

APPLICATION OF RECYCLED PLASTICS AND ITS COMPOSITES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Composite materials made from mixtures containing proportions of post-consumer polythene waste provided useful structural materials for many purposes, with physical properties sometimes superior to timber (Ofoegbu, Nwodo & Okonkwo, 2005). Durability, low maintenance and long-life make them economic alternatives (Waste and Resource Action Programme - WRAP, 2006).. The text discusses the application of recycled waste plastic and its composite materials in the built environment: landscape, buildings and in alternative energy supply, in place of fossil fuel. It also compares the benefits of its use to that of new or 'virgin' materials. Consideration is also made of the benefit of recycling plastics and other waste materials to the environment, especially with respect to climate change. It recommends a regional effort to recycle plastics instead of banning their use. The paper concludes that recycled plastic materials and composites should replace new materials in the built environment.

KEYWORDS: Application, Composites, Environment, Plastics, Recycle



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