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Upcoming Events

Tuesday 3rd September 2009

Carpet Recycling UK presents to the architects and designers on Sustainability as part of the "FACTS on" seminar programme organised by Invista and supported by Mix Interiors.

Tuesday 8th September 2009

Carpet Recycling UK presents a seminar entitled "I used to be a carpet, now I'm a ..." at the National Floor Show in Harrogate

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Carpet Recycling UK presents a full day seminar at Ecobuild at Earls Court in London.

Conference Feedback

To tell us what you thought of the day, please fill in the online survey at

<http://tinyurl.com/l47rkq>

Members Pages Update

NEW to download from the Members pages of the Carpet Recycling UK website.....

"Thermal Performance of Shredded Carpet"

A report on wool-rich carpet for insulation applications by Dr Paul Baker of the Centre for Research on Climate and Indoor Health, School of the Built and Natural Environment, Glasgow Caledonian University

Log on to the Members Pages via the homepage by inserting the password and pressing 'enter'. For a password reminder, please e-mail kate@carpetrecyclinguk.com

Welcome to E-News

Welcome to the second edition of Carpet Recycling E-News, the regular e-newsletter for Carpet Recycling UK members. Each bulletin will feature the latest developments in recycling options, trials, industry and association news.

Momentum on Show at Conference

Thank you to all of you who joined us at the NSPCC Training Centre in Leicester on 23rd June for the First Annual Carpet Recycling UK Conference. With a packed agenda and a capacity audience of 100, the Conference lived up to its 'Gathering Momentum' title.

Feedback from the online survey was very positive with respondents commenting particularly on the informative presentations and positive atmosphere. The interplay between such a wide cross-section of stakeholders and the networking opportunities were also highlighted as a major benefit of the event.

Keynote speaker Frank Hurd's message 'Outlets, Outlets, Outlets' will not be forgotten by any of the attendees. Feedback from attendees focused on the good selection of guest speakers, informative presentations and active discussions. The interplay between members was also highlighted as very useful a good cross-section of stakeholders from different areas.



Frank Hurd presents at conference



Frank Hurd and Sean Ragiel of US collector CarpetCycle

Conference papers are available to download from the resources pages of the website <http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com/resources.html>

Coronet Turf Benefits from Wool

Coronet Turf in Basingstoke are using wool carpet shred in their soil-less wildflower turf with excellent results thanks to the slow release nitrogen and essential mineral properties of the wool.

Research work carried out in New Zealand and brought to the attention of Carpet Recycling UK by member Wool Partners International has been disseminated to agricultural specialists. James Hewetson-Brown of Coronet Turf realised the potential for the use of carpet shred and contacted Carpet Recycling UK on product supply. Greenback in Wiltshire were recommended as the local supplier to meet their needs.

Coronet have a unique process to produce turf containing wildflower mixes grown on a synthetic substrate and supplied in sizes up to 40 m2 rolls which are light, easy to lay, and establish quickly. This turf is rapidly finding acceptance in landscaping, green roofs, and stabilisation of river banks and roadside slopes.

Not only does this turf have the mechanical properties to perform well in these demanding locations, it has the ecological and visual benefits of enhancing the environment. Coronet have been recognised for their contribution to sustainability by winning the innovation and technology category at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainable Business Awards 2008.

New Member Profiles

Carpet Recycling UK welcomes new recycling members Anglo Recycling Technologies, Equestrian Surfaces and 4Recycling Ltd.



Equestrian Surfaces

Equestrian Surfaces are recognised leaders in the manufacture, supply and installation of synthetic riding surfaces. They have been using carpet fibres in their mixes for many years.



4 Recycling

4Recycling offers a unique



combination of consultancy and contracting skills to design and deliver the recycling of waste materials to land. The company has built up a body of expertise on wool-rich carpet waste.



Anglo Recycling Technologies



Anglo Recycling Technologies is a manufacturer of non-wovens with an emphasis on innovation. The Company has the skills to handle and process many different types of recycled fibre, including carpet fibres.

Examples below show the use of Coronet Wildflower Turf at Cardiff Castle as a green roof cover, and a 2,500 m2 soil stabilisation project for Bellway Homes at Carnbroe, near Glasgow.



Carpet Beds In at Vital Earth

Leading UK composters Vital Earth (www.vitalearth.tv) are assessing the composting potential of post-consumer carpet waste. Results to date are encouraging but it is evident that carpet waste is very different to normal garden waste feed-stocks and therefore needs different management. However, with concerns over the financial and environmental costs of land-filling ever growing, there is every incentive to succeed: necessity, as they say, is the mother of invention!

Vital Earth are unique in using small (40 cu m) mobile vessels for the first phase of composting. These provide exceptionally intensive, uniform composting, plus close control/monitoring. After several days at 70°C, the sanitised material is matured under cover, with controlled aeration, until it is ready for screening into various size fractions. Through this process green wastes from several counties are diverted from land-fill and converted into "green composts". These are used to manufacture a range of sustainable peat-free garden products such as Vital Earth Growbag and Multipurpose Compost, which are distributed to garden centres throughout England and Wales.



"Carpet compost" seems to be very different to normal green compost and it's too early to know how it might be used but, who knows, carpet bedding might take on a whole new meaning one day!

ADAS Risk Assessment Commissioned

Member company Spruce Carpets has commissioned agricultural specialists ADAS to undertake a risk assessment on applying shredded wool-rich carpet to land. The work, funded by WRAP Scotland, will fill a key evidence gap and, if positive, will enable a strong case to be put to regulators. Results are expected in October.

A recent research paper on insulation applications for wool-rich carpet recyclates, carried out by Glasgow Caledonian University (GCAL), is available to download for free from the Members Pages of the Carpet Recycling UK website (see link on left). The report was also commissioned by Spruce Carpets.

In May 2009, GCAL completed 'Research to Support the Development of Carpet Recycling' which outlines the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's (SEPA) position on the use of carpet waste in several agricultural and land based applications. Since there are only small differences between Environment Agency and SEPA regulations, the findings of the report still apply south of the border. The report is available to purchase for £25. Contact kate@carpetrecyclinguk.com for



further details.

Carpet Recycling at Ecobuild 2010

Carpet Recycling UK will be hosting a full day of seminars on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 as part of the fringe series at next year's Ecobuild. Held annually at London's Earls Court, Ecobuild is the biggest event in the world for sustainable design and construction with visitors to last years show numbering 34,617. "Many of our exhibitors could potentially be users of recycled carpets" said event organiser Micheal Costain of International Business Events.

The Carpet Recycling UK Seminar at Ecobuild will be a great opportunity to present new recycled content products or to promote your recyclability story. To register your interest in presenting, contact Kate Chappell at kate@carpetrecyclinguk.com by Friday 4th September.

Briefing: Polymer Recovery

The recovery of polymers such as polypropylene, nylon, and polyester from carpets provides an excellent opportunity to move towards closed loop recycling, provided that the purity and polymer integrity can be preserved during recycling. Generally speaking carpets have the disadvantage of SBR latex presence at quite a high level by weight, and this must be removed to get the best value from the polymers.

In US technical developments have led to various processes being developed to remove and re-use the polymeric components via mechanical and chemical recycling and examples of these were presented by experts in their fields at our conference 23.6 – see website www.carpetrecyclinguk.com/resources.html for copies of papers by Modular Carpet Recycling and PCC Processing Technology LLC.

In UK the plastics industry has made great strides in bottle recycling, both polyester and HDPE, back to food grade recyclates. Now they are turning their attention to the other sources of mixed plastic wastes such as food trays/cartons plus plastic toys, furniture, and many other household goods. WRAP have conducted an extensive evaluation of mixed plastic waste recovery and results can be seen on their website www.wrap.org.uk

Carpets made from polypropylene account for around 65% of the UK domestic market and have much in common with mixed plastics recycling. Carpet Recycling UK are organising a series of trials to determine the best technologies to separate typical post consumer carpet streams and extract polypropylene at a purity which justifies the technology and opportunity costs. i.e. costs of collection, sorting, size reduction and separation of components.

Carpet tiles are growing in popularity and are generally made with a nylon pile (either 6 or 6.6) in order to meet the high traffic requirements in commercial premises. Removal of nylon fibres in order to recover them for engineering plastics is being evaluated so that the remaining bitumen backings can also be recycled into roadstone via the patented Econpro process route. Mechanical removal of nylon pile fibres is feasible and purity levels of 95% are believed to be achievable. This will be demonstrated using commercially available technologies and the resultant fibres extruded into plastic parts during the next few months.

If you would like to unsubscribe from Carpet Recycling E-News, please send an e-mail to info@carpetrecyclinguk.com with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Your Questions Answered

In the plenary session at the Carpet Recycling UK Conference, the issue of REACH legislation was raised.

Guidance from Steve Weston is that:

If a recycler processes carpet waste and the resultant output is still classed as a waste then REACH legislation does not apply (but the output is still subject to waste management legislation).

If, on the other hand, the recycler is using carpet waste as a feedstock to produce a finished good (i.e. waste management licensing ceases to apply), then REACH legislation may apply.

A polymer is not relevant but its monomer and any significant additives must be registered.

A recycler is allowed to have up to 20% contamination so long as the contamination does not take the product into a higher risk category.

Steve Weston and Carpet Recycling UK take no responsibility for omissions or inaccuracy in the guidance above.

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