

Summer 2007



NEWS

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Thousands of tonnes of used EPS packaging recycled in 2006

In 2006, 4,670 tonnes of EPS (expanded polystyrene) packaging were recycled in the UK, equalling 29.3% of the amount that is manufactured in the UK.

Tony Pruchniewicz, Chairman of the EPS Packaging Group, comments: "The EPS Packaging Group works hard to support and encourage the recycling of EPS packaging and we are very pleased that — once again — the UK's EPS recycling tonnage increased in 2006.

"With EU targets set at 25% of manufacturing

tonnage for plastics and UK plastics packaging recycling achieving 21.5%, these figures demonstrate, that EPS packaging is at the forefront of plastics recycling in the UK."

Consumers are often unaware that a familiar polystyrene box is 100% recyclable and, that thousands of tonnes of polystyrene are recycled each year in the UK. "Currently, it is difficult for householders to recycle EPS because the local authorities do not collect it — as they do other items such as cardboard, glass or plastic bottles," explains Tony Pruchniewicz.

"As a result, all the recycling of EPS packaging in the UK is undertaken by responsible

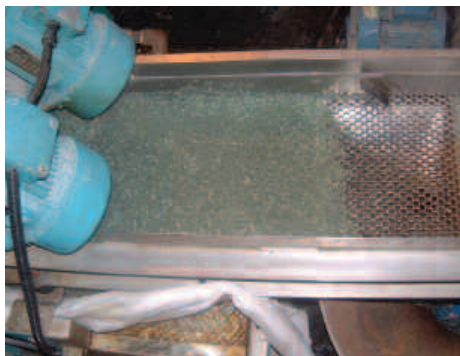


Tony Pruchniewicz

Compacted to 40% of its original size



Reprocessed into a useful raw material



businesses that work closely with recyclers to set up viable schemes and ensure that their old EPS — a valuable resource that can be used again — is not wasted.

"These business recycling projects have been very successful, but we hope that local authorities will start collecting EPS packaging for recycling," says Pruchniewicz. "There is a huge demand for used EPS in the UK; many recyclers want to increase the tonnage that they process." "If local authorities got involved then we would quickly see a dramatic increase in the amounts of EPS recycled in the UK."

Leading Design Book Selects EPS Chair



The EPS chair designed by Tom Dixon is to be featured in *Process* a book by Jennifer Hudson.

Process aims to explain the creative, technical and production processes behind some of the most technically or conceptually innovative designs from the last two years (2005- 2007).

Items are selected for *Process* that are significant for:

- Cutting-edge technology
- Unorthodox or complex production process
- Use of innovative materials or for traditional materials adapted in new and unexpected ways

● Creative concept behind them.

"We are very pleased that the EPS chair has been selected to be featured in *Process*. The book is aimed at students and professional designers and will help in our campaign to make designers more aware of the tremendous potential and versatility of EPS as a material to work with," says Tony Pruchniewicz, Chairman, EPS Packaging Group.

Laurence King Publishing will publish the book in Spring next year. The format is paperback 28.8cm x 23.5cm with 240 pages.

The EPS Design Competition

The EPS Packaging Group has been out talking to design students and professional designers about the EPS Design Competition.

London Metropolitan University



Jonathan Haddock

On 28 February 2007, Jonathan Haddock, Managing Director of SCA Packaging Tuscarora, did a wide-ranging presentation for students and designers at the Polymer Centre, London

Metropolitan University. Jonathan explained that EPS already has many applications outside the traditional packaging sector and showed some examples in his presentation.

Jonathan explained: "The aim of our EPS Design competition is to get people in the design world to think creatively about new ways that EPS — with its outstanding versatility and other useful characteristics — could be used."

Business Development Manager, Marion Ingle, commented: "EPS is an interesting material to work with and the Polymer Centre is keen to encourage students to learn about its manufacture and applications so they can enter the design competition."

London South Bank University



Richard Lee

On 23 April Richard Lee, Sales Director, Styropack UK visited Design and Architecture students at London South Bank University. Richard provided the students with information about EPS, its properties

and the huge range of potential applications. Richard was also able to give individual advice to students about their work on EPS design projects for the competition.

Robin Jones, Deputy Head of the Design and Architecture Department says: "The university recognises the importance of

making constructive links with industry. The combination of a visit and talk from a manufacturer and the design competition has worked very well for us.

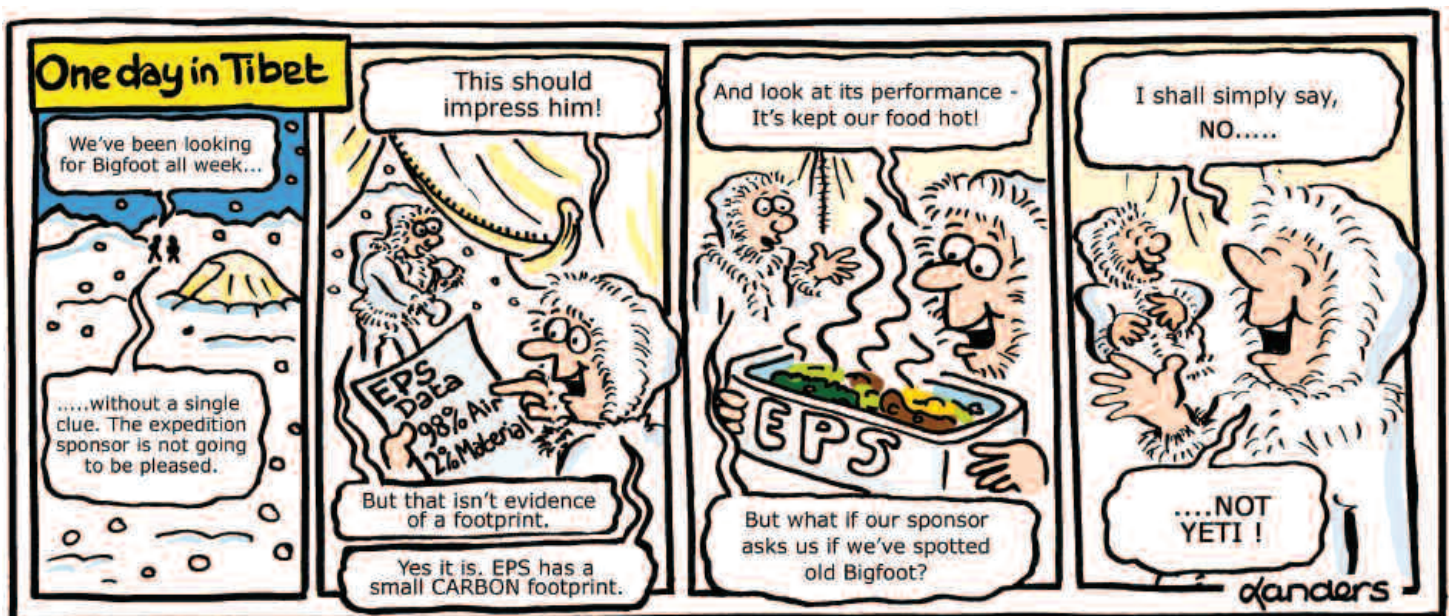
"Our students have had their expectations and preconceptions about a familiar material challenged. And, we found that asking students to design new products using just, or mainly EPS, has given them a tight focus, which has helped to release their creativity and inventiveness.

"We have had some interesting ideas and concepts develop out of this project. I hope one — or more — of our students' designs gets through to be prototyped and exhibited at Tent London!"

The closing date for the EPS Design Competition is 30 June 2007, for more information visit the Design pages on www.eps.co.uk

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Jonathan Haddock



RECYCLING UPDATE

Pioneer chooses Polycycle

To fulfil its zero landfill target, leading electronics manufacturer, Pioneer, has invested over £20,000 in a Polycycle D150 to facilitate the recycling of waste EPS from its Castleford site in Yorkshire.

Mark Smith, managing director, Next-Tec Ltd, manufacturer and supplier of the Polycycle D150, comments: "I think Pioneer will be able to payback their investment in between 18 months to two years.

"They will achieve that because of their reduced waste management and landfill costs and they are selling the processed EPS to a recycler."

The Polycycle uses 'specific radiant wavelength' technology that collapses the air cells in the EPS. It reduces the size of the EPS by 95% and creates in its place, hard, lightweight pebbles that can be conveniently transported to a recycler.

An additional environmental benefit of the Polycycle is that the resulting pebble-like material can be fed directly into a recycling line – helping to reduce the carbon footprint required to recycle EPS.

Pioneer is currently processing around one tonne of used EPS a week and selling it direct to one of the UK's leading EPS recyclers, Robust Ltd in Ebbw Vale. Robust recycles the EPS into a clean bead and then either uses it



to make replacement hardwood decking or sells it as a recycled grade raw material that can be used to manufacture coat hangers, picture frames and disposable cameras.

Next-tec has been manufacturing the Polycycle range of machines for two years and has already sold 22 to the US, Finland, France and the UK.

www.next-tec-ltd.com

“Pioneer will be able to pay back their investment in between 18 months to two years.”

School Uses EPS Seed Trays to Teach ICT

EPS Packaging Group member, Styropack UK has donated 100 EPS seed trays to Westbrook Hay, an independent school in Hertfordshire with pupils between 2 and 13 years old.

The trays are being used for an ICT project for boys in year 8 who are 13 years old. The aim of the project is to grow plants to sell to parents at a plant sale in May 2007.

"The boys have learned how polystyrene has all the right properties to make the trays strong, light easy to handle to keep the roots well insulated," says Robin Kenyon, Head of ICT.

In March 2007 the boys planted the seeds of popular flowers in the EPS seed trays and installed them in a greenhouse. Sensors that



measure the soil moisture and temperature were placed in the seed trays.

The information collected by the sensors was sent to the school weather station every 15 minutes and displayed on the school website. The pupils can even monitor the growing conditions of the seedlings on their PC at home.

In summer term 2007 the boys will set up

spreadsheets to model their 'income' 'cost' and 'potential profit'. They will produce publicity material to advertise their plant sale including leaflets and posters and they will produce a web page for each plant type for the customers to browse before they buy.

The commercial aim is to make a profit after paying some of the capital costs and all of the running costs in the first year. Profit will go towards buying equipment for the project next year or to the school's charity — the Asian Clean Water Appeal.

"We are very pleased to support this imaginative ICT project and we have made sure that the school knows how to re-use the old seed trays and that EPS is 100% recyclable!" says Richard Lee, Sales Director, Styropack UK.

New Member – New Company

DCB Mouldings became a member of the EPS Packaging Group in January 2007. In March 2007, DCB Mouldings took over another Group member, LINPAC Moulded Foams, creating a major new player with a new name — Moulded Foams.

Moulded Foams has four sites in Glasgow, Lerwick, Tonypany and Scunthorpe and Managing Director, John Thornberry is keen to support the activities of the EPS Packaging Group: "It is very useful for our industry to work together to promote EPS and to increase recycling.

"Working with top designer, Tom Dixon to manufacture and promote EPS chairs

was a great way to showcase EPS as a versatile material that can be used for packaging — and for many other products.

"The EPS recycling figures for 2006 are excellent. The work done by the Group to provide information, advice and support is undoubtedly the reason for this success. I am sure Moulded Foams will continue to play a central role in the EPS Packaging Group, especially as the current Chairman runs our Scunthorpe site!"

The arrival of a large manufacturer like Moulded Foams continues the trend of consolidation with the UK EPS packaging industry during the past ten years.



John Thornberry, MD Moulded Foams.

BPF NEWS

BPF Defends Plastic Packaging

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) has stepped up to defend plastic packaging and to counter some of misconceptions and prejudices against it.

BPF Director General Peter Davis appeared on *You and Yours* on BBC Radio 4, he said: "Plastics packaging is essential in the logistics of feeding 60m people three meals a day. It reduces food wastage into landfill by protecting the produce and increasing its shelf life."

Philip Law, BPF's Industrial and Public Affairs Director appeared on the BBC Radio



Peter Davis, BPF Director General

Five Live Drive time show, he said: "Plastic packaging plays an important role in avoiding wastage by reducing damage to produce and products in the supply chain."

The BPF is holding a series of seminars for the UK's five major retailers in conjunction with PAFA and PlasticsEurope. The seminars will tackle some of the common

misconceptions about plastic packaging and provide accurate information and data.

In addition, on Wednesday 13 June, the BPF hosted a seminar, *Plastics Packaging: Key Trends for the Future in the Advanced Manufacturing Park, Rotherham.*

Presentations from PlasticsEurope, Farapack Polymers and WRAP covered topics such as design, smart polymers and insights into the global packaging industry.

If you would like more information please contact Doreen Greenaway doreenaway@bpf.co.uk.



Small Carbon Footprint

- An EPS box is 98% air and only 2% material — a uniquely efficient use of material and resources.
- EPS provides outstanding protection and insulation for valuable and temperature-sensitive products.

