

Minute

PRESENTER: Thomas Counsell

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SUBJECT: "Can we build a desktop paper recycling machine?"

Seminar on 16 mar 2005

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This short note records some of the discussion following the Sustainable Manufacturing Seminar series on "Can we build a desktop paper recycling machine?" given by Thomas Counsell on 16 Mar 2005 in the seminar room of the Institute for Manufacturing. The slides of the presentation may be found at <http://www.ifm.eng.cam.ac.uk/sustainability>.

Approaches to removing print

It was asked whether a form of bleaching could be used to remove the print.

Approaches to making print removal easier

It was proposed that it might be possible to sacrifice some of the paper fibres when removing the print, and still keep a usable sheet of paper. There was discussion as to whether a combination of methods might be possible, for example by using the 'e-blue' de-colouring after the majority of the print had been removed in order to neutralise the remainder. The potential for using an artificial paper, compatible with conventional print and toner, but from which the print could be more easily removed was discussed.

Alternatives to print removal

The potential for reducing consumption by a tax was discussed, as was the potential for the 'paper-less office' to remove the need for paper.