



Co-ordinated action by Recofloor, Altro, Hillside Contracts Ltd and BAM Construct UK led to Altro and Polyflor's commercial waste vinyl flooring collection scheme collecting an estimated 1.6 tonnes of material from a new school flooring project in Northamptonshire.

Weldon Village Academy, near Corby is a new secondary school with 1,500 students which opened in September 2023. BAM Construct UK and Mott MacDonald built the state-of-the-art three-storey facility. The flooring – 3,000 square metres of Altro Xpress Lay – was fitted by Hillside Contracts Ltd, a Recofloor member and one of the largest flooring contractors in the Midlands.

Collaboration from Altro sales representatives facilitated a meeting for the Recofloor team at the project site where the collection scheme was introduced to a supportive BAM Construct team. BAM's team approached Hillside and communication between the two companies led to setting up Recofloor's collection services for the 20-week duration of the vinyl flooring installation.

Hillside's Contracts Manager, Tom Sheppard says the decision to deploy Recofloor started at the tender stage. "There was an initial meeting with Altro prior to our starting work on site. Then it was down to

communication between me and BAM regarding organisational details.

We then got in touch with Recofloor and made everything happen, such as delivery of the lockable Recofloor bins."

Tom says the process all went smoothly and that "it was quite easy to organise". Hillside paid the Recofloor collection fees and were reimbursed by BAM.

An important consideration when deploying Recofloor on any project is to make other trades aware of the scheme's operation on site to ensure that collected material is kept separate and free from contamination.

Tom explains that this was addressed from the outset with messages sent round the contractors' WhatsApp groups informing them that the Recofloor lockable bins were solely used to collect vinyl offcuts. "There was also a general briefing and an email sent to all on site. Everyone was made aware and there was clear signage to say these recycling bins were just for Hillside's use."

Lockable Recofloor bins were used to keep the collected material clean and secure. They were sited in a central area on the ground floor so that they were the shortest distance from any part of the building.

Recofloor calculated that the 1.6 tonnes of vinyl offcuts recycled from the project saved 1.88 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The collected waste vinyl was equivalent to nine average-sized UK classrooms. This calculation is based on several factors such as the volumes collected, distance travelled, transport vehicles' efficiency and the material processing and recycling process of displacing concrete in traffic management products, the primary application for the recycled flooring.

Commenting on the Recofloor scheme, Tom says: "I think we value it quite highly and we do as much recycling as we can with all of different suppliers. We have space at our Leicester premises where we can store different materials for recycling. It's obviously beneficial for the environment, but then the other main factor is cost-driven as well."

On the cost-savings through recycling waste vinyl flooring versus using skips, he says: "It's hard to put an exact number on it, but if you fill one average-sized general waste skip per month, you're saving perhaps £5,000 per year by recycling waste vinyl flooring. Plus, saving that material from going to landfill or incineration."

Successfully using Recofloor at the two hospital sites earned Commercial Flooring Contractors Ltd the 2021 Project of the Year award and a 2021 Gold Award in the annual Recofloor Awards. Chris adds: "It is great to get the recognition with this Recofloor award, which acknowledges the environmental efforts of flooring sector participants across the UK. And it's a pat on the back for my lads as well."

Comments:

"This project is an excellent example of all parties working together to maximise the collection of clean vinyl offcuts for recycling, adding: "Clear communication and shared objectives from the outset contributed to a successful and sustainable outcome for all. To us, every offcut matters when it comes to diverting waste vinyl flooring from landfill."

Carla Eslava, Recofloor Manager



Recofloor is the flooring sector's sustainable take-back scheme for commercial waste vinyl generated from all types of projects. Material is recycled and used in new products, including flooring. If you are thinking of deploying Recofloor on a project site, please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

For more information on Hillside, call them on 0116 275 2266.