

RECOVINYL

news

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WELCOME to the latest issue of the Recovynyl Newsletter including fantastic news about the volumes recycled under Recovynyl this year and details of help available to you to enable you to comply with REACH.

Recovynyl forecasts record PVC recycling results

Recovynyl is forecasting another record-breaking year with more than 50,000 tonnes of PVC set to be recycled by the end of 2008. This easily beats the 42,162 tonnes registered for 2007 and reflects the increasing awareness of the need to recycle waste rigid plastic and the growth of the recycling infrastructure in this country, according to Recovynyl's UK agent Axion Recycling.

Axion's Commercial Director Roger Morton says it's a fantastic achievement that demonstrates the PVC industry's continuing commitment to sustainability and promoting its environmental credentials, such as the closed loop recycling of the material into new plastic building products. The scheme's ongoing success has been helped by industry-wide campaigns, such as PVCaware.org and Fighting Back With Facts, that have been set up to secure a prosperous future for PVC.

Contributory factors to the rising recycling rate also include growth in volumes of post-consumer windows being recycled and investment in new plant and equipment by many of Recovynyl's 29 recyclers throughout the UK.



"As well as diverting PVC from landfill, recycling preserves natural resources with associated savings in energy and provides a significant reduction in carbon emissions compared to using virgin polymer," says Roger. "Manufacturing a new building product from recycled PVC-U saves 94% of CO₂ emissions compared to production using virgin PVC polymer."

"Judging by the level of enquiries we have received from businesses wanting to recycle their waste PVC, we expect recycling rates to break new records again by the end of the year. We can put companies in touch with their nearest collection and recycling services that can help them save on disposal costs for their waste plastic," he continues.

Axion calculated that the 40,000+ tonnes of end of life PVC that were recycled through the Recovynyl scheme last year will have saved more than 71,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. This is because the majority of this material will have been used in applications that directly substitute virgin polymer, for example cladding and cavity closers.

"We welcome the increasing use of 100% recycled PVC-U in new building products that clearly demonstrates the material's sustainability and ability to be recycled many times without loss of performance," adds Roger.

Recovynyl is also working with manufacturers who are keen to include high grade recycled content in their products, such as the DIY and computer sectors for example.

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Axion - Innovation in recycling

REACH - deadline approaching

Eric Criel, European Head of the Recovynyl initiative, is urging all members to pre-register all monomers and any classified substances that they are dealing with by the deadline of 1st December 2008.

Under the new legislation, Plastics recyclers do not need to register substances in their incoming materials/waste but they do need to be able to provide Safety Data Sheets for all materials that they supply. The Safety Data Sheets must include a full list of any classified substances (including monomers in the polymers and other substances such as stabilizers, performance enhancers, fillers, flame retardants etc, including Cadmium and lead stabilizers) together with the substances' registration numbers.

Recovynyl is recommending that plastics recyclers pre-register substances and this can be done on-line. It is still unclear whether plastics recyclers' will have to complete full registration but pre-registration of substances will buy time for recyclers as those substances will then qualify for extended registration periods - 2010, 2013 & 2018.

Pre-registration cannot be carried out by industry bodies, it can only be completed by individual recyclers. The EuPC (European Plastics Converters Association) have set up a helpdesk that can be reached through the following link:

<http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/>

Further help and information can be found on the Health and Safety Executive's website:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/index.htm>

The UK's Recycling Council will be offering a hands-on workshop (as featured in this newsletter), full details of which will be available soon.

REACH - join the Recycling Council's workshop

The BPF Recycling Council is set to host a new REACH workshop within the next few weeks, specifically aimed at plastics recyclers. This practical, hands-on workshop will enable plastics recyclers to register their companies with REACH-IT and to learn how to pre-register substances that they are handling.

Similar workshops have been offered in Europe and Mark Burstall, Chair of the Recycling Council, says he is very keen to offer UK recyclers the opportunity to attend a similar event, following the same successful format.

The workshop will be designed to be practical and useful. Delegates will be invited to bring along their own laptops, connect to the internet and shown how to register their company on the REACH website. When the delegates have completed this exercise, they will be shown how to complete the process of pre-registering a monomer. As Mr Burstall explains: "Delegates will be able to register their companies live, on-line, and will leave having pre-registered at least 1 substance and will know how to do it."

Details of the workshop will be finalised following the next meeting of the Recycling Council on 18th September. If enough interest is expressed then additional workshops may be offered as well.

The workshop is likely to take place in the Midlands and will carry a modest charge to cover costs (discount for Recycling Council members will apply).

Places are likely to be limited, so watch out for full details which will be sent to Recovynyl Newsletter readers as soon as possible.

