

PRESS Release



Recycling System for Thermoplastic Membranes

ROOFCOLLECT – the European Collecting and Recycling system

Success for the roofing and waterproofing project

Recycling volumes of end-of-life PVC membranes greatly increased

System successfully enlarged to Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, France and Switzerland in 2004/2005

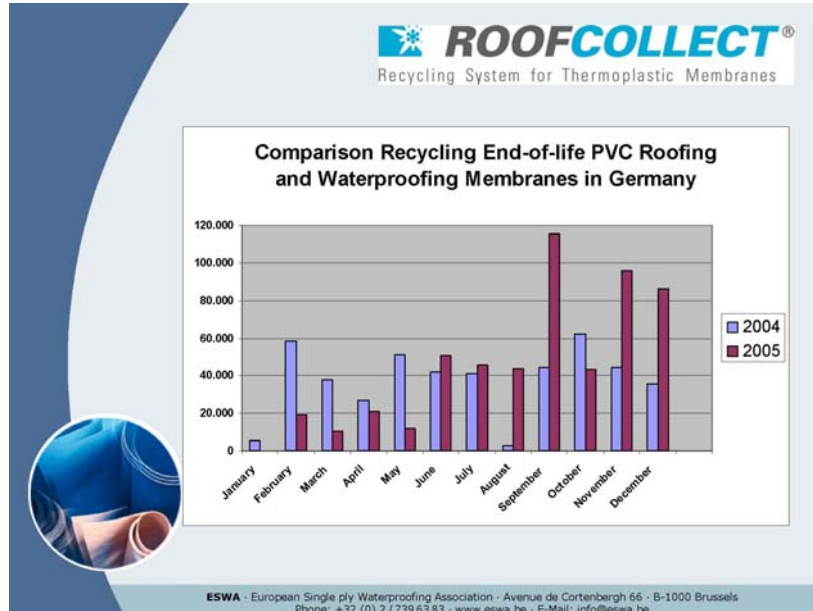
The introduction in 2003 of ROOFCOLLECT, a system created by the members of ESWA (European Single ply Waterproofing association) in Brussels and DUD (Industrieverband Kunststoff-Dach- und Dichtungsbahnen e.V.) in Darmstadt/Germany*¹ has been shown as a success. The collecting system and the logistical partnership with INTERSEROH, a leading German waste management company, shows that recycling of post-consumer PVC-roofing membranes is attractive. The closure of landfills in Germany on 1 June 2005 for non-pre-treated materials led to an increased demand for transport and recycling. Since the new EU legislation has been implemented in Germany, ROOFCOLLECT has received a lot of requests for offers to be given to roofers and waste management companies.

ROOFCOLLECT registers an increasing amount of filled big bags transported to the recycling units ROOFCOLLECT works with and the new container solution offered for bigger construction sites has been well accepted by customers. The system shows that it makes economic and ecological sense to collect end-of-life roofing membranes for recycling and re-use. The granulate from recycling can be used in new roofing and waterproofing membranes by the members of ESWA.

The objective of the initiative of the leading manufacturers of PVC roofing membranes organized within ESWA and DUD was to recycle at least 50 % of the available and collectable quantities of post-consumer roofing membranes by 2005 and thus contribute to the Voluntary Commitment*² for recycling targets given to the EU authorities.

In 2005 almost 1000 big bags have been collected, 28 containers have been filled and regular deliveries have been carried through to the recycling units. With the total amount of over 900 tons in 2005 the collected and recycled quantities have risen up to almost 55 per cent compared to 2004. With the well functioning logistical system, ROOFCOLLECT offers also the collecting of other flexible PVC materials such as industrial foils (civil engineering, swimming pools, garden ponds) and others.

With the positive result of the system, ROOFCOLLECT collection with INTERSEROH as partner is planning to enlarge the system to more European countries where no recycling systems have existed for these materials so far, such as Italy, Spain and Great Britain. The success of the ROOFCOLLECT system shows that ESWA/DUD manufacturers can indeed contribute to the Voluntary Commitment targets.



Increased volumes in tons after closure of landfills in Germany

*1The companies are the leading producers of plastics roofing and waterproofing membranes in Europe.

*2The project is a clear demonstration of the commitment of the flexible PVC industry's determination to improve the rate of recycling. It is part of the Vinyl 2010 initiative, a dynamic ten-year programme run by the organizations in the PVC production chain, that sets out a two-step approach based upon intermediate and final recycling targets.

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