Press Release 10th March 2021

Smartawood ® contributes to UK Net Zero Goals

Plastecowood is delighted to confirm that its Smartawood ® range of recycled plastic lumber and assembled products continues to expand into new applications that contribute to achieving the UK Net Zero Goals

Smartawood ® is created in Rhyl, North Wales using a proprietary process, which the company believes is the most cost effective process in the world at converting unwanted mixed waste plastic into a useful, durable, reusable and recyclable product that can be used in a wide range of applications.

Smartawood ® (which comes with a minimum 10 year manufacturer's warrantee) lasts many times longer than timber and never releases its captured carbon into the atmosphere. At the end of its long use time it can even be fully recycled by the manufacturer into further Smartawood ® products, whereas wood rots over relative short time periods and releases all the CO2 captured as a growing tree, straight back into the atmosphere.

Every tonne of Smartawood ® created saves at least 700kg of carbon from landfill, recycles over 25,000 plastic containers and saves 2.5 trees from being chopped down.

Whilst not only saving forests, avoiding carbon being lost to landfill or incineration and recycling unwanted, difficult to recycle mixed plastics, it also contributes to the ability of the wider public being able to enjoy the great British outdoors in a socially distanced manner.

Local authorities realised other benefits of Smartawood ® in that it has a low slip surface and does not absorb moisture. This avoids the "wet bum" moment when sitting on wooden structures after a rain shower – the wood absorbs water, becomes slippy and gives users wet backsides if sat on. By contrast, Smartawood ® can be immediately wiped dry and does not absorb rainfall so benches and seats made from the material can be immediately enjoyed without problems after inclement weather. Denbighshire County Council were amongst several organisations to deploy large numbers of socially distanced picnic tables for their residents during 2020 in order to increase the amenities for their residents and visitors.

A large variety of other organisations have also seen the benefits of substituting wood. All of these users are helping to reduce carbon losses by choosing a smarter route to their activities.

- The RSPB have used Smartawood ® at their Rainham Marshes nature reserve, in order to replace the rotting wooden boardwalks.
- Pubs have used the material for pub gardens and outdoor furniture.
- Potato growers have used the material to make potato boxes.
- Garden centres use the material instead of wood for display tables that never rot and never need painting.
- European industrial manufacturers have used the strength of Smartawood to make robust shipping structures for high value end products, in order to both store and ship them all over the world.

In order to meet our NET ZERO global and UK goals, many commentators are now realising that removing plastics from incineration streams and sending it to mechanical recyclers like Plastecowood is the way forward. https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/study-remove-plastic-from-waste-sent-to-incinerators-to-meet-net-zero-goals/

So if we want to meet our Net Zero Goals, we need to evaluate the carbon released from rotting wooden structures, the carbon incinerated in waste and the trees that are lost as carbon absorbing sinks.

Save forests – Use Smartawood ®

End…….

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Notes to Editors:

Trees Saved

This government guide tells you how many trees are needed to make 5 cubic metres of timber

Rough guide to calculating timber volumes - Gov.uk

Essentially it says that it takes 10 trees (10 metres high and 25cm diameter) to make 5 cubic metres of timber. That is the same as 4 tonnes of Smartawood ® which is about 5 cubic metres too.

So every tonne of Smartawood ® saves approximately 2.5 softwood trees (10 m high and 25cm (mid-height) diameter) from being chopped down.

Containers Saved

Most containers in the UK are lighter than a 40 gramme 4 pint milk bottle. ***So 1 tonne of Smartawood material is the equivalent of recycling at least 25,000 four pint milk bottles.***

If you would use a more typical 28 gramme 2pint milk bottle as a proxy for the weight of the average container, the calculation of the number of containers recycled would be much higher than 25,000 containers.

Carbon Saved

Smartawood is made almost entirely from mixed waste polypropylene, low and high density polyethylene which was originally used to make food packaging and would otherwise go to landfill or incineration.

If one calculates the carbon content of these materials it is at least 70% carbon by weight. ***So every tonne of Smartawood ® produced has captured over 700kg of carbon.***