

Recycler Case Study

Background:

Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd, a member of Carpet Recycling UK, is a specialist in the reprocessing of post-industrial carpet waste, including off-cuts. At its manufacturing site in Whitworth, near Rochdale, the company has developed innovative processes for both 80% wool-rich and polypropylene carpet materials that are producing new products for applications in the food, flooring, construction, civil engineering and horticultural sectors.

In the past 12 months, Anglo has made tremendous progress in fibre processing from predominantly wool-rich carpet waste. Previously there was no system in place to recycle this material which was sent to landfill. Now the firm processes 15 tonnes of edge trimmings and joining pieces a week from a number of UK carpet manufacturers throughout the UK, including Penthouse Carpets nearby. So far, 500,000 square metres of finished products have been made from waste trimmings that would otherwise have been thrown away.



Process:

Credit is due to Anglo's Technical Director Michael Walsh whose ability to source second-hand machinery for pulling fibres from Italy led to the company developing its unique non-woven processing techniques. These breakthroughs have allowed Anglo to turn carpet waste into new underlay and felts for civil engineering applications.

The team's ingenuity and budget constraints enabled Anglo to overcome the key technical challenge of separating the latex backing from the fibres and successfully extract the raw materials for reprocessing.

Anglo is also taking part in a new CRUK initiative trialling polypropylene carpet waste recycling. Early successes include a product for a public sector project that is currently undergoing evaluation. Private sector firms are also showing considerable interest in Anglo's work and trials are underway for a flooring product with a major High Street retailer.

Comments:

Simon Macaulay, Managing Director, Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd:
"Thanks to Michael Walsh's technical insight and great support from local engineering companies, we could modify the machines to suit our processes and take fibre processing techniques forward. We're planning a second shift to meet demand as customers are using our finished products in significant volumes now."

"I genuinely believe we are doing the right thing. CRUK should take a bow for bringing people together, and then exciting things can happen!"

Jane Gardner, Project Manager at CRUK: "As an association covering the carpet value chain and waste recovery sector, we position members to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in carpet recycling and encourage them to recover a largely-ignored, yet recyclable material."

