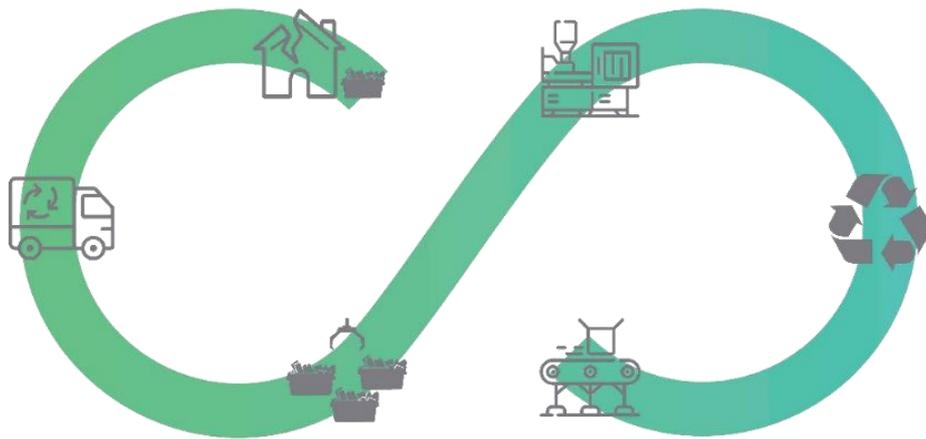


ReVinylFloor Charter

REVINYLFLOOR



INDUSTRY CHARTER on

CONTROLLED LOOPS FOR END-OF-LIFE FLOORING PRODUCTS

BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 2018

Introduction

This charter is focusing on the European PVC flooring industry's voluntary commitment to boost PVC post-use flooring applications in accordance with EU legislation and increased circular economy considerations.

The European PVC flooring industry has created jobs for approximately 30.000 FTEs and a considerable number of additional jobs in the downstream value chain. For 2017, a joined turnover of approx. EUR 9 billion in various flooring applications has been generated

PVC flooring products are being used in numerous applications, from hospital flooring, to do-it-yourself consumer applications, from sport courts during the Olympic games, to sport centres and schools around the corner, in high tech architecture and decoration applications. The European production and supply of PVC flooring is estimated to be 75 million m² for 2016.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is one of the world's oldest plastics and has evolved since the 1940s to become a universally-used, cost-effective, adaptable, safe and environmentally-effective material

It is a highly efficient converter of raw materials, combining salt and oil to produce a plastic that is specified for a broad range of predominantly long life applications

Production processes for vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and PVC virgin raw material have been continually improved in recent years and their environmental impact steadily reduced. PVC compounds are 100% recyclable, physically, chemically and / or energetically.

Flooring applications are produced with a combination of various materials and additives allowing long levity use. ReVinylFloor has been started as an EuPC project to assist the PVC flooring industry in the transition towards a more circular way of working, including additional attention for end of life issues. The findings of the ReVinylFloor programme can potentially be used to set up similar approaches for other flooring applications and materials and be a stimulus for other industries.

The European PVC industry recognizes that even further improvements must be pursued specifically for post-use products. For the PVC flooring industry, this would be aiming to optimize controlled loops for 30- 50% of the separately collected available flooring waste by 2030.



ReVinylFloor Objectives

The 2030 objectives of ReVinylFloor and its partners are:

- To move from commitment into accelerated actions for post-use PVC resilient flooring.
- To increasingly divert PVC flooring waste from landfill and / or incinerators. These methods take up precious land and squander a valuable resource. Increased controlled loop recycling of PVC will reduce the amount of virgin PVC manufactured and further reduce its environmental footprint.
- To ensure that their materials will safely enter new lifecycles in durable products. Alternatively they will opt for other sustainable recovery initiatives for post- use products in line with the EU Waste Hierarchy and Circular Economy principles.
- To ensure that post-use vinyl flooring is separately collected, sorted, safely recycled and given a new life within the boundaries of EU Circular Economy and REACH legislation.
- To provide a fully functional and transparent controlled loop value chain of post-use resilient flooring, including production, collection, sorting, recycling, reprocessing and reuse of the recycled materials in various applications for the end-of-life volumes collected.

Objectives 2018-2020

- To be recognised by international stakeholders as the European Programme of the voluntary producer responsibility recycling network of vinyl flooring companies.
- To remain an important reliable partner for the achievement of the overall PVC industry voluntary commitment under the umbrella of VinylPlus®.
- To further optimize post use PVC resilient flooring controlled loop recycling. By doing this, the European PVC flooring industry will contribute considerably to additional CO2 emission savings, while implementing resource efficiency, stimulating recycled material uptake in a number of applications and creating green jobs along the industry value chain.
- To prepare, where needed, for investments in innovative solutions turning today's challenges into opportunities and develop, where possible, cooperation with existing EU recycling structures.
- To discuss with EU legislators how to tackle the end-of-life issues of PVC flooring products imported from countries outside the EU and the potential EU-based free riders.
- Support the development of a list of dos and don'ts from glues and adhesives used that presently hinder easy removal and recycling, followed by an action plan on i.e. greener procurement.
- Support the organization of workshops with input suppliers to improve on the quality of removal, collection and sorting as close as possible to the source.
- Support the development of a Circular certification system for input / output for PVC recycling and converting companies in line with EU Certplast.
- Support and implement where possible the Additive Sustainability Footprint for companies in the flooring industry as a more detailed additional tool to Environmental Product Declaration.
- Conduct and finalise feasibility studies on finished products, like cores produced with high level of PVC recycling content that potentially can be used in reversed logistics set ups, replacing card board and followed by a pilot project set up.
- Conduct and finalise migration testing, modelling and risk assessment for finished products to increase potential outlets for PVC flooring recyclates with legacy additives.
- Conduct and finalise extended LCA on two ReVinylFloor finished products.



Directives

The ReVinylFloor partners will both, individually and jointly, contribute to the achievement of the UN global sustainability goals. In particular, as an industry group, they will focus on:



Addendums

In the forthcoming period, ReVinylFloor will evolve from a project into a programme with a long term vision and flooring industry commitment, working on pragmatic and economically viable solutions for the issues on hand. The programme will include short term and long term funding agreements.

Operations covered by this Charter include value chain cooperation, including production, collection, sorting, recycling, reprocessing and re-use of the recycled materials in various applications, while providing a fully functional and transparent controlled loop chain of post-use resilient flooring produced in Europe.

Where needed the PVC flooring industry will stimulate and support innovative technologies to deal with specific end of life challenges

For the period 2018-2020 ReVinylFloor will support among others the following projects :

Project Creasolv 2.0,

Project Oreade,

Project ReVinylCore

Furthermore, ReVinylFloor will stimulate the upscaling of existing mechanical recycling activities while preparing for additional capacities, where needed, while looking at opportunities and value chain cooperation to combine these efforts to deal with other end of life waste streams and combined logistics.

The current voluntary PVC recycling volume for 2020 has been set in 2010 with an ambitious target level of total 800.000 tonnes of PVC recycling per year. The PVC flooring industry is an important contributor to the achievement of these and future goals.

ReVinylFloor partners will continue to provide both the operational and financial support required to meet the 2020 objectives and beyond.

In consultation with other PVC industry stakeholders, the European PVC flooring producers new up scaled recycling targets for 2030 will be set up, provided the regulatory framework supports this development.

Based on the finalisation of the 2030 recycling target, the PVC flooring industry will renew the present 2018-2020 Charter with a version covering the commitments towards 2030.

REVINYLFLOOR continues to be supported by

