

# Old Bear Brewery

## Window and door manufacturer profits from recycling

CO2Sense Yorkshire gave Old Bear Brewery a grant of £22,980 to launch a bottle rescue and re-use service for licensed premises.



The scheme, called Bottle Rescue, helps licensed premises to reduce the amount of waste glass they send to landfill and reduce their waste management costs.

Financial support from CO2Sense Yorkshire allowed Old Bear Brewery to take on an existing bottle collection and re-use service, called ReCap, which was threatened with closure.

The grant from CO2Sense meant Old Bear Brewery could take over the service, relocate it in its Keighley Brewery and re-launch it to licensed premises in West Yorkshire.

Bottle Rescue now collects nine tonnes of glass a month from local pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants and hotels. About 20 per cent of these bottles can be washed, sterilised and re used. Bottles that are unsuitable for re-use are sent for conventional recycling.

The investment from CO2Sense allowed Old Bear Brewery to improve bottle refurbishing equipment including a bottle washer, filler and steriliser, a labelling machine and a bottling unit.

## Recycling/Reuse

### Benefits:

- Diverts nine tonnes of glass each month from landfill
- Reduces CO2 emissions by 66 tonnes a year
- Provides a cost effective source of re-used glass bottles to local businesses
- Reduces waste management costs for local licensed premises
- One job created.

// Bottle Rescue has got off to an excellent start thanks to the support we have received from CO2Sense Yorkshire. //

Ian Cowling – BOTTLE RESCUE

The funding was also used for marketing and advertising, to promote the collection service and re-used bottle sales, and to buy a new collection van.

Bottle Rescue supplies licensed premises with up to ten 75 litre glass re-use/recycling boxes, for glass bottles.

This service costs £5 and compares favourably with landfill disposal costs (on average around £12 for removal of an 1100 litre bin) or conventional glass recycling (between £3 and £3.50 for a 240 litre bin).

“This project offers a model for glass bottle re-use which could be replicated more widely across in the region and the UK.”

Ben Stone - PROJECT MANAGER – CO2SENSE YORKSHIRE

Every tonne of glass bottles re-used represents a CO2 saving of 0.62 tonnes compared to landfill disposal.

Recycling of glass bottles saves 0.32 tonnes of CO2 compared to landfill, which means the scheme offers significant environmental benefits even when compared to conventional recycling.

Over the course of a year, the scheme will save 66 tonnes of CO2, the equivalent of taking 25 cars off the road.

Ben Stone, project manager at CO2Sense Yorkshire says: “This is a very environmentally friendly way of dealing with used glass bottles because all the collection, handling and re-use occurs in a small geographical area, cutting down on transport emissions.

“This project offers a model for glass bottle re-use which could be replicated more widely across in the region and the UK.

“Returning bottles to the retailer in return for a deposit used to be common practice. But as manufacturing plants got larger, and decreased in number, bottles had to be carried further for refilling.

“This meant some of the financial and environmental advantages associated with returnable bottles were lost. Bottle Rescue is demonstrating that bottle return and re-use is viable if it is done on a local scale.”

Ian Cowling of Bottle Rescue says: “Bottle Rescue has got off to an excellent start thanks to the support we have received from CO2Sense Yorkshire. We’ve been able to show that collecting glass bottles for re-use can work.

“We now have satisfied customers at both ends of the supply chain – the licensed premises who have a cost-effective way to deal with their waste and the drinks manufacturers who have a cheap supply of used bottles.

“We even count ourselves among the latter – using the re-used bottles for our own range of real ales.”



**CO2Sense Yorkshire was established by Yorkshire Forward to help businesses in the region to prosper in the low carbon economy.**

**We provide expertise and funding to help environmental companies to grow. We work with partners to help all organisations to fund and develop initiatives that reduce their carbon emissions.**

**co<sub>2</sub>sense**

CO2Sense Ltd, Victoria House, 2 Victoria Place, Leeds LS11 5AE  
Tel: 0113 237 8400 Email: [info@co2sense.org.uk](mailto:info@co2sense.org.uk) Web: [www.co2sense.org.uk](http://www.co2sense.org.uk)  
Registered in England no. 5383346

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