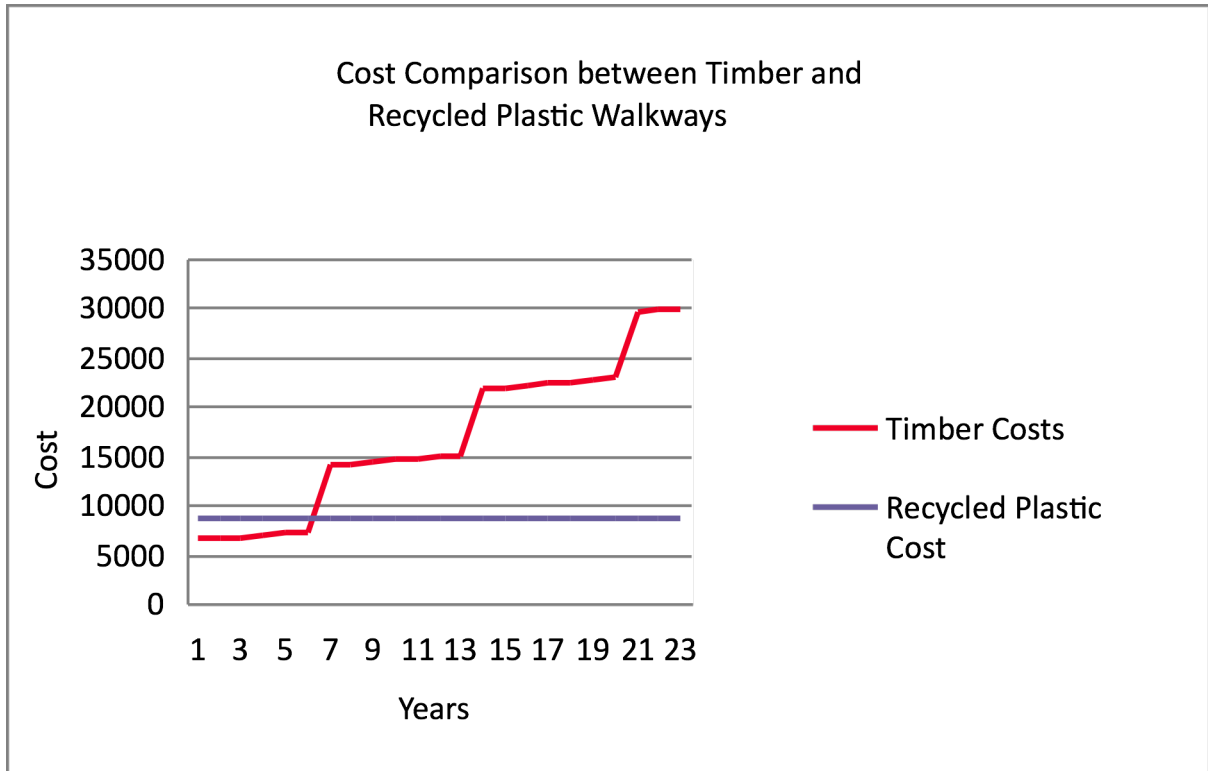


WRAP Study Comparing Costs of Recycled Plastic to Timber in Construction of a Walkway



Recycled plastic Payback

This example of comparative costs between timber and Recycled plastic lumber, is taken from a walkway, but its obvious conclusions can be applied to most situations where the two materials would be permanently outdoors, continually at the mercy of the elements.

Assumptions

Timber solution must be replaced every 7 years. Maintenance on timber is required annually from year 2. Inflation is not applied to the annual cost of maintenance. The average annual cost of maintenance of materials and labour is £176 per annum.

**Average cost per 100 meters of walkway over the time period shown:
Timber £1300 - Plastic £370**

Conclusion

Although the initial outlay for recycled plastic is higher the long-term costs are very significantly lower compared to timber.

		Timber Costs	Cum	Recycled Plastic Costs	Cum
Materials		3050		5000	
Installation		3500		3500	
	Years		Cost		
	1		6550		8500
	2		6550		8500
Maintenance begins	3	176	6726		8500
	4	176	6902		8500
	5	176	7078		8500
	6	176	7254		8500
Replacement required	7	6726	13980		8500
	8	176	14156		8500
	9	176	14332		8500
	10	176	14508		8500
	11	176	14684		8500
	12	176	14860		8500
	13	176	15036		8500
	14	6726	21762		8500
	15	176	21938		8500
	16	176	22114		8500
	17	176	22290		8500
	18	176	22466		8500
	19	176	22642		8500
	20	176	22818		8500
	21	6726	29544		8500
	22	176	29720		8500
	23	176	29896		8500
		29896		8500	
		1300		370	