

PRESS RELEASE

These bottles are not going to China

Marmax Products Ltd presents a picnic bench to Byker Primary School.

Marmax Products Ltd a leading manufacturer of recycled plastic outdoor furniture, joins with Newcastle City Enviro Schools in a campaign to show plastic recycling in action.

Marmax Products Ltd promised Byker Primary School a picnic bench made from recycled plastic in return for them collecting as many plastic bottles as they could. Alistair Wilson, Enviro Schools Co-ordinator, organised a collection point at the school and the bottles were then collected by North East Recycling who crushed and baled them. These bales were taken to be sorted into the different types of plastic, HDPE and PET. The HDPE plastic was chopped up and melted into agglomerate which looks like breakfast cereal. This was fed into an extruder which melted it again and poured it into moulds in the shape of planks.

Marmax used these planks to make the smart blue picnic bench being presented to Byker Primary School. The bottles placed in the collection point can now be traced from Byker Primary School back to Byker Primary School having been transformed from bottles to a bench on its journey. This is known as closing the loop and until that has happened the plastic cannot be considered to be truly recycled. The equivalent of 1000 bottles are needed to make the planks for this junior picnic bench.

The children will now be constantly reminded of how their efforts made this bench possible and will be encouraged to continue collecting and sorting waste for recycling, now that they can see the results. The bench becomes a tangible teaching aid.

The recycled plastic bench was officially presented to Head Teacher, Linda Bradley, by Les Clark, Head of Newcastle City Council's Sustainability Unit together with Sheelagh Grant from Marmax Products and Mark Manley , Recycling Officer Newcastle City Council, at Byker primary school assembly on Friday 23rd March 2007.

photographs available of children collecting bottles, recycling process, bench manufacture and presentation

contact for further information

Sheelagh Grant

Marmax Products Ltd

Units 9 - 12

Tanfield Lea South Industrial Estate

Stanley

Co Durham DH9 9QX

01207 283442 sales@marmaxproducts.co.uk www.marmaxproducts.co.uk

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