

UNIVERSITY  
OF CENTRAL  
LANCASHIRE



An organisation that uses a recycling business to support charitable work won this category after collaborating with a university on a project described as a “game changer” for car recycling.

Recycling Lives and the University of Central Lancashire worked together to find a way to reuse the estimated 1.2 million tonnes of residue left over every year after the company shreds about 100,000 cars and other vehicles that have reached the end of their lives.

They found that a heat treatment could turn the residue – much of which normally goes to landfill sites – into a saleable product and electrical energy. The team also came up with a way to identify metals in the residue, allowing them to be extracted to further boost recycling rates.

The project means that Recycling Lives – which uses its recycling activity to support social projects that it runs on prisoner rehabilitation and homelessness – can make potential annual savings of £1.5 million and generate 1,200 megawatts of electricity.

Uclan and Recycling Lives are now entering into a joint venture that will see their partnership building and owning a £540,000 research facility to commercialise the project.

As well as delivering environmental and social benefits, the project will allow Uclan students from a range of disciplines and courses to gain hands-on experience working with the firm. The partnership with the university also provides opportunities for the company’s employees to get higher education training in the workplace.