



Partnering with the Royal Automobile Club to create a first-rate waste management service

The Royal Automobile Club, founded in 1897, is built on the foundation of being the United Kingdom's oldest motoring organisation, offering its private members first-class facilities across two distinctly different clubhouses.

The Pall Mall clubhouse, set in the St James's area of central London, operates an extensive events calendar, with around 200 events held each year across both clubhouses. The management of waste, therefore, has to meet the high environmental values of both the Club and its members.

Developing a thorough understanding of waste management

The Royal Automobile Club has gone to great lengths to understand the waste streams created by its everyday activities and large event functions. They found that they had created 405 tonnes of waste each year from all its activities.

Food waste has almost completely disappeared due to the Royal Automobile Club's investment in a Biotech digester. The digester breaks the food waste down into a liquid that Thames Water accepts for discharge into the London sewer system. Anything that can't be put in the digester, like oils, is collected and disposed of carefully.

The Royal Automobile Club has also invested in a full-time supervisor for waste handling, storage and collection. Their work helps the sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility agenda of the club.

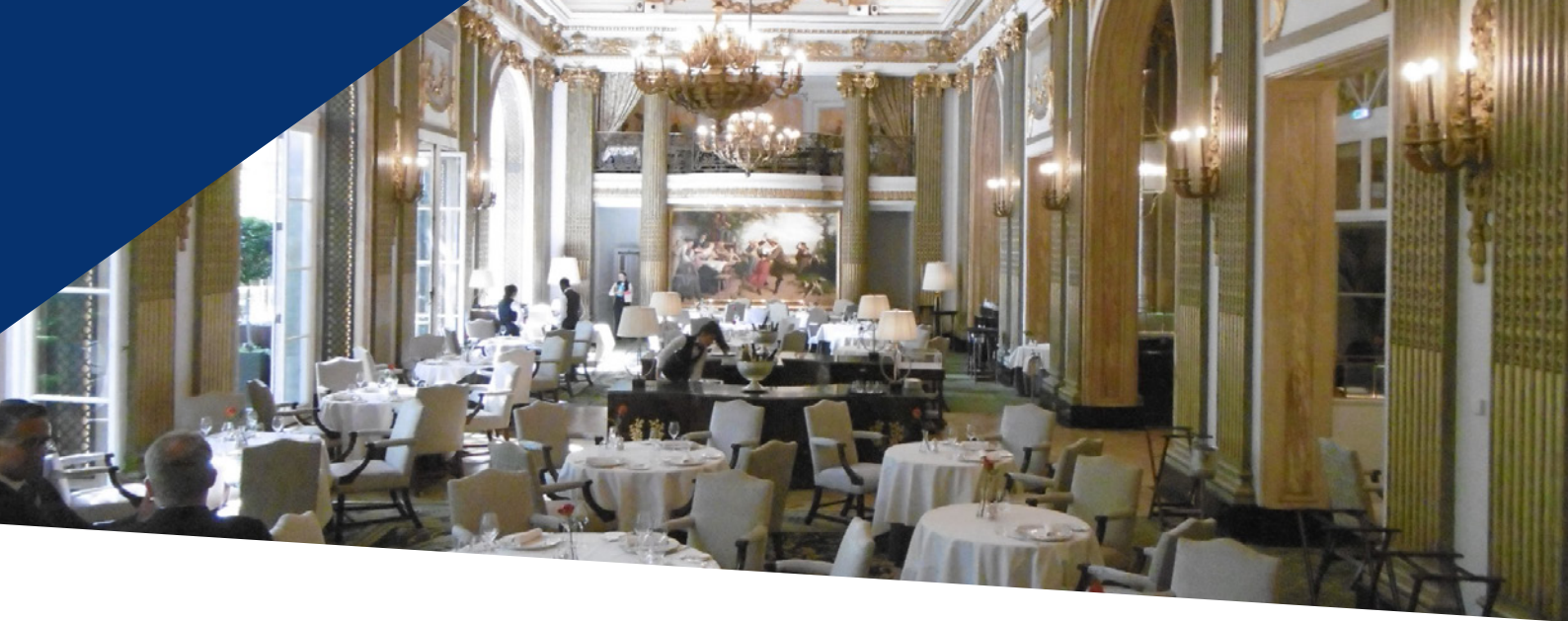
Founded in
1897
by Frederick Richard Simms

96
bedrooms

200
events per annum run-in

15
function rooms

7
restaurants at their London
Clubhouse on Pall Mall



The issues they faced:

- All waste streams were often collected all together and not recycled
- The sub-contractors would use ageing open-cage vehicles, making waste visible to everyone and often leaking onto the street
- The way food was collected meant risks of bad smells, staining and vermin infestation increased
- Recycling reports were produced that didn't appear to reflect the practices observed in reality

How Commercial Waste Services helped:

- Improvements around restricted storage space
- Consolidating waste collections
- Minimising noise from collections at unsociable times
- Collection flexibility around major events to minimise disruption
- Eliminating food going into general waste
- Creating a regular and discrete collection schedule using low-emission vehicles
- Responsive and timely communication with an average 30-minute response time
- Using local high-performance waste treatment facilities

Initiatives for the future

In partnership with Commercial Waste Services, the Club continues to look at every individual waste streams to improve the ways in which these items are recovered or recycled after collection. For example, changing the packaging on fresh foods to reduce the volume of packaging waste requiring collection. They have also undergone a major kitchen refurbishment which furthers the Royal Automobile Club's environmental sustainability.

Nearly **461,725 kWh per year** generated from waste collected

Enough to power over **369 km of tube travel**

Nearly **285 tonnes of CO2** saved per year

