



# MINIMISING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

## Recycling Operations

Recycling sits at the very heart of our operations, and we are proud to be the leading UK-based recycler of PVC windows.

### Why we recycle

Our recycling operation will always be at the heart of our sustainability strategy. Expanding recycling improves product and business sustainability, with less plastic going to landfill. The principal benefits fall into three categories:

### Carbon savings

An independent study by the University of Manchester found that displacing 1 tonne of virgin PVC with 1 tonne of recycled window PVC results in a reduction of approximately 1.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This calculation compares the full life cycle carbon emissions associated with the production of virgin PVC with emissions from the window recycling process. As a result, our recycling operation saves substantial amounts of carbon compared to the use of virgin PVC.

### Commercial

We can leverage the sustainability aspects of our recycling operation with our customer base, consumers, and other stakeholders. Closed-loop recycling (where windows being replaced are recycled into the new product) is attractive to decision makers such as local authorities and architects, which helps us develop tight specifications for our products.

### Economic

Recycling also increases our profits, because the cost of recycled compound is typically lower through the cycle than the price of virgin material, and it reduces our exposure to volatile commodity prices. This is particularly important at the moment, with prices remaining high and significant uncertainty in the market.

### What we do

Our recycling process essentially turns old window profiles into new window profiles. We recycle both customer factory offcuts (post-industrial waste) and old windows that have been replaced with new (post-consumer waste) to produce recycled material in the form of pellets, micronised and granulate material which are then used to generate brand new extruded products.



**OUR WELL-DEVELOPED CHANNELS FOR RECOVERY AND RECYCLING ALLOW OLD FRAMES TO BE RECYCLED AND REPROCESSED INTO NEW PRODUCTS UP TO TEN TIMES WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF QUALITY."**

We operate an advanced co-extrusion process, which delivers recycled material to the profile core. External surfaces are protected using virgin PVC compound, providing a high-quality, resilient finish. The recycling process actually enhances product stability and can be repeated around ten times, giving the product an effective lifetime of approximately 100 years.

Our co-extruded profiles are designed to deliver enhanced thermal efficiency, with better U-values than wood or aluminium alternatives and low thermal conductivity.

We have two recycling plants, located in Ilkeston (Eurocell Recycle Midlands) and Selby (Eurocell Recycle North). Both sites operate under Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control ('IPPC') permit conditions, and both successfully retained their permitted status. The environmental management systems and manuals forming the basis of our ISO 14001 accreditations continue to evolve, with particular progress being made at Eurocell Recycle North. All accreditations were successfully maintained in 2022.

### How much we invest

Between 2016 and 2022, we invested c.£12 million to expand capacity at our two recycling plants to become the leading UK-based recycler of PVC windows, along with the associated economic benefits.

### How much we recycle

During the year, our two sites recycled 37.9k tonnes (equivalent to more than three million window frames) of post-consumer waste, which would have otherwise been sent to landfill, and 8.5k tonnes of post-industrial waste. Total waste collected of 46.4k tonnes represents a small reduction from 2021 (48.2k tonnes), reflecting slightly lower primary extrusion production volumes.

Together the two sites used this waste to produce 27.4k tonnes of recycled material (2021: 28.5k tonnes), at a similar percentage yield to 2021. It should be noted that very little of the resulting by-product goes to landfill, with a significant proportion representing scrap metal, which is sold.

