



Background

Wood RecyclAbility was set up in 1997 as a small social enterprise to provide practical work experience for people with additional support needs. The organisation has grown steadily from only two staff and six trainees, to a team of 10 and up to 32 trainees each day – working in a purpose-built workshop.

On average, 1,500 tonnes of waste wood – mainly from offshore packaging – is collected and processed at the facility each year.

The trainees – with a range of additional needs due to conditions including autism, Downs Syndrome, and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) – are involved in all aspects of the business and assist in crafting products such as garden furniture, nest boxes, bird tables, and other wildlife products. Many of those taking part use the project as a stepping stone towards full-time employment.



The Challenge

The team at Wood RecyclAbility previously used a small vertical baler, but needed a new larger model to keep up with the volume of waste rigid plastics on-site.

Brian Reid, operations manager at the Aberdeenshire-based company, said: “We’d outgrown our old baler, and we needed solution that was both faster – to improve efficiencies – and that would keep the workshop tidier.

“After carrying out some research, we got in contact with Riverside Waste Machinery, and Jonathan, the managing director, was incredibly helpful with his machinery advice.”



The Solution

Following discussions with Jonathan, the RWM 550HD waste baler was recommended – capable of handling a high volume of tougher recyclables, including rigid plastics, and able to produce large bales of up to 610kg.

Brian continued: “We chose Riverside due to the quality of its machines and the prompt delivery schedule – and we weren’t disappointed with either!”

Safely installed in April 2019, the baler has improved Wood RecyclAbility’s waste-handling process, thanks to an increase in outputs.



The Results

The RWM 550 HD now comfortably tackles approximately 30-40 tonnes of rigid plastics per month – producing around 80 bales in this time.

Brian added: “The baled materials are sent to a polymer processor in Wallsend, for further processing.

“In terms of the benefits we have experienced as a result, our plastics revenue has grown by around 30% and our speed of operation has improved – plus the workshop is far tidier! It’s safe to say that I would recommend Riverside’s services to anyone!”

Want to discuss the business case for your waste handling scenario?

Contact us via **01423 325038** | sales@wastemachinery.co.uk to discuss your requirements.