



# Westco Bilanciai

*in action*

*with*



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The Yeo Valley Group of companies is a leading producer of yogurts, ice cream, crème fraiche and butter, operating at several rural locations in Somerset and Devon. The Group, which employs almost 900 people, is passionately committed to minimising any adverse effects on the environment caused by its operations. Management apply a rigorous “test and review” procedure to satisfy themselves that the environmental impacts of their operations have been assessed and actively use this assessment to identify and instigate improvements wherever possible.



One key area where improvements have been made recently is in the recycling of the waste yogurt cartons at the company’s Blagdon Plant. Blagdon is dedicated to yogurt production and is responsible for 75% of the groups overall production. As a Group, Yeo Valley is keen to minimise the amount of waste they send to landfill sites and also keep recycling costs to a minimum. A new system has been installed to process unwanted yogurt pots and their contents and this is the result of a close collaboration



between Yeo Valley, SITA Waste, Westco Bilanciai and Derby based waste processing innovators ET2 Ltd.

The *RoRo-Weigh™* platforms are designed specifically to weigh roll-on roll-off type waste containers during filling operations on site. Their robust construction ensures these modules can withstand the arduous conditions found at waste sites, building sites and factories. They are designed to have significant overload capability in

excess of their 30 tonne working capacity and the steel deck is supported on four 25 tonne capacity, fully sealed, stainless steel load cells.

The decks have guide rails along their 6.3 metre length and a ‘V’ shaped end locator. In this application precise positioning is important to ensure correct alignment with the tube feeding the waste cartons. The wheels of the containers run along sacrificial steel strips set into the deck and these can readily be replaced when they become worn.

European regulations stipulate that packaging containing more than 5% liquid cannot be accepted by landfill sites. To achieve optimum liquid extraction and maximum 'crushability', Yeo Valley has installed an ET2 patented Revolution™ waste processor. The waste cartons are fed into the Revolution which uses a rotating pitch-reducing Archimedes screw to squeeze the liquid out and crush the carton without shredding it.

The liquid drains out at the bottom and the carton waste is extruded out of a tapering tube into the container like a giant sausage. The high force generated during the process ensures a uniform filling of the closed container without the need for a conventional compactor.

Yeo Valley's Project Manager, Paul Henderson, is delighted with the results so far:

*"We have worked closely with our suppliers during this project to achieve an efficient and environmentally sympathetic process for the waste cartons. In the previous system we could only get around 6 tonnes in a 30 cu m container and had to make an informed guess as to when the container was full. Now we are achieving a capacity of 13 tonnes in a 27 cu m container. When the container reaches 85% capacity an alarm is initiated and this allows us time to contact the recycling company to book a timely collection and replacement.*

*It was important in this application that we could see a clear payback time for the investment and the Westco platform plays a vital role in this. We are charged by weight for recycling plus a fixed sum per collection-return. If the container were to be taken away part full then over a twelve month period this would cost us a significant amount of money.*

*An added bonus of the system is that we can now check if the returned container is empty. In the past we had no way of doing this and if material had adhered to the sides then we were paying twice to recycle the same cartons. We know the tare weight of the containers so we can now see if any residue material is at an acceptable level".*



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