

SUCCESS STORY

RÖRVIKSHUS

SWEDEN



Can you turn expensive waste management into profitable waste solutions and become landfill-free in such a short time as a year? Absolutely, that is exactly what Mr. Sysmääläinen, production engineer and quality manager at the house manufacturer "Rörvikshus" accomplished.

THIS HOUSE MANUFACTURER IS LOCATED IN A SMALL TOWN IN SWEDEN and it produces customized architect designed premium homes. Counting both production units, the company has 55 employees and a net sales of 149 M SEK. The company produces almost 100 unique houses per year, which also means that a lot of waste must be handled.

Rörvikshus turned costly waste management into profitable waste solutions

Since Rörvikshus invested in two balers and complete sorting of the waste, which mainly consists of insulation material, cardboard and plastic, the company has attained an environmentally sustainable and much more profitable waste management.

Our waste management used to be time-consuming and costly

Mr. Sysmääläinen describes how they previously threw all waste in small containers, which were later emptied into a large container. The staff had to spend a lot of time handling the waste and there was extensive forklift traffic to move it. In addition, the transport costs were high, partly because the load of uncompacted material contained a significant portion of air.



Rörvikshus wanted to increase the efficiency of waste management in terms of costs and, above all, in consideration of the environment. If the material is compacted and sorted for recycling, it leads to fewer transports both internally and externally, which in turn is better for the environment and can generate an income from selling the recyclable material.

"We must see the whole picture in our production to make sure the impact on the environment is as limited as possible. Landfill is not a sustainable solution."

Henrik Sysmääläinen, Rörvikshus

The solution; two Orwak multi-chamber balers

Together with a WMC & recycler, Stena Recycling, Rörvikshus developed a concept and chose to invest in two Orwak balers of model 5070 with three chambers for sorting and compaction of insulation (stone wool insulation), cardboard and LDPE plastic.

The balers were placed along the two assembly lines, where the main part of the waste is generated. Material from several smaller stations nearby are collected and compacted in one of the balers.

Mr. Sysmääläinen explains that thanks to the balers, the company has cut back on the use of forklifts, reduced the workload for the employees and decreased transport costs.

He also emphasizes that due to the sorting and compaction, Rörvikshus has become completely landfill-free and has full control of the waste, which is not only good for the environment, but also ultimately provides a positive calculation for waste management. He adds:

"The old prejudices, still existing in traditional manufacturing industry, that it is expensive to be environmentally friendly, is a myth."





The sustainability approach in every operational decision

Sustainability is a red thread in Rörvikshus's waste management. The bales of insulation material are placed on pallets used for incoming goods and are then shipped back to the supplier to avoid unnecessary transports. The bale collector only comes, when there is a sufficient number of bales to fill up a trailer.

Previously, all or part of the waste was sent to incineration or landfill and entailed great costs for the disposal. Now, insulation, plastic and cardboard are recycled at significantly lower costs than before and are now used in the production of new products.

Mr Sysmääläinen explains that Rörvikshus has a concept, where everyone helps out with waste management. There are collection stations in the office and when, for example, the cardboard bin is full, the staff takes it out to the baler in the factory and compacts the material:

"The best feature of the Orwak 5070 baler is the simplicity and ease of use. Everyone can use it, which means it is used all the time!"

Mr Sysmääläinen chose the Orwak balers for several reasons. Partly because of a recommendation from the recycler Stena Recycling and partly because the balers are user-friendly, a great fit for the material and the price was right, so that the investment pays off quickly.

Everything from the contact with the Orwak sales rep to installation of the baler and training of the staff on site leaves nothing to be desired. "Service-minded approach and a high level of knowledge is what we have met," Mr Sysmääläinen adds, and concludes:

"In my mind, it is strange that not all factories streamline their waste management. If everyone does their part, it is good for the environment and it is good for the profitability of the company."



Nominated for a climate award

Rörvikshus's commitment to sustainability has just been recognized with a nomination for this year's regional climate prize. The Climate Council in the region has since 2012 awarded the prize to reward good initiatives for the environment.

Mr Sysmääläinen is obviously happy and proud of the nomination and find it inspiring that the council awards the climate prize as encouragement for committed people and companies.

