

Business diversification for recycling firm passionate about plastics



Riverdale Paper has invested in a new UNTHA QR shredder to support the company's business diversification.

Overview

Company: Riverdale Paper

Shredder: UNTHA QR

Input Material: Plastic 'waste'

Output / Goal: Recycling

Gateshead-based Riversale paper quickly established itself as the North East's leading paper recycler. But contracts with some of the UK's largest commercial organisations in retail, financial services and public arenas, has seen demand for Riverdale's wider expertise grow.

Riverdale acknowledged the rising plastic challenges within industry and made the bold move into this recycling niche, in late 2017.

Now, the team is being increasingly tasked with tackling plastic waste including polypropylene, HDPE and pre-consumer material from the automotive industry, to name just a few.

With volumes of around five tonnes per week, the UNTHA QR1700 therefore made for the perfect purchase. With a current processing capacity of two tonnes per hour, the shredder is reducing the plastics to a <30mm fraction that is then sold on to reprocessors for granulation and recycling. The QR is also being configured to suit different plastic grades.

By carefully segregating and processing plastics in this manner, Riverdale is able to attract larger rebates than if the company was producing mixed bales.

This project marked the first QR installation in the UK. Developed in conjunction with recyclers worldwide, the shredder was 18 months in the making. It can process an array of materials including plastics, film, mixed rigids, packaging waste, pallets and wood for biomass.

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Key features include:

- Maintenance-free pusher technology for maximum yield and uptime
- Large chambers and greater drive power for increased throughputs up to 30m³ p/hour
- Interchangeable screen with 12-100mm diameters for varied fraction homogeneity
- Resilient drive for machine robustness and longevity
- Integrated gears for added maintenance simplicity
- Foreign object protection with safe and easy access for quick removal
- Touch screen control panel and remote diagnostics
- Variable drive configurations for optimum outputs
- Low wear parts to minimise whole life costs
- Ergonomic design for operator wellbeing

“The speed and simplicity of machine changeover is very impressive. The QR is also very easy to clean down which reduces the risk of cross-contamination. This is crucial, given recyclate quality has never been so important.”

“Plastic is a difficult material to handle, but despite the doom and gloom headlines, it is also a material rich with opportunity. We knew that by recycling a ‘waste’ stream that many other firms shy away from, we could provide a better overall service to both existing and new customers.”

**Kevin Brown, assistant general manager,
Riverdale**

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