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RECYCLER GIVES NEW LEASE OF LIFE TO OLD CONSTRUCTION HARD HATS

Construction company Morgan Sindall has joined forces with innovative plastic recycler 2K Manufacturing to give more than 4,000 of its disused construction hard hats a new lease of life.

The Luton-based recycler and manufacturer has processed the construction company’s old hard hats into environmentally-friendly plywood substitute boards – known as EcoSheet – which will be used on its construction sites all over the UK. Using innovative moulding technology, 2K Manufacturing has transformed the hard hats into sustainable EcoSheet boards which can be reused and recycled again and again.

Morgan Sindall was formed earlier this year following the merger of Morgan Sindall Group plc’s construction and infrastructure divisions which operated under the Morgan Ashurst, Morgan Est and Morgan Professional Services brand names. The formation of the new business meant that more than 4,000 branded hard hats would need to be replaced. Rather than disposing of the old hats, the company approached 2K Manufacturing to turn the hats into EcoSheet.

Peter Ball, 2K Manufacturing’s head of sales, explains: “The groundbreaking technology we use to produce our award-winning EcoSheet boards is enabling us to bring a new lease of life to some of the four million hard hats that are produced each year in this country alone. We enjoy working closely with construction companies like Morgan Sindall to help reduce the amount of waste
they commit to landfill by providing sustainable solutions which benefit them both commercially and environmentally.”

Brian Handcock, Morgan Sindall head of sustainability and environment, adds: “In the past, it has been standard practice in the construction industry to send hard hats to landfill when they need to be replaced. As a company, we make every effort to limit the amount of waste we send to landfill and try to reuse materials and old equipment wherever possible, so when our old branded hard hats had to be removed from service, we wanted to find a way of using them again.”

Morgan Sindall collected up hard hats from offices and construction sites all over the UK and transported them to 2K Manufacturing’s headquarters in Luton where they were moulded into *EcoSheet*.

“*EcoSheet* is an excellent piece of technology for the construction industry because it removes the need for using plywood boards on site which cannot be recycled,” says Brian. “We’ve been really impressed with the results and are already using *EcoSheet* boards on a number of our construction projects.”

**Ends**

**Photos:**
A selection of hi-resolution photos are available featuring Peter Ball, 2K Manufacturing’s head of sales and Brian Handcock, Morgan Sindall’s head of sustainability and environment, with some of the 4,000 hard hats that have now been recycled into EcoSheet.

**For more information about EcoSheet or 2K Manufacturing, please contact Intelligent Profile:**

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About EcoSheet
EcoSheet is a recycled product which is set to revolutionise the construction and sign industries. EcoSheet is the world’s first recycled plastic plywood substitute made entirely from recycled waste mixed plastics that is 100% recyclable at end of life.

Using a unique technological process, Powder Impression Moulding, low grade mixed waste plastic – consumer, industrial and construction waste - is turned into a robust and versatile plastic board for many different purposes that can be used again and again, creating a complete closed loop system.

EcoSheet is being used by the construction industry initially because of the environmental impact relating to plywood. Over 25 million plywood sheets are used annually which are not recyclable and have to be landfilled. EcoSheet has been trialled as a sustainable alternative by a number of high profile construction companies. It outperforms imported plywood commercially, operationally and environmentally.

The Luton factory will reprocess 30,000 tonnes of low grade waste plastic, which would otherwise go to landfill or be incinerated, in its first year of operation. And there are plans to open many more production sites located near consumer waste streams in the UK which will enable the production of up to four million pieces of EcoSheet each year.

EcoSheet offers the following benefits to users:

- Flat with no face defect issues
- Impervious to rain and humidity and can be stored outdoors
- No painting needed to protect it, but it can be painted
- Available in corporate colours
- Both sides are "A" faces
- Can be jet-washed between uses
- High fixing strength - it can be nailed with 50mm round wire nails, screwed and glued
- Standard sizes: 2440 x 1220
- Generally lighter than plywood
- Cut edges do not need to be resealed
- Cuts with standard tools, yet without splinters or breakout
- Face repairs are easy and effective
- Cost is similar to plywood
- At end-of-life boards can be returned to 2K Manufacturing for recycling, thereby avoiding disposal cost
- THE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION
About Morgan Sindall
Morgan Sindall is a UK construction, infrastructure and design business with a national network of local offices. We employ over 4,800 people who work for private and public sector customers on projects from £50,000 to over £500 million. Our activities range from small works and repair and maintenance, to the design and delivery of complex construction and engineering projects where we are able to provide specialist tunnelling, utilities, building, civil engineering and mechanical and electrical services. We operate across the commercial, defence, education, energy, healthcare, industrial, leisure, retail, waste, water and transport sectors. With revenues in excess of £1.5 billion, Morgan Sindall is part of Morgan Sindall Group plc, a leading UK construction and regeneration group operating through four divisions of fit out, construction and infrastructure, affordable housing and urban regeneration, and an investment unit.

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