



# Recofloor™ Newsletter

Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

Issue 7

Founder Members:



## RECOFLOOR WINS TOP CIWM AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

Recofloor's unique, innovative and sustainable approach to the collection and recycling of waste vinyl flooring triumphed at the 2010 Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Awards for Environmental Excellence.

The UK's first vinyl flooring recycling scheme won the highly-contested Innovative Practice in Waste Management and Resource Recovery (SME) category, just two months after celebrating the first anniversary of its nationwide launch in September. Recofloor was founded by leading flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor to tackle growing volumes of waste vinyl sent to landfill.

The award coincided with November's record-breaking month of 20.25 tonnes collected in the first three weeks alone. Local authorities, distributors and contractors all benefit in terms of saving valuable landfill space, reduced disposal costs and accentuating 'green' credentials.

Matthew Charlton, Axion Consulting, accepted the trophy on behalf of Recofloor from journalist and newsreader Kate Silverton and David Thomas, Business Development Manager at BAM Nuttall at the London awards ceremony on November 18. The annual CIWM awards recognise and reward good practice in sustainable waste and resource management.

Recofloor's Project Manager, Jane Gardner said: "It's a fantastic honour for Recofloor to be recognised in an extremely-competitive category which attracted a large number of quality entries. Naturally we are absolutely delighted that the hard work of everyone involved in this successful scheme has been rewarded with this prestigious award."

The Recofloor scheme is a unique example of two major competitors working



WINNER 2010



Matthew Charlton (centre) receives the award on behalf of Recofloor

collaboratively to promote the sustainability of their product - a major achievement and an important step for the vinyl flooring sector as a whole.

Vinyl flooring waste is diverted from landfill and recycled back into new flooring products as well as traffic management equipment such as cones and sign bases. The projected collected tonnage for the coming year is 175 tonnes, representing a 15% increase year on year.

## RECOFLOOR AWARD SCHEME UPDATE

We are approaching the final hurdle with the gold, silver and bronze award winners due to be announced in January 2011. The award scheme was set up to reward companies for the amount of vinyl flooring material collected for recycling. Calculations also take account of the number of fitters employed to ensure that small, medium and large companies all have an equal chance of winning one of the awards.

The top 5 so far are: Hull Flooring (77 points), Mayfield Floors (64 points), Ross Hughes Flooring (55 points), NKS Flooring (48 points) and Barnsley Flooring Services (42 points). Look out for the winners announcement in the next issue.

## MATT SPORTS A NEW LOOK FOR CHARITY!



Recofloor management team member Matthew Charlton raised a fantastic £200 for BBC Children In Need by shaving off his beard! Keen to raise money for this worthwhile charity, Matthew asked colleagues and friends to sponsor him to shave off the three year old beard. Matt is pleased with his new look and colleagues all agree that a younger looking chap has been revealed!



## WATES RETAIL & AXIOM GROUP RECYCLE MORE THAN 8 TONNES!

Leading Fit-out contractor, Wates Retail, together with its flooring contractor, the Axiom Group, is sending large volumes of flooring waste to be recycled through the Recofloor vinyl flooring recycling scheme. Through its construction and refurbishment programme for Marks and Spencer, the two companies have ensured that to date, 8.15 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring has been diverted from landfill.

When uplifted flooring from refurbishment contracts meets Recofloor specification, it is collected together with off-cuts of new vinyl material, left over as a result of the fitting process. The material is then sent for recycling under the Recofloor scheme.



The Axiom Group flooring fitters are supplied with clear plastic bags into which uplifted flooring and off-cuts are placed. The filled plastic bags are returned as a 'back-load' on the fitters' vans to the Axiom Group headquarters in Ampthill, Bedfordshire. The company has dedicated yard space for Recofloor bulk bags and the flooring fitters empty the plastic bags into the bulk bags on their return. When the bulk bags are full, they are collected by Recofloor when passing and taken away for recycling. By utilising the opportunity to 'back-load' the vans, and minimising transport requirements, the company is reducing its carbon footprint and helping to care for the environment. This system has worked so well that Axiom now collects waste vinyl flooring from its other customers too.

Wates Retail Construction Manager Sean Murphy comments: "We are proud of this initiative and is testament to our commitment to reduce waste to landfill on all schemes. It is a great team effort from all the stakeholders and will continue on all Marks and Spencer projects going forward. In addition to the tonnage collected and diverted from landfill, through Wates, other contractors have become part of the Recofloor scheme."

Recofloor Project Manager Jane Gardner adds: "This shows what can be achieved with main and sub contractors working together bulking material for collection and to reduce environmental impact."

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