

PREVENT & SAVE

Smile Resource Exchange – Identifying Reuse Opportunities Through Synergies

COMPANY OVERVIEW

SMILE Resource Exchange is Ireland's national industrial symbiosis programme providing a free platform for businesses to connect and identify synergies where a waste in one business can be a resource to another.

The Smile Programme is assisting business with preventing waste, increasing reuse and closing the loop to ensure a move towards a circular economy.

Identified and established in 2010, SMILE quickly expanded from its roots in Cork to becoming a national service in 2014 with over 1,400 businesses actively engaging and benefiting from the programme.

Since January 2015, 85 successful synergies have been recorded equating to an estimated 5,052 tonnes of material and cost savings of over €1.2 million.

These achievements have been recognised by Repak with SMILE Resource Exchange receiving the Pakman Award for Waste Prevention in 2016.

HOW SMILE ENCOURAGES PACKAGING REUSE

SMILE deliver their programme through a diversified approach which includes:

- Regular events that help business to meet face to face to identify opportunities.
- A website which provides an online platform where business can connect.
- A team of technical consultants across the three waste regions who can assist in testing packaging materials and who can understand their potential as resources.





ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Some examples of packaging material savings possible through the programme are as follows:

- A company interested in 13 tonnes of virgin plastic material, obtained it through the exchange programme, saving both member businesses more than €15,000 combined and diverting the material from waste.
- A leading cardboard recycling company develops custom made boxes from used cardboard boxes and layer pads. Through SMILE over 14 tonnes of cardboard (17,000 items) has been exchanged increasing the lifecycle of these products.
- Through the SMILE Programme one member business that had 600 pallets that they no longer required developed a synergy with a company. This ongoing synergy has led to the reuse of more than 14 tonnes of wooden pallets and provided them with cost savings of €200 per month.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on SMILE Resource Exchange please visit:

www.smileexchange.ie

