

Plastics and rubber industry sees out a tough 2011

2011 was a challenging year for plastics and rubber businesses engaged in international trade - and 2012 promises to be no different.

The Euro hit its highest rate in 18 months in January 2012. Towards the end of 2011, it was widely reported there were only a matter of weeks to save the Euro, well the weeks have come and gone and the crisis still rumbles on.

Many businesses have been forced to absorb higher raw material costs, coupled with currency fluctuations and both seller and consumer are losing out.

There is no easy way forward - but a more guarded view of the financial markets may prove beneficial.

More plastics recycling a key 2012 focus

Increasing UK plastics recycling tonnages will be a key focus for 2012 as the sector continues to extend pioneering work done on PET and HDPE bottles recycling. With UK plastic bottle recycling rates nudging 50% for drink and dairy bottles there is certainly room for improvement.

While full mixed plastics collections are very popular with local authorities, they can only realistically be initiated when processing infrastructure is in place, otherwise recovery of the materials that are currently targeted will actually decrease. Greater emphasis on rigid post-consumer plastic packaging and films could also lead to more 'co-ordinated' approaches in overcoming challenges presented by these more difficult-to-recycle waste streams.

Update on polyolefins

The global demand for thermoplastics is expected to grow by around 100,000 tonnes by 2015, driven by the developing economies. Polyethylene comprises 35% of this market and polypropylene is 24%.

The key applications for PE are packaging at 69% and infrastructure at 11%, while for PP the percentages are 43% in packaging and 11% in automotive and appliances.

SPECIAL FEATURE



Case Study: Eaves Fillers

ZOUCHfoam IXPE 30 eaves fillers are an efficient way of maintaining the stability of a roof against strong winds. They also allow enough air flow to circulate around the building to avoid the build-up of condensation with lower levels of humidity in the batten cavity.

Zouch Converters have been in the business of manufacturing eaves and ridge foam to the UK and beyond for a number of years now. Every project is treated as bespoke with an experienced and knowledgeable member of the team at hand to guide you through the process.

ZOUCHfoam IXPE 30 eaves fillers are manufactured in high quality PE (Expanded Polyethylene), EPDM faced polyethylene and EPDM and can be made to suit any profile and all applications.



**For more information
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