

Innovative alternative to the Gabion Basket

These days we are all being encouraged to re-use and recycle, and it is no different in the construction and road building industries where base materials can be expensive and sometimes difficult to source.

Craigavon based company, R4 Limited, is now offering contractors a rather innovative and unique service, while at the same time helping to tackle the growing problem of disposing and recycling the many thousands of tonnes of used car tyres being dumped every year across Northern Ireland.

The company recently acquired a new state on the art tyre baling machine which compresses car tyres into blocks suitable for a variety of applications including bank stabilisation, road structure, and a wide variety of proven building and civil engineering applications.

If you are in the business of constructing embankments, retaining walls and similar structures, you probably use traditional gabion baskets which consist of rectangular sided wire mesh baskets. These, of course, are positioned where they are needed before being filled with a suitable building stone. A number of filled baskets can be placed together rather like bricks, making a strong and erosion-resistant structure.

However, as you are well aware, gabion baskets are expensive and have to be filled with stones and rocks, which is both time consuming and expensive, but R4's new baling machine converts waste tyres into blocks that are as effective as gabion baskets – and at a

fraction of the cost, so it is not surprising that contractors are now sitting up and taking notice of this new alternative.

"Today, contractors are encouraged to use recycled materials, so this is an ideal product. Not only is it cheaper for them and quicker to work with, it is also environmentally friendly and it is helping in the recycling of the waste tyre mountain – a win, win scenario for everyone concerned," says R4's Lynn Kerr.

"We are already supplying this new product to property developers and we believe there is great scope for its use throughout the construction and road building sector, so we'd be more than happy to discuss any company's specific requirements."

Environmental Standard

Incidentally, R4 also recently acquired the prestigious environmental standard ISO14001. "It made sense for us to go for it as it shows clients that we really do practice what we preach on the environment," says Lynn.

"Everyone who works at R4 goes through an initial induction procedure to ensure they know what our environmental responsibilities are, and progressing towards ISO14001 was a natural extension. So now everyone

in our organization knows what impact we have on the environment and why we do what we do."

It is not the first Standard acquired by R4. It already has the quality standard

ISO 9000/2000, as well as an Investors in People award, and is currently working towards developing PAS (Publicly Available Specifications) for the new tyre blocks.



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TYRE RECYCLING

