Composites UK Trade Association

Marine & Boat Recycling

SUSTAINABILITY: NET ZERO INITIATIVE

FINALIST: Marine & Boat Recycling

Marine & Boat Recycling has developed a circular approach to one of the marine industry's most significant environmental challenges: the end-of-life management of GRP vessels. Rather than treating vessels as waste, its process focuses on dismantling, material recovery, reuse, recycling and energy recovery, providing a zero-to-landfill alternative to traditional disposal.



To date, 862.8 tonnes of vessel material have been processed. Of this, 213.11 tonnes (24.70%) have been reused through recovered marine equipment and recycled composite products, while 252.81 tonnes (29.31%) have been recycled. In total, more than 54% of material has been retained within the circular economy, with the remaining material directed to waste-to-energy facilities rather than landfill.

The approach delivers measurable carbon benefits by avoiding landfill, reducing demand for virgin materials and extending the life of reusable equipment. In one recent 9.5-tonne vessel project, 52.32% of material was recycled and 47.68% sent to energy recovery, resulting in zero landfill and a net saving of 2.227 tonnes of CO_2e. Across the 862.8 tonnes processed to date, the company calculates carbon savings equivalent to 557 passenger flying hours.



The initiative provides vessel owners, marinas, insurers and local authorities with a responsible alternative to abandonment or landfill, supported by Environmental Reports documenting recovery rates and carbon savings. More than £750,000 worth of end-of-life vessels has been sustainably processed, with over £100,000 of reusable marine equipment returned to the market.

The company has invested more than £200,000 in infrastructure, equipment, permitting and staff development, alongside thousands of hours of internal resource. Partnerships with Agecko and Gen2Plank have helped develop sustainable recovery routes and viable applications for recycled GRP.

As recycled composite markets develop, Marine & Boat Recycling aims to increase the proportion of recovered GRP retained in productive use, reducing both waste and reliance on virgin materials.

Learn more at: www.marineandboatrecycling.co.uk