**UWTSD spearheads positive change under new workplace waste legislation.**

On April 6th 2024, the Welsh government introduced new legislation on how we recycle waste in the workplace. The new law requires all businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste for collection. These changes are part of wider efforts of from the Welsh government to address and tackle the climate emergency, move towards zero waste by 2050 and reducing our carbon emissions.

Wales is already a global leader when it comes to household recycling rates, extending the same processes to business supports the countries sustainability targets and aspirations to form a circular economy.

Sorting waste effectively facilitates better recycling. By improving the quantity and quality of our recyclable waste we can divert it from being sent to landfill or for incineration. And reduce the need to create new materials lowering overall energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

UWTSD has a strong commitment to environmental responsibility and recognises the importance of reducing our waste and its broader role in reducing our carbon footprint and creating a more sustainable organisation. UWTSD waste management plan already includes ambitious targets to achieve recycle or divert 70% of waste from landfill by 2025, to achieve this the University has been working hard to ensure a successful transition to the new legislation.

In readiness for the new changes, the sustainability team have been liaising with

both staff and students and engaging with other building users to understand how we can support everyone to recycle with confidence. An audit of the current stock of bins has enabled us to keep and redesign many of the existing bins.

Since March 2024 UWTSD has been pre-emptively changing and rolling out new bins across our Carmarthen, Swansea and Lampeter campuses. Alongside new guidance with posters and signage to remind students, staff and visitors what goes where. Investigations into waste habits have identified ‘hotspots’ to focus bin coverage on to maximise effectiveness.

Kate Williams, Head of Sustainability and Environment at UWTSD says “UWTSD's dedication to environmental responsibility shines through in our commitment to waste reduction and sustainable practices by setting ambitious targets and actively engaging with our community, we empower every person to contribute to a cleaner, greener future. Through proactive measures like bin redesigns, targeted outreach, and strategic planning, we're not just preparing for change – we're leading it. Together, embracing our personal responsibility, we can make a meaningful impact on our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable organization for generations to come

To find out more email: sustainability@uwtsd.ac.uk