

Resource Matching

Improving productivity through efficient resource management

Case Study – Repurposed Vehicle Battery Boxes

Companies Involved: Wrightbus / The Old Hen House

The Challenge

Wrightbus is a world-renowned bus manufacturer based in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. The company is a leading force in public transport sustainability, with a pioneering hydrogen-powered, zero emissions bus concept helping to transform and support the local transport sector on its net-zero mission. In this synergy match, they sought a sustainable solution for proactive timber boxes in which 70 bus batteries per week are delivered to their site. The battery boxes were initially being disposed of, and Wrightbus listed them as a resource at an Invest Northern Ireland / International Synergies NI Resource Matching Workshop.



The Solution

The Old Hen House is an architectural salvage business based outside Donaghadee, specialising in saving and restoring materials from building strip-outs.

Company owner Pete Brown attended the Resource Matching Workshop and saw that the battery boxes had potential to be re-imagined into a variety of homewares. It was arranged for boxes to be given to The Old Henhouse where they were made into prototype items such as ornamental milk bottle holders, storage boxes and carriers.

The Outcome

Following the creation of the initial prototypes, an arrangement was made between the two businesses which sees The Old Henhouse collect around 30 boxes per month from Wrightbus. The arrangement leads to less waste and disposal cost savings for Wrightbus, and additional sales for The Old Henhouse.

The Numbers and Figures

Wrightbus have saved on disposal costs at approximately £165/tonne – or **£1980 per year**.

The Old Henhouse make a cost saving per box of £10 compared to buying the materials elsewhere – saving **£3600 per year**.

The upcycled boxes are then sold at around £18 per item, with an estimate of 360 sold per year – generating **additional sales of £6480 per year**.

The boxes additionally provide enough fire lighting kindling to save on costs of starter sticks at £4 per bag per week across 75% of the year – an extra cost saving of **£156 per year**.