



RECYCLING SCHEME

In partnership with Race Recycling, you can now fill our recycling boxes with helmets, PPE, textiles, hi-vis garments, footwear, and plastic products.



SECURE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRAND IP ON THE GARMENT



NON-PROFIT SCHEME



RECYCLING BOXES PROVIDED



RACE RECYCLING Ltd

Secure Destruction & Recycling



WHY SHOULD YOU RECYCLE?

For decades no one paid attention to the volume of waste in our homes and landfills, however the significant accumulation of waste started to get noticed by authorities, and the long-lasting effect on our planet was becoming more and more of a concern. Action was required and this is how the process of modern-day recycling came to exist.

Recycling, as we know it today, is the process of converting waste into new products and used as alternative energy resources, extending the product lifecycle, and reducing the waste that ends up in landfill. Recycling is easy to do and can make a real difference in helping preserve our planet.



Natural Resources

As we convert the materials into new products through the process of recycling the need to consume natural resources is lowered, helping to protect natural habitats



Saving Energy

New products from recycled materials use up to 30% less energy. Recycling saves energy by decreasing or eliminating the need to extract new natural resources. Producing products from scratch incurs costs and is more labour intensive compared to using already refined and processed recycled materials. Creating a less energy intensive manufacturing process lowers costs for businesses and the level of greenhouse gasses emitted into the atmosphere.



Air and Water Pollution

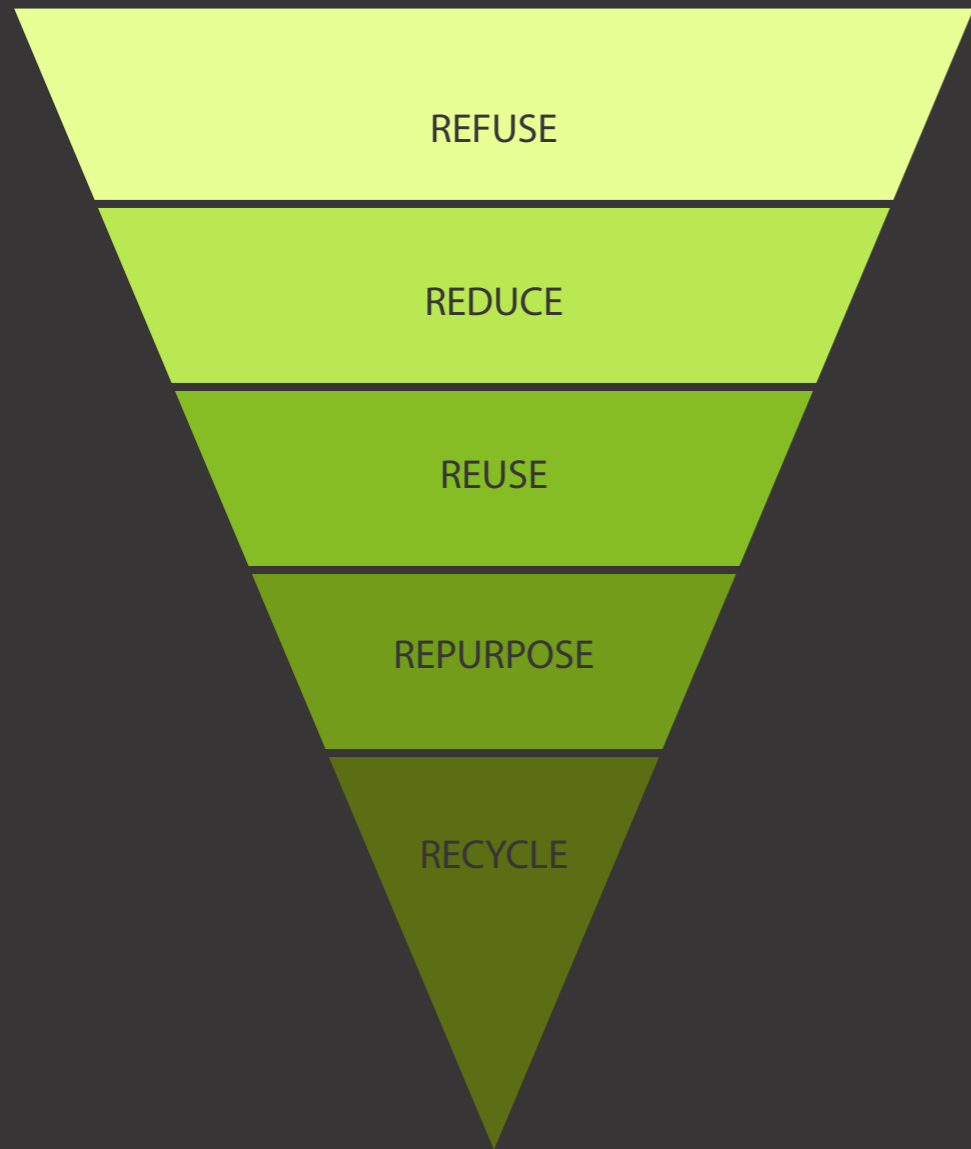
The extraction, refining and processing of raw materials contributes heavily to air and water pollution. Emitting a high concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere directly links with climate warming, as the earth's natural sink holes cannot absorb the increasing gases emitted. Soil degradation, water shortages and damages to ecosystems are unsustainable practices associated with extracting and processing materials from scratch having long term climatic impacts. In the same way recycling saves energy, it also reduces the level of GHG emissions emitted helping to combat climate change.



Zero to Landfill

Zero waste to landfill is a philosophy and design framework focused on reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill. It considers the complete life cycle of systems and processes, promoting the sustainable method to reuse, repurpose and recycle where possible.

THE FIVE R'S AT SMI



According to the 5 R's there are four actions that should be taken before recycling is considered; refuse, reduce, reuse, and repurpose. Implementing this methodology into our business waste reduction plan, will ensure our processes are as efficient as possible, minimizing the total amount of waste across our business and helping SMI reach its sustainable goals.

REFUSE



Making smarter purchasing decisions, refusing excessive product packaging, and reusing suppliers packaging and boxes, where possible, aligns heavily with our Environmental, Social, Governance strategy. SMI are working with our stakeholders to minimize what we receive by refusing unnecessary waste where possible. We have also reduced the number of non-recyclable products we purchase from our suppliers, as our eco product range continues to grow, offering our customers a broader recycling scheme from the purchase to recycling.

REDUCE



Reducing the use of wasteful and non-recyclable products will have a positive impact on a business's ecological footprint. SMI has focused on the most used materials our business has used over the past few years, including single use plastic, plastic packaging, and paper, to see where improvements could be made to reduce our waste. During 2021 we implemented a paperless warehouse management system at our distribution centre, which has already significantly reduced our paper consumption. Global urgent action is needed to reduce plastic waste, and SMI have taken several steps to do our bit to combat this issue. These steps include removing plastic bagging from products across orders and using DPD green packing, which is made from 80% reclaimed materials and is 100% recyclable. Another step we have taken looks at our offsetting project which is dedicated to cleaning up plastic from the ocean. This project is commitment to collecting 10kg of plastic for tonne of CO2 that is offset. SMI offset 434,000kg of carbon which the equivalent of 217,000kg of plastic collected from the ocean after the emissions is split across the two projects we support.

REUSE



A 'throw-away' culture in consumer behaviour has led to one of the world's greatest environmental challenges. Single use plastic is an increasing issue, placing more emphasis and priority on reusing products across supply chains and in the workplace. SMI has replaced all single use eating utensils to recycled bamboo or paper alternatives and encourage the reuse of any packaging at our distribution centre.

REPURPOSE



Repurposing products is commonly known in the green community as upcycling, a popular method which can extend a products lifecycle through creativity and innovation. We repurpose cardboard boxes where possible, both at our Head Office for storage and at our Distribution Centre. Suitable returned products are collated, stripped of branding, and repurposed within our local communities as we donate to homeless charities.

RECYCLE

Recycling is a commonly used word throughout society, however very few truly understand its meaning and the process behind recycling different materials. Responsible recycling has been a key focus for SMI since we started our sustainable journey. Since launching our textile recycling scheme, we are having been exploring different methods we can offer our customers for their remaining uniform and PPE including footwear, safety helmets, gloves, and other plastic related items. Through extensive research we have gained a deeper understanding of what it truly means to recycle, and truthfully for the time being not all PPE can be 100% recycled. More challenging materials or products cannot be 100% recycled, however there are other ways to prolong a products life cycle. Products can be donated, repurposed, and converted into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) which is energy from waste products.





WORKING WITH RACE:

SMI is proud to be joining the long list of businesses Race Recycling currently work with, including Royal Mail, BA, Virgin, HSBC, Sainsburys, John Lewis Group and many more. Race provides a disposal solution for all their customers, aiming to recycling everything that passes through their recycling centres. Any items that can be re-used are repurposed, for example, clothing containing wool is re-woven into new garments, battery cells are collected and distributed to specialist recycling depots and any logos on garments are destroyed and shredded. Using the successful network Race has built, majority of products can be recycled or repurposed giving our customers a secure, reliable, and efficient service.

The greatest strength Race has is the transparent approach they take to responsible recycling. Providing our customers with the confidence that their garments and products are in good hands and positively impacting the environment. Race are paving the way for companies to securely recycle and recover their workwear and PPE. As one of largest companies in the market Race can offer our customers the opportunity to process a wider range of clothing and PPE products. Removing any 'smoke and mirrors' and being up-front about the entire process.

Adopting the 'Zero to landfill' approach, Race aims to capture the most resource from the waste they collected. Promising our customers that zero products will go to landfill and 100% of recyclable products will be recycled with the remaining materials recovered.

WHAT IS SOLID RECOVERED FUEL (SRF)?

[Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) offers a means of recovering a significant percentage of industrial, it is a fuel produced by drying, filtering, and shredding solid waste including paper, green waste, plastic bottles, fabrics, and composite waste. The production of SRF involves a range of steps depending on the materials.]

The production of SRF will involve some of these steps, but not all of them:

- Preliminary liberation/sorting
- Course, pre-shredding
- Size screening
- Magnetic separation
- Refining separation
- Fine, secondary shredding
- Baling & wrapping

Once the materials have passed through a series of shredders, recyclable plastic and metals are extracted from the shredded materials through size screening and using magnets. This leaves a mix of non-recyclable materials, including paper, card, wood, textiles, and plastic, ready to be recovered into fuel, which is currently the most ecological option within this market. This high-yield source of energy can be used for heating and electricity, reducing the amount of fossil fuel in the energy mix. This alternative to non-renewable energy sources including coal helps to lower carbon emissions and preserves the earth's natural resources. The consumption of SRF is rapidly increasing across Europe and England having a positive impact on the environment.

Our recycling scheme follows the same process as before in many ways, with any changes providing benefits that positively impact the environment.



Step 1

Contact your Customer Experience Specialist or order your recycling boxes via your MY-SMI portal, or through our website. You can still choose to order from the three different options: either two, four or eight boxes, each box at 120 litres, using the same product codes as before.



Step 2

Fill your boxes with any clothing, textiles, PPE, safety helmets, gloves, safety boots, plastic, and non-woven items. The only caveat is these boxes must be kept clean and dry, free from secondary contamination and away from general waste. SMI and Race Recycling will do the rest!



Step 3

Once your box is ready for collection, please contact SMI and we will arrange for DPD to collect your boxes and delivery them straight to Race recycling centres. This is a huge benefit to SMI as our previous scheme required the boxes go through our Distribution Centre in Fareham, where the contents were securely stored in special bins before being collected by Avena for disposal. Our new scheme, gives our warehouse teams more time to focus on our customers' orders and reduces the number of deliveries and collections per order, lowering the carbon emissions associated with this scheme. One free collection is included per order, if you require the boxes to be collected separately, please be aware you will incur a collection charge of £9.95.



Step 4

Race responsibly and securely dispose of the content of the boxes, reusing repurposing and recycling your old products in a sustainable way



Step 5

The SMI cardboard recycling boxes are baled and sent to the sister company of Race Recycling, the Elsa Recycling Group. Elsa specialises in the recycling of plastic, cardboard and paper, recycling over 700 tonnes per week and supplying cardboard to miles across the UK, Europe, and the far East.



Step 6

SMI can provide our customers with a certificate of secure destruction at the end of the calendar month. If you would like your certificate, please contact the team at SMI.

BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR PRODUCTS CAN BE RECOVERED OR RECYCLED



CLOTHING:

Almost all clothing is 100% recyclable, it is the process that differs dependent on the different materials based on fibre compositions and the end users that are available. For example, the percentage of polyester fibre in most PPE is not suitable for upholstery fillings or mattress insulator pads, this is because these generally require a much higher natural fibre content. Therefore, majority of the polyester clothing is used in automotive insulation where a higher percentage of polyester is acceptable. Race Recycling is trusted by a variety of businesses across all industries including a range of police forces across the UK to securely dispose and recycle their uniform.



PPE:

Most safety helmets have a composite sweat band and nylon chinstrap which is extremely difficult to separate from the main body of the helmet. The same challenge is found when looking at ear defenders and the foam lining attached to the outer shell, alongside the three different types of plastics which would all need to be separated for them to be recycled responsibly. Majority of gloves also fall into this category, especially work gloves with a PU coating. This is because the fibres have been heavily PU coated and cannot be removed, therefore they are not recyclable. Currently in the market there is not a mechanical process which can separate these materials. The only option involves stripping them by hand by which not cost effective, and the process is extremely difficult. These products will go through the necessary steps to create SRF to ensure nothing goes to landfill and the most environmentally friendly disposal method is used.



SAFETY BOOTS

Similarly, safety boots are currently very different to 100% recycle due to the range of materials used. There is only one company in Europe who can successfully separate the leather from the bonded sole and textile interlining, therefore with limited access to this technology SRF the best option. Race Recycling also re-purpose any safety boots which fit their quality checks. The FCRE grading system ensured that any worn out, odd and damaged safety boots are recovered, however any serviceable and useable footwear are exported to developing countries extending the products lifespan.



PRICING

PRODUCT CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
OWS.9622	 X 2 (Combined volume of 240L)	£35.00

Want to know more?

Call us on **01428 658333** and ask to speak to Recycling Team or email recycling@smigroupuk.com