

RECOVINYL

news

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WELCOME to Issue No 8 of the Recovynyl Newsletter, including items on the growth of Recovynyl volumes, a profile of David Wiles - UK Project Manager and a focus on Anglian Windows, who are 'closing the loop' with their recycling initiative.

Recovynyl volumes grow

According to the latest figures, Recovynyl is exceeding last year's performance, collecting and recycling substantially increased volumes of post-consumer PVC waste. This growth looks set to continue as a number of recyclers signed up to the initiative towards the end of 2005/beginning of 2006, the effect of which should become visible during the second half of 2006. Roger Morton, Director of Recovynyl's UK agent Axion Recycling, commented: "Recovynyl's performance in the UK has been boosted by a large increase of long-life (type B) material as more and more of our existing recyclers start to dismantle windows and doors themselves, in order to take advantage of raised incentives for this type of waste."

Recovynyl recyclers are able to sell on recycled PVC granules, benefiting from the current buoyant market for the product. As Eric Criel, European Director of Recovynyl commented "The high price of virgin PVC material has created a greater demand for post-consumer material"

Axion have concentrated on innovative ways to expand the Recovynyl scheme and the volumes generated. David Wiles, UK Project Manager, spells out the current priorities: "We continue to look for more members but we are also concentrating on the Local Authority sector, encouraging them to specify in replacement contracts that the windows removed are recycled. In addition, we are looking to have containers at Household waste transfer sites for smaller installation companies to take their materials. On the window industry side, we are aiming to persuade major fabricators to offer bring-back schemes for replaced windows, in order to utilise existing transport routes and increase volumes. Major waste management companies are also being approached to use their transfer



Staff focus - David Wiles

David Wiles, Waste Management consultant, heads the Recovynyl project in the UK on behalf of Axion Recycling. David has a strong track record in the waste management industry and in recycling in particular. He has worked in the Waste Management industry for over 30 years, gaining experience of the recycling sector through his work for major waste management companies and has now established his own consultancy business.

David became involved in the Recovynyl initiative after working for Axion, carrying out waste PVC collection trials in West London for the British Plastics Federation (BPF). Eric Criel, European Director of Recovynyl, was impressed with the trials and this helped Axion to secure the contract to run the Recovynyl project in the UK, with David as the project manager. David is delighted with the success of the scheme so far:

"Last year, being our first year, was very rewarding in that we doubled the targeted volume and based on half year figures it looks as though we will increase total tonnage this year, with the major growth coming in the grade B market."

David travels all over the UK and Ireland dealing with the recyclers. He has two part-time colleagues: Roger Hudspith and Peter McHutcheon, who concentrate on membership and councils respectively.

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Recycling Focus: Anglian Windows

Recovinyl member Anglian Windows is an industry-leading example of how 'first' generation PVC-U windows can be recycled, rather than landfilled, through a sustainable approach to post-use PVCu window collection and waste segregation. Anglian set up its dedicated deconstruction facility in 2003. It has recycled more than 375 tonnes of waste PVC-U within the last year alone. Recently, collection volumes have risen substantially at its Norwich depot, helped by higher incentives offered by Recovinyl to encourage greater recycling of post-use PVC.

Anglian's sustainable recycling activities have reduced waste sent to landfill by over 95%, bringing both economic and environmental benefits. From four skips of waste PVC per week destined for landfill, there is now just one skip every six weeks leaving the Norwich site. "As the UK's largest PVC-U window manufacturer and a market leader, we believe it is our corporate responsibility to recycle and re-use this sustainable material where possible, rather than uselessly landfilling it. In doing so, we aim to set a precedent for the rest of the industry to follow," says Anglian's Materials Development Manager, Julian Cubitt.



The scheme works by using 'reverse logistics'. Old PVC-U windows removed during refurbishments are collected from site by Anglian's in-house distribution fleet, using otherwise empty returning vehicles, and stored prior to deconstruction. Firstly, windows are deglazed with seals and mastic removed and separated. Flat glass is placed in a separate skip to be sent for recycling. Reinforcement and hardware is processed by a local waste management specialist partner. The PVC-U frames are cut into bar lengths and graded according to colour, type and contamination levels. These are reprocessed into granulate before being re-used in the manufacturing process for non-critical window components.

"The approach by Anglian is one we would like to see taken up by more installation companies," comments

Roger Morton of Axion Recycling, Recovinyl's project managers and technical advisors in the UK. "Everyone benefits from this closed loop recycling scheme; saving on escalating disposal costs and finding a new use for material that would otherwise end up in landfill."



Anglian Building Products, the business to business division of Anglian Windows, is currently offering a full recycling service to East Ayrshire Council as part of its four-year partnership contract replacing first generation PVC-U windows. Recovinyl is actively encouraging more Social Housing providers to include post-consumer PVC waste recycling initiatives, as well as the specification of products with recycled content, in all major newbuild and refurbishment contracts.

"As more and more 'first generation' PVC windows are becoming available as a result of property refurbishment projects, there is great potential for building volume available to the recycling stream. Recovinyl members, such as Anglian, can play a major part in this," comments Roger Morton.



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