

# Axion Recycling Newsletter

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Axion newsletter. Find out about the sustainability of processing waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in the UK and the work Axion are doing with Recycling Action Yorkshire to encourage window companies to recycle their waste.

## UK WEEE Recycling is the sustainable alternative

Plastics from waste electrical and electronic equipment should be recycled in the UK where higher grade polymers can be produced for re-use in new products for the European market, rather than exported abroad, claims Roger Morton, Axion's Commercial Director. UK companies can provide the sustainable and responsible alternative for re-processing such material, instead of it being shipped thousands of miles to China, only to end up in lower-grade applications. The environmental standards of these labour intensive dismantling and sorting operations have been brought into question by recent BBC news articles highlighting some of the worse cases.



Axion Polymers uses technically-advanced processes to produce high grade polymers from WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) and is currently seeking more supplies from primary WEEE treatment plants to progress its pioneering recycling techniques on a commercial scale, following recent successful trials with electrical and electronic equipment manufacturers.

"We're looking for potential suppliers to progress our work further on a production tonnage scale," says Roger. "The expertise,

capability and facilities exist here in the UK to extract high grade polymers for recycling back into new products for home markets. This is a far more sustainable and responsible alternative to exporting it."

Rather than rely on 'cheap labour', Axion uses efficient processing methods and novel separation technology to produce high quality polymer compounds. Axion claims these are of higher quality than Far Eastern equivalents, and crucially meet the demanding specification for re-use in new goods for the European market.

Axion is currently testing plastics from primary WEEE processors at its state-of-the-art Salford recycling facility to assess the likely yield and commercial viability of producing high grade polymers from the plastic fraction of dismantled electrical equipment. Benefiting from recent £3 million investment, the new plant is one of the most advanced recycling facilities in Europe. Fully operational from early next year, the facility converts co-mingled contaminated plastic waste into high quality polymer compounds. Full output production capacity will be 14,000 tonnes per year.

He adds: "For electrical manufacturers, using high quality polymers recycled in the UK is important in terms of protecting the reputation of their brands. Our on-going successful trials with manufacturers, such as Brother Industries, have proved that we can now meet exacting brand-leading material property specifications and produce a quality product which is virtually indistinguishable from a conventional, virgin-polymer component. Being UK-based, we can provide the necessary audits and assurances that the producer's responsibilities under UK legislation are being met, including environmental standards and Duty of Care for waste."

For more information call 0161 426 7731

## New scheme encourages window companies to recycle in Yorkshire.

Axion is working with Recycling Action Yorkshire (RAY) to help establish a new initiative to encourage window installation companies to recycle their PVC waste through waste transfer stations in Yorkshire. Building on the existing Recovynyl incentive, Axion has launched the initiative with support from RAY, a not-for-profit regional organisation dedicated to encouraging recycling across Yorkshire. In a bid to encourage window installation and glazing companies to recycle their waste, Axion has recruited a number of waste transfer stations across the region that will accept small van loads of mixed waste from window companies. The waste transfer stations deconstruct the waste, separating the PVC and glass. The PVC is sent to a Recovynyl recycler and the waste transfer station qualifies for incentive payments for each load of PVC delivered. With the initial set-up phase of the project out of the way, Axion and RAY have begun recruiting window installation companies and have signed up 10 companies to take part so far. Jane Gardner, project manager for the scheme is delighted with the progress to date. She explains:

“Now that we have begun recruiting window companies, we are starting to see increases in the tonnages of recyclables collected. It is becoming apparent that a lot of window companies are now

recognising the advantages of recycling. They gain ‘green credentials’ and this is becoming more and more important to them in helping to gain new customers.”

Jane is very pleased with the company’s collaboration with RAY on the initiative. She says:

“RAY have been very helpful, offering business advice and support to window installation companies and waste transfer stations. This has been a great co-operative venture for Axion.”

Ben Stone, RAY, comments:

“This scheme fits in with RAY’s objectives to increase the recycling of glass and plastics from commercial and industrial sources. The composite materials that make up post-consumer windows make them difficult to recycle unless suitable infrastructure is in place to dismantle them. This project gets to the root of the problem and opens up new supplies of material for glass and plastics recyclers.

We are very pleased with the progress of the project to date and are highly optimistic for the recycling that it will enable.”

For more information, contact Jane Gardner 0161 355 7618.

## Staff Focus – Kate Williams

Axion have appointed a new Field Project Executive, Kate Williams. Kate is working on various projects including helping Axion to build recycling schemes for both Recycling Action Yorkshire (RAY) and Stockport Borough Council.

Having previously worked for a company that manufactured a totally degradable plastic, she progressed to joining the Wastelink Group as part of the team aiming to build new state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facilities thus assisting Local Authorities in reaching their European Landfill Directive targets. This included looking at the design of Management Information Systems, innovative composting systems and exploring the market for plastics reprocessors.

Kate has a great deal of experience within the waste management industry, and has worked to encourage and promote recycling and environmental products for several companies.

Kate owns an ex-racehorse that she has retrained to take part in Horse Trials- an excellent way of keeping fit!



## Contacts



**Axion Recycling Ltd,**  
Errwood House,  
212 Moss Lane,  
Bramhall,  
SK7 1BD.  
UK

Tel + 44 161 426 7731  
Fax + 44 161 426 7732

**Axion Polymers**  
Langley Road South  
Salford.  
M6 6HQ

UK

+44 161 737 6124  
+44 161 925 9761

[info@axionrecycling.com](mailto:info@axionrecycling.com) [www.axionrecycling.com](http://www.axionrecycling.com)