

Recycling & Reprocessing Associations Make a Stand at RWM 2017



RWM 2017 Stand: 4E30-F31

Visitors to RWM 2017 looking to gain an in-depth understanding of the UK's recycling, secondary materials and reprocessing capability, capacity and industry challenges should head to the Recycling & Reprocessing Associations' stand in hall 4.

The centrally located stand will be home to 10 of the sector's most influential organisations: Alupro, British Glass, British Plastics Federation, Confederation of Paper Industries, RECOUP, Resource Association, Textile Recycling Association, The Alliance of Beverage Cartons and the Environment UK (ACE), The Recycling Association and the Wood Recyclers' Association.

Together, these 10 organisations represent many of the UK's top recycling and reprocessing organisations as well as a vast number of SMEs that also operate within this diverse landscape. While each organisation has a unique membership and mission, all are recognised for their unparalleled understanding of and influence within their individual operational areas.

The collective importance of these organisations should not be underestimated. They represent an industry which has an annual turnover of £11 billion, directly employs 106,000 people, and has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent since 1990.*

In real terms, they have helped, and continue to help, the UK to collect, recycle and reprocess significant material quantities, examples of which are given below.

- **Paper and board**

UK collections of recovered paper and board totalled almost 8 million tonnes in 2016. Furthermore, 70 per cent of all fibres used to make paper in the UK came from paper collected for recycling from households and businesses

- **Plastics**

UK collections of recovered plastic totalled 1.8 million tonnes in 2016. Plastic packaging recycling increased by 15 per cent between 2015 and 2016 to reach 45 per cent.

- **Aluminium**

UK collections of recovered aluminium totalled 90,000 tonnes in 2016 with the aluminium recycling rate now standing at 50%. Jointly-funded communications programmes developed and run by the metal packaging sector have directly targeted over 5.5 million households across 81 local authorities, and consistently achieved increases in metal capture rates and contributed to positive behaviour change.

- **Waste Wood**

In 2017, almost 1.5 million tonnes of waste wood will be recycled and used by the panel board sector and other key markets such as animal bedding. Wood recyclers also supplied around 1.5m tonnes of processed post-consumer waste wood to biomass facilities last year, a figure which is set to double by next year.

Secondary is the new primary

When it comes to materials, the organisations have not only helped to increase the quantity diverted from landfill but have also sought to raise quality throughout the supply chain. The aim has been to ensure that materials are considered as a preferred manufacturing feedstock over virgin materials.

“We might be separate organisations, but when it comes to raising standards and quality we are unanimous,” said Simon Weston of CPI. “Our aim is to make secondary materials the first choice for manufacturing and we will work tirelessly to help our members make this a new reality.”

The sentiment is echoed by Simon Ellin of The Recycling Association. “We’re getting closer to a point where secondary is the new primary. By working collaboratively across the supply chain, with government, and by focusing on quality, secondary commodities are increasingly being selected over virgin alternatives.”

Andy Hill from the Wood Recyclers’ Association added: “The value our recycling trade associations add to the UK’s economy is second to none and it will be great to see them all gathered together at RWM highlighting the work we all do and the future of recycling in Britain.”

* *Planning for a Circular Economy, Environmental Services Association: http://www.esauk.org/esa_reports/20170411_Planning_for_a_Circular_Economy_FINAL.pdf*

ENDS

For further information contact Mike Dobson, Communications & Public Affairs Manager on 01793 889612 or email mdobson@paper.org.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Please find below links to the exhibiting associations’ websites

Alupro – The Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation www.alupro.org.uk

British Plastics Federation www.bpf.co.uk

Confederation of Paper Industries www.paper.org.uk

RECOUP www.recoup.org

Resource Association www.resourceassociation.com

The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment UK (ACE) www.ace-uk.co.uk

The Recycling Association www.therecyclingassociation.com

Wood Recyclers Association www.woodrecyclers.org

- The Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) is the leading trade association representing the UK’s Paper-based Industries, comprising paper and board manufacturers and converters, corrugated packaging producers, makers of soft tissue papers, and collectors of paper for recycling.
- CPI represents an industry with an aggregate annual turnover of £6.5 billion, 25,000 direct and more than 100,000 indirect employees.
- For facts on the UK’s Paper-based Industries please visit: www.paper.org.uk.