

Case Study

Alternative Packaging Materials

Organisations Involved: Airbus, Shakspeare Glass, Childrens Scrapstore

THE CHALLENGE

Airbus are a leading aircraft manufacturer and import a number of specialist and highly sensitive items and materials.

In addition to easily recycled packaging, this also gives rise to a number of plastic foams from a variety of polymers and in various quantities. These foams vary from very small offcuts to over three metres in length.



THE SOLUTION

Collecteco cleared about 100 cubic yards of this waste stream as an alternative to sending it to landfill – enough to cover at least one football pitch!

Recycling was not an option because there were too many different polymers and the machinery required for a “one-off” didn’t justify the investment. Energy from waste was an option to avoid landfill, but only if all else failed and even then we would need to pre-shred some material.

Reuse opportunities quickly arose for this waste stream in the form of alternatives to virgin packaging materials for The Chrysalis and Shakespeare Glass, “making wastethings playthings” with the Children’s Scrapstore who used the large sections for their PlayPods and an archery centre that used the foam as a buffer for missed shots.

It took over six months to reuse all of the foam, but The Chrysalis is a 20,000 square foot, racked-out facility, which means we have the ability to store large quantities of reusables and that gives us time to find homes for “difficult” materials.

THE RESULTS

- ✓ CO2 Reduction
- ✓ Jobs/Training Created: Collection, Warehousing, Delivery, Income for Scrapstore
- ✓ Landfill Diverted: 750kg



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