

Repak Welcomes Opening of first sorting facility for Plastic in Ireland Additional Secondary Plant Justified

Repak, the industry funded used packaging recycling scheme has welcomed the opening of the first fully automatic sorting facility for plastic bottles in Ireland as a step forward for plastic recycling in Ireland.

According to Repak the €1.5m investment by Irish Polymers in its new plant in Crumlin, Co Antrim will help to process the 20,000 tonnes or almost 440 million plastic bottles collected on the island of Ireland in 2005.

Commenting on the announcement Darrell Crowe, Marketing and Sales Manager, Repak said "We welcome the fact that businesses now see the opportunities to maximise the value of plastic bottles by investing in primary sorting to add value to the material. We now believe that there are sufficient tonnages of plastic bottles being funded by Repak to justify an investment, not only in the sorting, but in the higher value adding stage of washing and chipping the material."

The collection of plastic bottles for recycling in the Republic has risen from under 2,000 tonnes in in 2002 to circa 15,000 tonnes in 2005, a 750% increase in 3 years. This equates to approximately 30% of all plastic bottles in the Republic of Ireland.. Ireland has a number of final stage recyclers of plastic bottles with Wellman in Meath manufacturing fleece material from PET bottles (lemonade bottles), JFC in Tuam manufacturing plastic pipes from HDPE (milk and shampoo bottles etc), The announcement by Irish Polymers will see much of the bottles collected in Ireland being diverted from export to added value primary processing in Ireland.

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