, increased numbers of trained litter pickers, and clear audience-facing communications.
- Smarter logistics reduced carbon impact by consolidating general waste locally in Dalkeith and processing recyclables at the nearby Newhaven facility, minimising transport miles.

“Winning the Operations Award is a testament to the power of doing things differently. We’re incredibly proud to work with the DP World Tour to demonstrate that world-class sporting events can also be world-class in sustainability.”

Stephen Cameron,
Managing Director, Change Waste Recycling



Results and Activation

2023 (Year 1):

- Recycling more than doubled, from 6% to 15%.
- 5.1 tonnes of food waste captured (up from 0.38).
- 1.6 tonnes of glass recovered (previously zero).
- 6 tonnes of mixed recycling collected.
- 12.7 tonnes recycled overall, compared with 3.9 tonnes in 2022.

2024:

- Recycling remained strong at 14% despite waste volumes rising to 86 tonnes.
- A total of 11.89 tonnes of recyclables were recovered.

2025:

- Waste rose again to 124.53 tonnes, yet recycling held at 15%, with nearly 19 tonnes diverted from General Waste.

Across all three years, 100% diversion from landfill was achieved — a first for the tournament.

Transport-related carbon emissions were reduced through fewer vehicle movements and more localised processing.