

Countrystyle processes  
100,000 tonnes of  
waste wood a year

# Investing in quality

**Becky Short**, Commercial Manager at Countrystyle Recycling Ltd, explains why as a Kent-based waste and resource management specialist the company is investing heavily in its wood recycling processing line in order to maximise quality

**When it comes to wood recycling, Countrystyle's aim is to constantly refine processing and improve efficiency for the customer without compromising quality.**

Furthermore, we also continually look to improve quality as we recognise that a high specification product is becoming ever more important to our end markets. This has led to significant investment in recent months in order to enhance efficiency, quality, and also health and safety of our wood processing line.

Countrystyle's wood recycling operation takes place at Ridham Sea Terminals on the River Swale, Kent, which is ideally located for onward shipping to export markets. The company has seen

the volume of waste wood processed increase from 40,000 to 100,000 tonnes in just three years.

Our systematic processing is the first step to ensuring quality. Upon arrival at Countrystyle's materials recovery facility, waste wood is graded into two categories, either high quality 'Grade A' clean wood, or 'Grade C' low quality dirty mixed wood. Initial checks of documentation at the weighbridge ensure that the delivery satisfies duty of care with a visual inspection. The incoming load is then tipped and verified again before processing.

The wood is then sorted to remove non-wood contaminants before being stockpiled awaiting processing.

Processing takes place including shredding, ferrous separation, screening and further non-ferrous separation. A final grading is also carried out which includes in-house laboratory testing for dust, particle size and composition to ensure the end product meets the prescribed specification for the market.

Typically 99% of incoming wood received is recycled into marketable products or recovered. We work hard to deliver a bespoke woodchip product for our clients that also meet quality protocols. In terms of output of wood products, Countrystyle produces some 30,000 tonnes per year of 'Grade A' woodchip for the panel board manufacturing sector and around 70,000

## “ We want to set the standard for sustainable quality end products ”

tonnes per year of 'C Grade' woodchip destined for biomass customers, predominantly in Scandinavia and Germany currently, where it is used in biomass boilers for heat generation.

Our customers tell us they value the superior quality of our 'Grade C' product; it has good calorific value, burns cleanly and has relatively low moisture content when compared to similar graded products.

We tightly-manage incoming wood waste quantities to match demand for our end products. For example, 'Grade C' woodchip export to Sweden has increased by 20% on the back of satisfied customers over the last 18 months which is excellent news for the company, but increases the challenge of sourcing sufficient waste wood of the right quality. The key to our success in producing high quality end products is the connection our operational staff have with our in-house sales team - end to end quality does matter.

Amongst recent contract wins, Countrystyle has secured a biomass export contract to Belgium as well as a contract to supply raw material to MVV Environment Ridham Ltd's soon to be fully commissioned combined heat and power biomass power plant. The result of these successes is that Countrystyle has been able to invest in and install new state-of-the-art processing equipment for wood on the Ridham Sea Terminals site.

As part of our drive to improve the quality of our processed waste wood product, Countrystyle has invested in its wood recycling line with the addition of an Eddy Current Separator, secondary magnet and integrated picking station.

The Eddy Current Separator allows



Countrystyle prides itself on its high quality end products

Countrystyle to separate non-ferrous metals (for example, aluminium, brass and copper) during the wood recycling process, the secondary magnet allows additional ferrous metal extraction, and the picking-line (to remove any further metals or rigid plastics) further enhances the quality of our end product.

The Eddy Current Separator works by using a magnetic rotor with alternating polarity, spinning rapidly inside a non-metallic drum working over a conveyor belt. The alternating magnetic field creates eddy currents in the non-ferrous metal particles, repelling the material away from the conveyor. While other materials drop off on to the conveyor, the non-ferrous

metals are propelled over a splitter as a separate fraction.

Not stopping there, Countrystyle has also invested further in its Ridham Dock site to improve safety and storage capacity with fire resistant bunkers, integrated fire and dust suppression systems, temperature monitoring and CCTV designed to identify potential hot spots.

The company's objective is simple. We want to provide tailored resource management services that exceed client expectation, drive innovation and set the standard for sustainable quality end products. For us therefore, investment of this nature is crucial.