

*“Working with Valpak Consulting on this project helped us understand the key issues involved in managing and recycling our waste. The project complemented our environmental policies and helped us identify how to increase recycling at back of store and achieve cost savings.”* **Katie Hague, Energy & Environment Relationship Manager, Co-op**

### Summary of the Project

The Co-operative Group Ltd is a national and international retail business with more shops than any other retailer in Britain. In October 2008 the Co-operative Group commissioned Valpak to assist with its target of reducing the amount of commercially generated waste being sent to landfill.

Valpak Consulting therefore undertook a waste audit in five of the Group's Nottingham stores, calculating the amount of dry recyclable materials that could be diverted from the waste stream. This revealed the potential to generate significant financial and environmental benefits by following a course of positive action recommended by Valpak Consulting.

Bespoke measurement metrics were also developed which enabled the Group's performance to be benchmarked and compared with similar format retailers.

### Key Benefits of the Project

- Establishing practical means by which material contamination could be reduced to yield an increase in material value of 20%
- Revealing the significant financial benefits available from increased recycling revenue
- Delivering a comprehensive report with specific recommendations for achieving improved environmental performance with significant financial benefits

### Actions of the Project

- Assessing existing store waste material arisings and recovery levels
- Identifying existing barriers to recycling and detailing solutions to remove them
- Undertaking a cost benefit analysis of increasing waste materials recovery and diversion levels
- Developing bespoke measurement metrics to enable ongoing Group performance assessments in comparison with similar format retailers

