

**August 2018**

## **LEADING RESOURCE RECOVERY BUSINESS RAISES OVER £100,000 FOR HOSPITALITY WORKERS IN NEED**

Olleco, the renewables division of ABP has raised a staggering £100,000 to support the catering industry's first and foremost charity, Hospitality Action.

Olleco is helping the UK's food businesses to join the circular economy. As well as being the UK's leading supplier of premium cooking oils and fats, Olleco collects used cooking oil and food waste and transforms it into biofuels, energy and fertiliser. Using the latest recovery technologies, this highly innovative service helps businesses greatly reduce their carbon footprint especially those who use the biofuels to power their operations.

The funds raised are being used by Hospitality Action to transform the lives of people from the industry who experience challenges and find themselves in need. These can range from homelessness and addiction to domestic abuse and life changing illness. Olleco's donations have helped over 540 families including Simon Holwell's (pictured). Simon worked for Maison Blanc as a pastry chef until he was paralysed by a spinal infection. When he desperately needed a lightweight wheelchair, Hospitality Action were able to step in and give Simon the freedom, as he puts it, "to start leading a normal life again."

Mark Lewis, Chief Executive of Hospitality Action says: "Hospitality Action exists to offer lifelines to people who work or have worked in hospitality and find themselves in difficulty or crisis, but we can only do this with the support of the industry we serve. I'm proud of all the people and businesses that help us – and none more so than Olleco, one of our staunchest champions."

Hospitality Action's Principal Patron, chef and restaurateur Jason Atherton, says:

"To raise and donate £100,000 is an astonishing gift, one which the whole team at Olleco should feel very proud of. The fact that they are doing so by collecting and recycling foodservice waste makes this a win-win for the industry."

Robert Behan, CEO of Olleco says:

“We’re delighted to be able to support the amazing work of Hospitality Action. Our business depends on people in the hospitality industry and we are dedicated to giving something back to them when they fall on hard times. We’re not doing this for commercial reasons, it’s simply the right thing to do. And, like me, our customers can take real satisfaction from the fact we’re not just safeguarding the environment, we’re also helping to look after our colleagues and friends now and into the future.”

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors:**

Hospitality Action is the trade charity for the hospitality industry.  
Registered Charity number: 1101083.

**Fast Facts**

**£860,000**

The amount of money spent during 2017 supporting past and present hospitality workers that have fallen on hard times.

**84%**

The percentage of those helped who were below the age of 60 in 2015.

**36%**

The percentage of those helped who were suffering from life changing illness in 2015.

**How we help**

**£60** will enable a family in crisis to enjoy a day out – away from their troubles.

**£320** will buy a cooker or washing machine for a family living in poverty.

**£500** will give a respite break to a family affected by life changing illness

**Olleco**

Olleco is the UK’s leading supplier of premium cooking oils and fats and collector of used cooking oil and waste food, serving over 50,000 catering establishments. The waste oil collected is converted into biodiesel and the waste food collected is converted into biomethane, electricity and heat. Olleco employs over 650 people, has 23 depots strategically located across the country, three bio-refineries, a biodiesel plant and a network of licensed anaerobic digestion facilities.

<https://abpfoodgroup.com/companies/>

[www.olleco.co.uk/about-us/hospitality-action](http://www.olleco.co.uk/about-us/hospitality-action)

**Media enquiries please contact:**

marketing@olleco.co.uk

Photography library: <https://Olleco.savenetfileshare.com/invitations?share=1c7908c5ae65f4f31cbd>

Video: <https://youtu.be/ONa3O9m10Xs>