

MOLA Tackling Our Dirty and Spent PPE with StaySafe Services



Figure 1 PPE Recycling Scheme at MOLA



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Sustainability Contributions

Diverting Waste
from Landfill

Repurposing
products

Creating Sustainable
Policy & Practice

Reducing Carbon
Emissions

MOLA is committed to handling our PPE in the most sustainable way, and has been rolling out a PPE recycling scheme across our offices. By simply placing spent PPE into wheeling bins, we can reduce our impact on the environment.

It is unavoidable that PPE gets dirty, and eventually reaches the end of its useful life. However, dirty and spent PPE should not spend hundreds, if not thousands, of years decomposing on landfill and release tonnes of carbon emissions while doing so. Further, like with any garments of personal clothing you own, the manufacturing of PPE emits huge amount of carbon emissions. Therefore, purchasing PPE does not only have financial costs, but comes at an environmental cost too. Diverting used PPE from landfill is an effective and easy way us to reduce its carbon footprint and progress towards alignment with Sustainable Development Goals.

To divert used PPE going to landfill, MOLA use StaySafe's services. StaySafe collects old, dirty, and damaged PPE; including hard hats and site gloves. StaySafe services include rebranding PPE, washing dirty PPE using environmentally conscious methods, shredding and repurposing for plastics and insulation products, or it is sent off for high temperature incineration (HTI).

Using StaySafe's services last year, we know that a total of 843.5kg of PPE was discarded by staff, which was sent off to StaySafe. By sending this quantity to StaySafe, instead of landfill, we curbed 375.29 CO₂e kg. If we had instead disposed of the PPE and repurchased the same quantity brand new, owing to the manufacturing process of new garments, a whopping 18,818.48 CO₂e kg of carbon emissions would have been emitted. This is the equivalent of driving from Mortimer Wheeler House to MOLA Chester and back 133 times!

Of the ~844kgs, 380kg of this was cleaned and/or rebranded and returned to MOLA, rather than buying it new. In doing so, we avoided 8,477.8 CO₂e kg of carbon emissions.

The other 354.5kg was recycled by StaySafe through shredding and repurposing, and HTI, which avoided 157.72 CO₂e kg of carbon emissions through sending it to landfill. Rather, through StaySafe's recycling processes, we emitted only 7.54 Co₂e kg of carbon emissions - a 181.75% difference.