

Expanded Polystyrene Group
6 Bath Place Rivington Street
London EC2A 3JE

Website www.eps.co.uk

Email info@eps.co.uk

The BPF EPS Group is part of the British Plastics Federation



Giant Polystyrene Teacups created for 100% Design

An oversized teacup, conceived by Jam, and moulded by the BPF's EPS (expanded polystyrene) Group will be the icon which creates a visual link between 100% Design London and the London Design Festival for 2009.

Hundreds of the jumbo teacups will be on display at the 100% Design exhibition in Earl's Court and at many of the London Design Festival venues.

The outsize teacup was created to build on the British theme of this year's 100% Design London, Jamie Anley explains: "The handled teacup is a metaphor for Britishness, recognised all over the world"

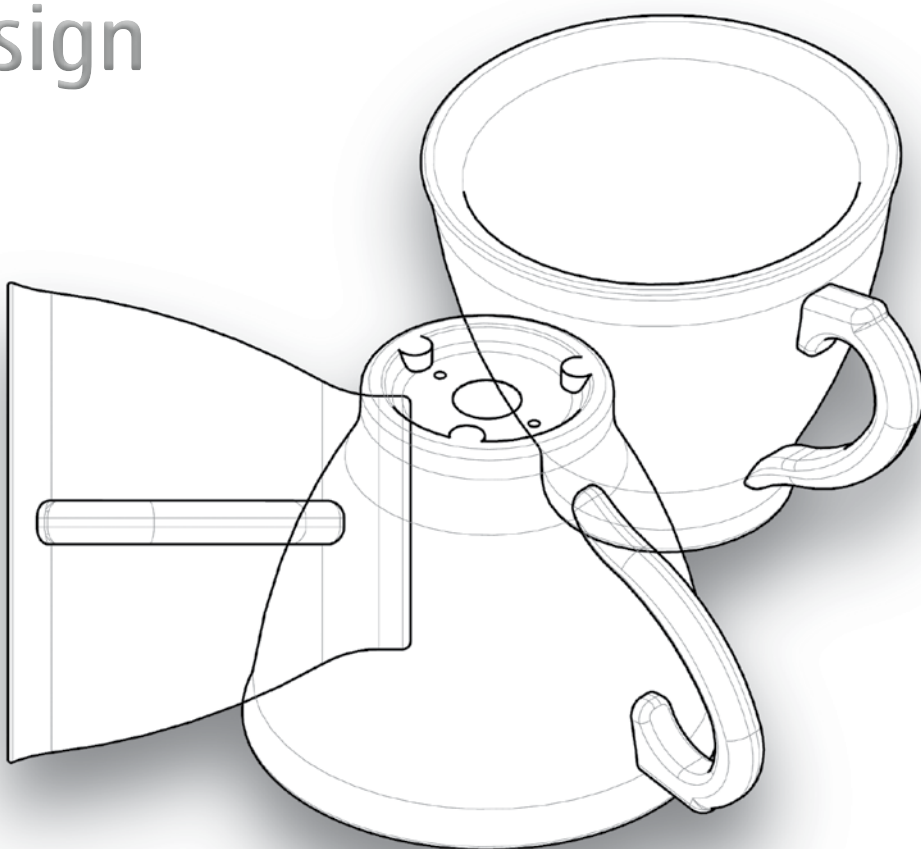
"We have really enjoyed developing this design with the BPF EPS Group. The manufacturing process allows for stories to be told on many levels. It is not just the form of the object, but detailed embossing and the opportunity to mix colours that gives the product a lot of texture.

"The object itself remains playful and abstract, encouraging people to apply their own creativity to the way in which it is used," adds Jamie.

The familiarity of the objects material, the unexpected form – and its playful twist through scale – all combine to create something unusual and quirky that will spark renewed interest in the potential of the material that the Group exists to promote.

"Most of us are aware of EPS as the familiar white polystyrene packaging material," explains David Emes, Chairman of the BPF EPS Group.

"However, as demonstrated by this stunning, conceptual teacup by Jam, the versatile and lightweight nature of EPS means that it can be moulded into



Jamie Anley and Gemma Lewis of Jam

almost any form.

"EPS is already used in a variety of technical applications by industrial designers, we hope that the creative design community will see these teacups and add EPS to their list of intriguing materials that they can work with to create a desirable product."

EPS is 98% air, making it incredibly lightweight with extremely efficient insulating capabilities and, it is 100% recyclable with no waste occurring during the manufacturing process.

And, as the Jam oversized teacup demonstrates it can be moulded into shape, coloured creatively and even have images moulded into its surface.

Guernsey Islanders Recycle EPS Pack

The Government of Guernsey has set up a ground breaking EPS recycling scheme that collects from householders and from businesses.

Three collection points have been set up on the island for householders to take their used EPS (expanded polystyrene) packaging to. Commercial organisations can deliver direct to the depot and pay £10 a load (regardless of the size of the load).

General Manager of State Works, Nigel Dorey, explains why the scheme was set up: "Guernsey is a small island with limited landfill space and we aim to recycle as much of our waste as we can.

"We first contacted the BPF EPS Group and asked for their advice just over a year ago. Since then we have been through an exhaustive selection process to find the right equipment and to set up links with Robust Ltd, an EPS recycler based in South Wales.

"All the used EPS is taken to one point, where it is compacted and then stored until



Recycling EPS at the new collection point in Guernsey

a sufficient quantity is available for delivery to Robust," adds Nigel Dorey.

The success of the Guernsey recycling scheme – on average around two tonnes of EPS is collected a month – requires the compacting machine, supplied by "Pakawaste" to be operated all day for five days a week.

As well as material collected from the

householders' collection points, two or three deliveries arrive each day from local companies that are keen to support the scheme. Businesses like retailers who supply white goods, electrical companies and suppliers of outboard motors are all regularly bringing their used packaging to be recycled.

"Best of all," says Nigel Dorey. "We



A park bench made from recycled EPS

aging

have just ordered the replacement hardwood profile from Robust and it is made from recycled EPS packaging. We will construct some park benches, picnic tables and flower troughs from the hardwood, and show them to the island's educational and environmental departments.

"I hope they will be very interested in purchasing more items made from this material. The fact that it requires zero maintenance and lasts for ever – makes it useful, both economically and environmentally.

"And, of course, it's a great way to demonstrate to islanders that their recycling efforts are worthwhile, says Nigel Dorey. "A packaging material that would have been thrown away, after protecting purchased items in transit and ensuring that they arrive at the consumer's home in one piece – can serve a useful and productive life in its second role!"



A pile of EPS



EPS ready for recycling (above), and a picnic bench made from recycled EPS (below)



SDC Recycles EPS

SDC, a division supplying car parts to the Honda factory in Swindon has selected a Next-tec recycling system to handle all the used EPS packaging that comes into the site.

The new equipment (a PolyCycle™ P1000 Pre-breaker, an anti-static polypropylene Hopper with Steel Stand and a PolyCycle™ D300) will process approximately 200 tons of EPS. SDC also plans to take in additional material from companies located close by and from its own suppliers.

Mark Smith, Sales and Marketing Director of Next-tec Ltd, said: "We are

delighted that our process was chosen and we are confident that SDC will see a marked improvement in their waste management processes as a result.

"We were judged on a wide range of criteria and against extremely stiff competition. SDC looked at various other methods, including melting machines, but our system scored high for environmental and health and safety reasons.

"The Next-tec equipment also competed well on cost and revenue. Proving that waste management can be good for business as well as the environment, adds Mark."

● www.next-tec-ltd.com

Post-Construction EPS Recycling Route Is Opened

A new avenue for demolition contractors to recycle EPS has been set up by the BPF EPS Group.

Thirty or 40 years ago, cold stores and food processing units were frequently built with steel faced panels using EPS or other plastic foams to provide insulation. As many of these are now reaching the end of their useful life, they are being replaced and they present a challenge to the responsible demolition contractor who wishes to recycle the materials.

Now members of the BPF EPS Group have agreed to take back the EPS cores of

these panels and recycle them, as David Thompsett, technical advisor to the BPF EPS Group explains: "Once the steel facing is stripped off, the internal EPS core can be recycled into other products while the steel facings can be recycled by the demolition contractor through the normal channels.

"If the material is reasonably clean and uncontaminated, there are six sites in the UK which will take the material free of charge and recycle it into insulation board.

"I would recommend contacting the nearest site to discuss your requirements," adds Thompsett

Participating Sites

KAY-METZELER, Chelmsford, Essex
SPRINGVALE, Glossop, Derbyshire
SPRINGVALE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
VENCEL RESIL, Howden, Yorkshire
VENCEL RESIL, Belvedere, Kent
VENCEL RESIL, Whitecroft, Gloucester

Visit www.eps.co.uk for contact details

"Six UK sites will take the material free of charge"



New EPS Group Formed

The BPF EPS Group, formed by the joining together of the long established EPS Construction and EPS Packaging Groups, is set to represent the whole of the UK EPS manufacturing industry in today's competitive marketplace.

"The uniting of the two sector-orientated groups reflects the changes and consolidation that have taken place in the manufacturing base in the UK," says David Emes, Regional Manager, Foam Products at BASF and the newly appointed Chairman of the EPS Group.

"Joining forces in this way will strengthen our ability to represent the EPS industry and to face the challenges that face both packaging and insulation products in the current economic climate.

"EPS is an exceptional material. It is versatile, lightweight, easy to handle and provides unrivalled insulation qualities. Its environmental performance is second-to-none and it offers extremely cost-effective solutions in a broad range of applications.

"The combined resources of the new

BPF EPS Group will be entirely focussed on promoting and supporting EPS products in these demanding and challenging times. By working closely together, for the first time, we will be able to exploit the synergies that already exist and develop new opportunities for cross-sector promotions and information resources," explains David Emes.

"We will soon be publishing an EPS Briefing folder designed to assist architects and other individuals responsible for product specification in the construction industry. This will be followed by a booklet giving accurate information about EPS and the Environment which will be useful to anybody considering using EPS."

"Another pressing action is to review the two existing websites and to create one information resource for all parties interested in EPS, whether for packaging, construction or any other use."

EPS manufacturers in the UK can be assured that their interests will be well looked after by The BPF EPS Group under the dynamic chairmanship of David Emes.



"Joining forces in this way will strengthen our ability to represent the EPS industry."

Polymer Recycling Apprenticeship

PTL (Polymer Training Limited) is currently developing a Polymer Recycling Apprenticeship that will feature EPS as one of its key materials.

Managing Director of PTL, Mark Smith, says: "We worked closely with WAMITAB (Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board) to put together a training programme that includes polymer recycling and waste management."

The apprenticeship is currently being considered for accreditation by Cogent*. Once accepted and accredited by Cogent, PTL will be the first organisation to deliver the apprenticeship.

"We have companies eager and willing to deliver this programme with us. In the first year we hope to implement 12 apprenticeships, building up to 30 or more in the following year," adds Smith.

The logo for PTL (Polymer Training Limited) consists of the letters 'PTL' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a pattern of small blue dots, giving it a textured, digital appearance.



One of the unique facilities at PTL is the ability to demonstrate the recycling of plastics using EPS as the example.

PTL can take the used EPS product through five stages:

- 1** Raw material – chopped to appropriate size
- 2** Densified through a PolyCycle™ D150
- 3** Granulated
- 4** Extruded to pellet
- 5** Injection moulded to product

For more information visit www.ptlonline.org