



# e-Zine investPenang

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## Recycling

### Dutch firm plans plastic Pacific island

Netherlands-based Whim Architecture has proposed a plan to build an island the size of Hawaii made entirely from plastic waste. The man-made habitat would use the 44 million kilos of plastic waste floating in the Pacific Ocean as its raw material.

According to the company, the Recycled Island project has three goals: "Cleaning our oceans [of] a gigantic amount of plastic waste, creating new land and constructing a sustainable habitat."

"The ocean has become our biggest dump. Because of the circular currents, these plastics will never reach land and will stay in the ocean forever," added Whim Architecture.

The aim is to create a floating environment for 500,000 people, powered by solar energy and wave motion.

(Source: European Plastics News, July 1, 2010)

### Paper Demand— An Insight

Although the North American economic mood is indecisive, paper recyclers can take comfort owing the ongoing global demand for the commodity they have, on looking the recent price history of major scrap paper grades we could able to see up and down sharply on monthly basis. Earlier it was \$ 75 per ton in 2002 and move nearly \$110 per ton average at the end of the first half of 2010. However, currently old newspaper is selling around \$ 105 per ton rising from \$ 75 per ton in 2002.

Prices for old newspapers show similar but less sharp trends, with the moving average having gone from

about \$75 per ton in 2002 to around \$105 per ton currently and it is being a headaches for mills and recyclers on supply side owing to short-supply in the last 10 years. Moreover, there has risen in prominence for mixed paper in the past 10 years because of continuous buying from Chinese mills.

Market experts predicted with an upward trend from 2010 to 2015 corrugated cardboard (OCC) which might stable at around \$ 120 for the 2011.

(Source: RecycleInMe, June 29, 2010)

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*"There must be a reason why some people can afford to live well. They must have worked for it. I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use."*

by Mother Teresa

## One-third of EPS in UK was recycled last year



*“But as population became denser, the natural chemical and biological recycling processes became overloaded, calling for a redefinition of property rights.”*

by Garrett Hardin

In 2009, 5,031 tonnes of expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging were recycled in the UK, the EPS Group of the British Plastics Federation has reported.

This total represents approximately 33% of the EPS packaging manufactured in the UK, says the group, well over the government recycling target of 25.5% for all plastics by 2010.

David Emes, chairman of the EPS Group, said: “The BPF EPS Group works hard to support and encourage the recycling of EPS packaging. We list EPS recyclers on our website and offer information and advice by email and phone too.

“So we are very pleased that – once again – the UK’s EPS recycling tonnage increased.”

Almost all EPS recycling is carried out by businesses; some recycle the packaging that goods arrive in; others collect used packaging from customers.

Emes added: “EPS is a single polymer species and is therefore easy to recycle; consequently there is a huge demand for used EPS in the UK. In fact, many recyclers want to increase the tonnage that they process.

“Unfortunately, it is difficult for householders to return EPS because local authorities do not recycle it – as they do other items such as cardboard, glass or plastic bottles.

“Last year Guernsey set up an EPS recycling scheme for both householders and businesses, and it has been very successful. We hope that a mainland UK local authority will consider leading the way here with such a scheme.

“Then we could see another increase in the tonnage of EPS that is recycled and put to good use, rather than thrown away,” concluded Emes.

(Source: PRW.com, July 6, 2010)

## Europe pushes for more electronics plastics recycling

An influential European Parliament committee is pushing for a steep increase in electronic plastics recycled and reused within the European Union.

This move comes in amendments tabled to planned reforms of the European Union's waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) directive by the parliament's environment committee.

These say that EU member states should collect at least 85 percent of WEEE generated in their country by 2016. This would be a significant increase on the 65 percent proposed by the European Commission.

The committee added that the way of calculating these targets should also be changed, being henceforth based on actual waste rather than the Commission's idea of using a proportion of new products sent to retailers.

A committee statement said: "Targets should be based on real waste because older goods are of-

ten stored or given away, rather than thrown away."

Moreover, the committee voted to change an existing interim collection target for 2012. Members of parliament said this should be the volume of electrical waste collected this year, if that is greater than an existing 4 kg. (8.8 pounds) per capita target. They added that member states should be free to set higher national targets.

The committee also voted for solar panels to be exempted from the directive altogether. The statement said this was "bearing in mind the photovoltaic industry's voluntary target to recycle 85 percent of modules."

It also backed exemptions for vehicles, military material and fixed industrial installations. These exemptions will be reviewed within five years.

(Source: Plastics News.com June 25, 2010)

*"Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value."*

by R. Buckminster Fuller



## UK recycling firm secures mobile recycling deal in Middle East

*Phone recycling service will offer cash for old mobiles at Middle East electronics chain.*

ShP, a Lancaster-based recycling firm, has bagged a multi-million pound contract to offer mobile phone recycling service to the Middle East. ShP's consumer brand Mopay.co.uk, has collaborated with Emax, an electrical retail chain in the Middle East, to launch 'Cash for Mobiles' program.

Emax, which is the electronics arm of the \$3.2bn Landmark Group retail chain, will make available the 'Cash for Mobiles' at all Emax 'big box' electronics stores in the UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Customers can bring an old phone into the store. The phone will be instantly assessed and the customer will get cash in return. The phones will then be recycled by ShP.

The working phones will be refurbished and sent to developing nations, while the company will reprocess the non-working phones according to the WEEE Directive which sets environmental recycling standards for electrical items.

Simon Walsh, co-founder of ShP, said: "Our expansion into the Middle East proves there is huge demand for global mobile phone recycling and as the UK's first mobile phone recycler we are in prime position to roll out our tried and tested business models worldwide.

"We plan to recycle three million mobiles a year in the Middle East by 2013 which will dramatically reduce electronic wastage and greatly assist communication in developing nations with old phones being put to use."

(Source: NewStatesman, June 29, 2010)



*"Source reduction is, on the face it, perhaps the most appealing of all the possible approaches to solid-waste management."*

by William Rathje and Cullen Murphy