

# news release

6 November 2007

## New market opportunities for recycled flat glass

New proposals making it easier to recycle the 6.6 million domestic windows that are replaced every year, into products such as filtration media and new windows were announced today by the Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) as part of the Waste Protocols Project<sup>1</sup>.

Developed in conjunction with industry representatives, the three-month consultation outlines proposals which, if adopted, will cut red tape for businesses that process waste flat glass by reducing the need to hold a number of permits and licences usually required to handle and use waste materials.

Martin Brocklehurst, Head of External Programmes at the Environment Agency said: "We create over 700,000 tonnes of waste flat glass each year. Currently only around 200,000 tonnes of this waste is recycled. The consultation on the Quality Protocol for processed cullet from waste flat glass proposes creating new business opportunities for companies that market and sell on processed flat glass by allowing them to get rid of the "waste" tag making it a more attractive product to buyers".

There are also considerable environmental benefits to be achieved from adopting the proposals outlined in the consultation, for example:

- re-melting processed flat glass reduces energy use by as much as 25 per cent over making glass from virgin raw materials:
- using recycled glass in the production of bricks can result in energy savings of up to 20 per cent; using a tonne of recycled glass as filtration media can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 1200 kg;
- recycling glass saves the need to use valuable raw materials: re-melting a tonne of waste flat glass saves 1.2 tonnes of raw materials from being extracted.

Processed flat glass cullet can be turned into a number of products such as flux used in brick manufacture, various types of filtration media as well as being used as a material on golf courses and other sport pitches and as an aggregate substitute used in building materials

Dr Richard Swannell from WRAP said: "Glass is a valuable material used by many different industries, and the flat glass industry has grown at a rate of 5% over the last 20 years, making it the second largest sector in the UK glass manufacturing industry."

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<sup>1</sup> The Waste Protocols Project is a joint project between WRAP and the Environment Agency funded by Defra's Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) programme. The project was launched in May 2006.

The launch of today's consultation is good news for the businesses operating in or with the flat glass market and we are keen to hear their comments and feedback on the proposals. If agreed, we believe the Quality Protocol will help increase business activity in the flat glass recycling market whilst also reducing the amount of waste flat glass that would normally end up in landfills. "

The consultation for the Quality Protocol for the production of cullet from waste flat glass can be found at: <http://gpyr1.dialoguebydesign.net/>. Further information on the Waste Protocols Project and applications forms can also be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>.

**Ends**

**Media enquiries: 020 7863 8710, or outside normal office hours, please contact the National Duty Press Officer on 07798 882 092**

**Environment Agency Media enquiries: 020 7863 8710, or outside normal office hours, please contact the National Duty Press Officer on 07798 882 092**

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### **About the Waste Protocols Project**

The Waste Protocols Project is set to launch 12-week consultations for 4 other Quality Protocols in the next two months. They are:

- The production of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil,
- Tyre-derived rubber materials,
- Non-packaging plastics,
- Pulverised fuel ash (PFA).

### **WRAP**

1. WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) is a major UK programme established to promote resource efficiency. Its particular focus is on creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products and removing the barriers to waste minimisation, re-use and recycling.
2. A not-for-profit company, WRAP is backed by substantial Government funding from Defra and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. ([www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)).