

## **UK's first 'closed loop' PVC-U window recycling project completed in Manchester**

The UK's first installation of PVC-U windows, manufactured from 98 per cent recycled old post-consumer end of life PVC-U window frames, has been completed by a Manchester social housing provider.

Northwards Housing, which manages and maintains almost 13,000 properties across the North of the city, completed the pioneering refurbishment program in March.

Delivered by preferred partner and principal contractor, Manchester Working, social housing specialist, Wrekin Windows and New Charter, the project drew on the technical innovation in PVC-U technology to recover and recycle old 'waste' material.

Installed in 18 properties, the windows frames were manufactured solely from old end of life recycled material, other than for a thin virgin foiled 'skin', added to ensure colour uniformity. This represents a first for the social housing sector but also marks a significant leap forward in PVC-U building material sustainability.

This old material was recovered and reprocessed by Wrekin Windows and its sister companies, leading PVC-U recycler Dekura and window systems leader Profile 22, both part of the Epwin Group, from the replacement of windows on a nearby tower block.

Elliot Simm, home improvement service manager, Northwards Housing, said: "We have two main priorities: to improve the properties that we manage to make them a more, comfortable and secure home environment for our residents and second, to manage and maintain those properties sustainably.

"We have committed to a wholesale replacement of single glazed timber windows across our portfolio with energy efficient PVC-U windows and doors and this pilot project sits within that program.

"The recovery, reprocessing and ultimately installation of new PVC-U windows manufactured from what was waste material from our earlier tower block refurbishment by lead contractor Manchester Working, Wrekin and our other supply partners, is testimony to our commitment to drive sustainable practices throughout our estates management program.

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“More widely, we believe that it represents a significant step forward for sustainability in refurbishment in social housing but also PVC-U as a building material.”

The Dekura service is unique in the UK, able to offer a post-consumer end of life recycling service in addition to the reprocessing of manufacturing off-cuts. A fully accredited member of Recovynyl, the recycler also offers full cycle traceability on all of the material that it collects.

This allows social housing providers and contractors to follow old material through the recycling process, providing demonstrable and auditable trail that can be used to support the site waste management planning process.

PVC-U windows have achieved top ratings with an ‘A+’ rating for commercial and ‘A’ rating for domestic windows in the Building Research Establishments Green Guide, to building material sustainability published in the summer.

Energy efficient, low maintenance and fully recyclable, the guide recognises that PVC-U products can play an important part alongside other materials in modern construction.

David Wrigley, technical director, Dekura said: “Massive advances have been made in PVC-U sustainability in the past 10 years. It’s still low maintenance, its energy efficient and it can be and is being recycled.

“What is now critical is that we are able to intercept waste material at end of life and that means working with the social housing sector to make sure that as part of their refurbishment programmes they make sure that the supply partners they select have the capacity to recycle post-consumer waste and are committed to doing so as part of project delivery.”

**ENDS**

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**Picture captions:**

Image one: Fully recycled energy efficient PVC-U windows replace old timber windows

Image two: Installation of fully recycled PVC-U windows at Corris Avenue, North Manchester

Image three: Corris Avenue resident, Elaine Green, in front of new windows, Corris Avenue.

More images are available on request.

**Notes to editors:**

**Northwards Housing**

Northwards Housing took over the management of almost 13,000 City Council homes in north Manchester in December 2005. It is a three star (top rated), not-for-profit organisation created by residents and the City Council to deliver first class housing services. Council house residents in the area voted overwhelmingly (91%) for Northwards Housing in a ballot in September 2005.

This Northwards Housing has access to millions of pounds of additional funding to pay for vital improvements to bring all its housing stock up to the Decent Homes Standard. The Government's Audit Commission inspectors reviewed Northwards Housing's performance in November 2008 and awarded the organization with a three star rating with excellent prospects (the highest accreditation that an ALMO can achieve).

For further information visit [www.northwardshousing.co.uk](http://www.northwardshousing.co.uk) or call 0161 227 3191.

**Manchester Working**

Manchester Working is a joint venture company with an 80 per cent ownership by Morrison Facilities Services. With a workforce of over 550 skilled tradesmen and project managers, the company's bedrock is formed by a highly experienced team, which is committed to the delivery of great services. The company is able to provide the widest range of maintenance, facilities management and capital works services, working across a number of operational environments from housing, public buildings and education facilities to commercial and leisure buildings.

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Services offered by the company include: housing repairs and maintenance; housing capital works and decent homes programmes; housing voids maintenance; public and commercial buildings planned preventative and reactive maintenance services; hard and soft service delivery; life cycle replacement programme delivery; education and leisure facilities management; commercial buildings facilities management; specialist services including gas servicing, asbestos removal, lift maintenance, water treatment, access and security systems; asset management

For further information ring business development on 0161 274 0900 or visit [www.morrisonplc.com](http://www.morrisonplc.com)

### **Wrekin Windows**

Since 1985 Wrekin Windows has exclusively specialised in social housing, developing a clear understanding of the sector's requirements and an enviable reputation in delivering high quality low maintenance PVC-U windows and composite doors to the market.

Wrekin Windows ongoing product development addresses safety, security, energy efficiency and special needs and all products are rigorously and constantly tested in-house and externally by accredited independent agencies.

Wrekin offers a complete service from design through to resident liaison by way of local representation and dedicated office and field-based services.

For further information on the full range of products from Wrekin Windows, call 01952 205000, email [info@wrekin-windows.co.uk](mailto:info@wrekin-windows.co.uk) or visit [www.wrekin-windows.co.uk](http://www.wrekin-windows.co.uk).

### **Dekura**

Collecting waste from more than 1,000 window and door fabricators nationwide and a fully accredited member of Recovinly, Dekura is the largest and the UK's leading PVC-U recycler.

Uniquely in the UK the company is not only able to recycle waste generated in the fabrication process but also post-consumer waste generated from old early generation PVC-U windows.

Dekura also offers full cycle traceability on this process. This allows housing associations to follow the recycling process from beginning to end. The Dekura offer also includes a full Site Waste Management Plan service.

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For more information on Dekura's visit [www.dekura.co.uk](http://www.dekura.co.uk), email [enquiries@dekura.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dekura.co.uk), 0800 652 7585.

## **Profile 22**

With unparalleled experience in the supply of low maintenance, high security and sustainable PVC-U windows, doors and curtain walling to social sector Profile 22 is at the forefront of innovation in window system building technology. Underpinned by an established network of fabricators and installers it offers support through the specification process offering support from project inception to completion. This includes offering guidance on initial project planning, regulation and product selection through to contract tender and delivery.

It is also a leader in sustainable innovation within the PVC-U industry. Unveiling the first PVC-U window manufactured from 100 per cent recycled material at ecobuild in 2008. In 2009 it launched a new eco-based system combining advanced performance energy efficient window technology, with a cavity closer manufactured from 98 per cent post-consumer 'waste' PVC-U and a sill system with a 92 per cent recycled content.

For more information on Profile 22's range of next generation high performance products visit [www.profile22.co.uk](http://www.profile22.co.uk), email [specifier@profile22.co.uk](mailto:specifier@profile22.co.uk) or call 01952 290910