

## Covestro Recycles Trade Show Booth

# From the Exhibition Hall into the Coffee Machine

More than seven tons of colorful polycarbonate: the former trade show booth of Covestro is a heavy weight champion. After its service time, the material has been recycled and given another life in new products such as coffee machines made by Philips. The project was carried out by Pekutherm.

**P**ekutherm has developed a comprehensive system for the reuse of off-cuts and exhibition stands or store fittings that are no longer in use. For this purpose, exhibition and store fitters can order the Ecobox from the company. The foldable collection container can be stored empty in a space-saving manner, and is worth its weight in cash. Because the material is a raw material in demand. Instead of being processed into inferior products or exported abroad as waste, Pekutherm carries out various material tests and sorting.

Afterwards, the material, which is tested for grade purity, is processed into granules and made into new products by various manufacturers. „Our recycling cycle for plastics takes place exclusively on German soil. In doing so, we achieve a quality that is sufficient to re-enter the cycle as acrylic glass or polycarbonate with good-as-new-quality“, says Heiko Pfister, managing director of Pekutherm.

### Request, Set up, Recycle

Pekutherm estimates that around 10 % of each acrylic sheet remains as waste due to cutting and measurement or processing errors. In addition, modernization of stores and new construction of exhibition booths generate large quantities of scrap material. The increasingly expensive resources needed to produce new materials make the use of recycled material attractive, as does the reduced energy consumption during production.

Recycling thus offers many advantages. For shopfitters and exhibition stand builders, participating in Pekutherm's plastic recycling is simple: the boxes can be requested from Pekutherm, are placed in the company and can be filled. When the Ecobox is full, collection



Seven tons of Covestro trade show booth go into recycling. © Covestro/Pekutherm

is arranged and the weight is reimbursed. In recent months, thousands of acrylic spit shields and separators have also been installed as a result of the Corona measures.

### Everyone Bears Responsibility

„We want to make the process as simple as possible, from delivery of the Ecobox to collection and subsequent reimbursement. Prices are based on the current market situation and on the quantity, quality and varietal purity of the material and are agreed in advance. A few hundred euros per ton are the rule and make collecting additionally attractive“, explains Heiko Pfister.

In addition to the positive effect on the environment and the financial advantages over disposing of it elsewhere, trade fair and store fitters benefit from an improved ecological footprint. „In every industry today, (Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is writ large. By participating in our recycling model, these companies can also expand their own image to customers by this positive

aspect“, says Heiko Pfister from Pekutherm. Depending on the agreed package and annual quantity, the Ecoboxes are free of charge or are provided for an expense fee. The company takes over the complete logistics chain for the supply and the removal for its suppliers. ■

## Info

### Company Profile

Pekutherm is a German recycling company for acrylic glass (PMMA) and has developed a sustainable recycling cycle for the material. Sorting and subsequent processing produces a high-quality raw material that is available for new PMMA products. In the plant, the product is processed into granules according to type. The raw material thus obtained enables environmentally friendly and resource-saving new components.

[www.pekutherm.com](http://www.pekutherm.com)

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