**The Story of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)**

**Origin of PVC**

- **1913** German inventor Friedrich Klatte patented a polymerisation process to manufacture PVC

**1920s-1950s**

- **1926** Waldo Semon, working for BF Goodrich in the US, invented plasticised PVC providing a synthetic replacement for increasingly costly natural rubber
- **1947** The first vinyl floor covering was manufactured by the Swedish company Limhams
- **1950** PVC blood bags replace glass bottles enabling blood to be safely transported

**1960s-1990s**

- **1966** Development of vinyl wall coverings for better interior hygiene
- **1979** First PVC-U double glazed windows installed in the UK
- **1995** The UK’s first solar-powered office block – sponsored by the EU, DTI and Greenpeace at Northumbria University, Newcastle on Tyne features 21,000 solar cells and 646 PVC-U windows to assist thermal efficiency throughout the building

**2000s**

- **2000** European PVC industry establishes Vinyl 2010, a ten year voluntary commitment to improve the environmental performance of PVC
- **2003** A sustainable European PVC recycling system, Recovinyl, was established
- **2004** First window manufactured from 100% post-consumer recycled PVC

**2010s**

- **2011** VinylPlus, a new European industry sustainability programme, established
- **2012** Over 142,000m² of PVC fabric used in the construction of London 2012 Olympic venues
- **2013** Recovinyl recycles more than one million PVC-U windows frames per year in the UK

**The future**

- **2020** Over 800,000 tonnes of PVC products will be recycled per year across Europe by 2020
- **2022** The 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar Showcase Stadium has been designed to use super-reflective, triangulated PVC fabric to create a zero carbon, sustainable stadium providing comfortable playing conditions.