Working with your supplier to recycle waste

Introduce yourself & your company:

Crèche la Nanosphère located in the heart of the EPFL Innovation Park. We welcome children from 3 months to school age. I’m the operational director of 2 Educalis Group crèches and co-director with my colleague, who looks after the pedagogical side of the crèches.

Why do you feel so strongly about waste management? And why do you think it’s an important issue for your company and for the Park?

We're a place that welcomes children, but above all we educate them. We have a duty to set an example and teach them simple everyday gestures so that they become reflexes later on. We're all concerned by climate issues, and as a company we need to set an example.

What inspiring practices have you implemented within your company? Or one inspiring/good practice implemented within your company

Waste management is often at the heart of a company's problems, and we were one of them, as the company had no way of recovering food waste, and we were keen to find a more sustainable solution.

We knew that our caterer was committed to reducing their waste, and had presented us with the actions they had implemented in their kitchen. We were able to convince them to recover food waste from the crèche and recycle it into biogas.

In a second phase, we also raised the awareness of the teams to better place their orders and to be as accurate as possible about the number of children who would be present in the crèche, taking into account vacations for example.
We are very satisfied with the current management of food waste at the crèche, and are continuing to raise parents’ awareness of the need to inform us of their child’s (foreseeable) absence, so as to keep food leftovers to a minimum.

**Advice you would give to other Park companies**

First of all, take stock of the way your company operates and identify the levers that could be improved to create more sustainable processes. There are often solutions that are simpler than they seem, that require little change, but that make all the difference.