

Teddy Bears

The Problem

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) packaging material fulfils a very important role - by protecting the product, it serves to reduce damage and therefore wastage. However, for companies in the supply chain that end up with large volumes of EPS, it represents a disposal headache. Light and voluminous, it fills skips quickly, thereby representing a disproportionate cost relative to its weight. Furthermore, its lightness means that a breeze can result in EPS all around the factory yard - which is made all the worse if the polystyrene gets broken. Densifiers exist but these are usually only viable for companies handling large volumes of EPS such as the fish processing sector. For a mid-sized company with clean, white polystyrene packaging waste, it is an ongoing issue.

The Solution

For a number of years, Re:Sourcing UK has signposted companies with clean, white EPS waste to an innovative company in Doncaster. "The Stuffing Plant" collect or accept polystyrene and shred it down to use as a filler in teddy bears. These toys (and other products such as beanbags) are sold at outlets such as fairgrounds and theme parks across the UK. According to the Stuffing Plant's Operational Manager, Harry Schmidt, such process provides an ideal recovery route with a strong story. "So much plastic including EPS is sent overseas," he says. "The Stuffing Plant create toys for the UK market, keeping investment and jobs here as well as bringing smiles to the owners of the toys."

re:sourcing UK

Resource Innovation Case Study

Re:Sourcing UK is a practical service delivered by Link2Energy Ltd. At the forefront of developing creative solutions for companies with bulk industrial waste, Re:Sourcing UK solves problems through the application of Industrial Symbiosis and Resource Innovation.



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