

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Recycled energy efficient PVC-U window by Wrekin Windows scoops top product award at the National Recycling Awards 2009**

Wrekin Windows, the specialist supplier of low maintenance energy efficient PVC-U windows to the social housing sector, has claimed the Best Recycled Product Award at the National Recycling Awards 2009.

Manufactured from window profile made from 100 per cent recycled PVC-U, the pioneering energy efficient windows were installed in a pilot project, completed for Manchester social housing provider, Northwards Housing in March.

Manufactured by Wrekin, the pioneering energy efficient windows were foiled with a thin virgin skin (two per cent) to ensure colour uniformity giving a total recycled content of 98 per cent.

This joint commitment to recycle PVC-U building materials and deliver a new generation of thermally efficient products was highlighted by judges at the award ceremony, held at the Hilton, Park Lane in front of an audience of more than 500 guests from across a wide range of sectors.

Jim Rawson, chairman, of Wrekin parent company, the Epwin Group, said: "To win the Best Recycled Product Award 2009 against some very stiff competition from a wide range of sectors, is a fantastic achievement and shows just how far we, not only as a Group but as an industry, have moved forward.

"PVC-U is an exceptionally flexible material that is low maintenance and thermally efficient in life and can be effectively recycled and re-extruded at end of life. It simply makes sense to recycled and to use recycled product, both environmentally but as part of an effective business or estate management strategy."

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) has already awarded PVC-U an 'A' and 'A plus' Green Guide rating – for a large part in recognition of the growing volume of PVC-U now being recycled. The activity of Wrekin Windows and other Epwin Group businesses has played a fundamental part in this shift - closing the loop on the recycling process.

Jim concluded: "For the moment, while Manchester remains a pilot project, what has been achieved is representative of a new offer from the PVC-U window and building products industry. That offer is a

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new generation of not only secure, energy efficient windows and doors and low maintenance roofline but also sustainable products that can be fully recycled at end of life.

“This, we believe, gives our products huge currency in delivering sustainable innovation within the construction and building industries and across sectors, whether retail, social housing refurbishment, new build or home improvement.”

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