



American Recycler

NewsVoice of Salvage, Waste and Recycling

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Job training grant deadline approaches

Applications for job training grants for up to \$500,000 to help unemployed and underemployed residents of Brownfields-impacted communities are being accepted through April 20. The grants come from a \$5 million allocation of Job Training Grants Stimulus funding to EPA.

Eligible governmental entities and nonprofit organizations should apply to provide environmental job training projects in local communities.

Applicants must identify and propose to serve a community that currently receives, or has received, financial assistance (federal, state, or tribal) for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund, cleanup, site-specific work carried out by state or tribal response programs, and/or targeted brownfields assessments performed directly by EPA.

Proposals demonstrating the ability to start projects expeditiously and contribute to the creation and/or preservation of jobs will be evaluated more favorably.

Visit the EPA's website for application guidelines at epa.gov/brownfields/eparecovery.

Scrap metals industry shows cautious optimism

by Mike Breslin

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The pulse may be faint, but there are signs of life in the scrap metal business. Opinions on the state of the market and future prospects are mixed, however, ranging from pessimistic to mildly optimistic. Even so, most all the metal recyclers interviewed are operating with a tight rein on operating costs and holding their breath.

Dramatic slowdowns by United States scrap generators in heavy industry, manufacturing, especially automotive, aerospace, machinery and their suppliers, and in construction have led to tightening supplies of scrap metals. Scrap metal dealers, brokers and processors are finding it harder to acquire scrap and traveling farther away to secure it.

Severe winter storms across many parts of the country compounded shortages. Some believe that scrap metal commodity prices have bottomed out and are slowly beginning to recover.

Looming over everything are the yet unknown ramifications

of the Buy American provision included in the recently passed \$787 billion American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. No one seems to understand exactly how the legislation will be implemented or how it will affect scrap steel exports.

A firestorm of protest from many countries and several leading United States manufacturers has caused Washington to moderate its position. It seems likely that federal contractors will be politically motivated to use domestically produced steel on infrastructure projects while our government walks a tightrope to meet World Trade Organization fair trade codes and trade treaties with foreign governments.



Copper scrap sits at P&T Metals Corporation, baled and staged for export.

In any case, billions in United States stimulus spending should increase demand for scrap metals as well as create a stream of scrap to ease up shortages.

Domestic Scrap Shortages

An example of the shortage of scrap was provided by Univer-

sal Scrap Metal (USM) based in Chicago. It is one of the Midwest's largest wholesalers and processor of scrap metal and a major processor of non-ferrous scrap. USM buys non-ferrous, ferrous, precious metal bearing, **See SCRAP METALS, Page A4**

Automotive aluminum use reaches all-time high

New data indicates automakers continue to innovate with greater use of aluminum to boost fuel economy, cut emissions and improve safety. A new study by Ducker Worldwide, commissioned by The Aluminum Association, Inc., confirms that in North America the use of automotive aluminum is at an all-time high, averaging 8.6 percent of vehicle curb weight in 2009 calendar year vehicles, up from just 2 percent in 1970 and 5.1 percent in 1990. Additionally, the integration of aluminum in cars and light trucks is projected to be nearly 11 percent of curb weight by 2020.

On a worldwide basis, the amount of aluminum content for light vehicles is 7.8

percent of the average worldwide light vehicle curb weight of 3,185 lbs. in 2009. Content growth is predicted to continue at a rate of 4 to 5 lbs. per vehicle, per year, and approach 300 lbs. per vehicle worldwide in 2020.

North America continues to lead

North America ranks as the world leader in aluminum penetration in cars, pickups, SUVs and minivans where a net increase of more than 8 lbs. occurred between 2006 and 2009 calendar year vehicles despite a 10 percent loss in share for large, full-frame vehicles with high aluminum content. More than 50 vehicles produced in North America contain over 10 percent aluminum content.

Honda and BMW are now the aluminum content leaders replacing General Motors and Nissan with both companies averaging more than 340 lbs. of aluminum per vehicle. General Motors, Honda, Toyota, BMW, Hyundai and Volkswagen all increased the amount of aluminum content of their North American vehicles from 2006 to 2009.

On a component basis, the study cites engine blocks and steering knuckles with the largest increase in growth over the last three years; with penetration of aluminum blocks reaching nearly 70 percent – the largest driver of aluminum growth in this decade. In addition, more than 22 percent of vehicles

See ALUMINUM, Page A5

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WHAT'S INSIDE		
Scrap Metals MarketWatch.....	12	■ New York City begins new rail haul operation for waste. Page A7
On Topic.....	14	■ Panning scrap streams for gold. Page B1
Salvaging Millions	20	■ No barrier for recycling plastic made from plants . Page A10
Business Briefs.....	26	■ Steel: It's been green for years. Page B2
Events Calendar.....	27	■ National fraud and theft prevention system goes live. Page A19
Advertiser Index.....	27	■ International metals trade hit by the downturn. Page B3
New Product Showcase.....	28	
AR Classifieds.....	28	
Focus Section	B1	
Equipment Spotlight.....	B4	
A Closer Look.....	B6	

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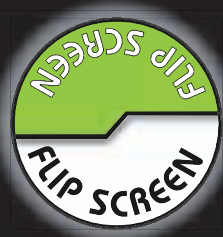
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Diageo reuses waste from gin manufacturing

In an effort to send zero waste from its manufacturing facilities to landfills, Diageo, a spirits, wine and beer company, announced that its Plainfield, Illinois facility is implementing a new byproduct reuse initiative that will send berries and seeds from gin production to Waste Management, Inc.'s local composting site. In addition, Diageo is expanding its paper-recycling program in Plainfield and the company is launching a new initiative that converts municipal solid waste into power and steam instead of sending it to a landfill.

Together, these initiatives will deliver considerable energy savings and keep more than 400 tons of waste out of landfills annually.

"By expanding our paper recycling program, finding innovative ways to reuse byproduct, and converting solid waste into power and steam, we are making positive strides towards establishing zero waste to landfill – a central goal in Diageo's commitment to sustainability," said Dave Wengerhoff, senior vice president of Diageo's Brand Technical Center.

At the Plainfield facility, the paper-recycling program in the technical center was expanded to include cardboard, plastic wrap, bottles and Styrofoam.

The expanded recycling program and reuse initiative will help the Plainfield facility keep nearly 200 tons out of the landfill annually.

The byproduct reuse initiative, meanwhile, is already under way as the facility is storing the seeds and berries on site in extra containers until the compost site opens in April.

At the Amherstberg plant, all of the site's municipal solid waste, previously destined for landfills, is now being sent to a refuse-derived fuel waste-to-energy plant. The solid waste is used to power a steam plant that generates up to 68 megawatts of electricity, which is sold to the Detroit Edison Corporation. By using this process, approximately 245 tons of waste will be kept out of the landfill each year and, in total, 100 percent of the site's waste to landfill is now being diverted to help create energy.

Hazardous clean up completed

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently completed work to clean up and remove hazardous substances on a property in Leeward Oahu, Hawaii.

EPA emergency response staff led the clean up and removal of more than 1,000 tons of solid and hazardous wastes, lead acid batteries and contaminated soil, at a cost of more than \$500,000.

During the execution of a search warrant, federal law enforcement officers discovered that Richard Allen Botelho and Dwayne Luis Dano, both convicted felons, were in possession of firearms. Dano and Botelho later pleaded guilty to being felons in possession of firearms. Both were sentenced to incarceration followed by supervision.

Stimulus Plan includes billions for EPA programs

The economic recovery plan signed by President Obama will create three to four million quality, sustainable jobs with many protecting our country's public health and our environment.

"Through the President's stimulus package, green initiatives will play a significant role in powering economic recovery," said EPA administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "EPA's portion of the plan will create good, sustainable jobs that help produce cleaner drinking water, purer air, environmentally friendly urban and rural re-development, and reduced greenhouse gases."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifically includes \$7.22 billion for projects and programs administered by EPA. These programs will protect and promote both green jobs and a healthier environment. These environmental areas include:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$4 billion for assistance to help communities with water quality and wastewater infrastructure needs and \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure needs. A portion of the funding will be targeted toward green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects.

- Brownfields: \$100 million for competitive grants to evaluate and clean

up former industrial and commercial sites.

- Diesel Emissions Reduction: \$300 million for grants and loans to help regional, state and local governments, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations with projects that reduce diesel emissions.

- Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup: \$600 million for the cleanup of hazardous sites.

- Leaking Underground Storage Tanks: \$200 million for cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks.

The new law is geared for performance and unprecedented transparency: preference will be given to projects that can be started and completed expeditiously, and EPA intends to move designated funds to states as quickly as possible. All funding will be monitored by EPA's Inspector General, which will receive \$20 million for oversight and review. Announcements of grants will be posted on the Web to ensure transparency. The state-by-state distributions for clean water and drinking water state revolving funds are also available on the web.

For new information on the state-by-state distributions for clean water and drinking water state revolving funds visit www.epa.gov/recovery.

California presents new producer responsibility bill

A bill introduced by Assembly member Wesley Chesbro (D-Arcata) aims to reduce waste, litter, and greenhouse gases and create thousands of green jobs. The California Product Stewardship Act, AB 283, would incentivize producers to design products and packaging that are less toxic, more durable, reusable, recyclable and/or biodegradable.

AB 283 is supported by the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). CPSC is an organization of local governments and other partners, formed to support development and implementation of product stewardship.

Even with new recycling programs, California is still generating more waste than ever – 40 million tons annually. In a free market, extended producer responsibility (EPR) reduces waste while creating opportunities to grow businesses and jobs in recycling and manufacturing industries.

"EPR policies are working in Canada, Europe, Japan and other countries," said Heidi Sanborn, executive director of CPSC. "The primary responsibility should rest with producers because only they make design and packaging decisions. It is far less expensive to design a product and packaging to reduce waste than it is to create expensive end-of-life disposal and recycling systems."

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Scrap metals

Continued from Page 1

used beverage cans, hi-temperature alloys, electronic and composite metal scrap from industrial and manufacturing companies, recycling centers and independent scrap dealers. "The only encouraging sign we've seen is on the sales side. We can sell whatever we can produce. Prices we can get are good in relation to where the prices are in the marketplace. It's just that we can't find metal," said Phil Zeid, USM's president and CEO.

Back in November, USM had problems selling, but now customers are calling and need metal. Zeid believes that demand is only growing from the standpoint that his customers are using up existing inventory, not necessarily because their business is getting better.

"I've been in the business 26 years. Usually when you see a recession in the metals market, copper may get strong and aluminum might get weak, stainless may get weak and steel gets strong. There is always some balance where some metals or a group of metals is strong. In this case, everything has plummeted, but also the volumes have come down dramatically. We could live with these prices if we had the volume to sustain the business," Zeid lamented.

When Kurt Rexius, CEO of P&T Metals Corporation, a large metal recycler in the Los Angeles basin was queried about how business was, he had a one word answer: "Terrible!"

But then he seemed somewhat optimistic and said that prices have seemed to stabilize over the last three or four weeks. "Prices are in a range where we can operate our business successfully, but it's still a difficult time. Margins and prices have come down and they've actually stabilized, but at a much lower price than they were just a year ago," he said. "Prices have come up since January, roughly 10 to 15 percent. I think the market has bottomed."

P&T's biggest problem is also the supply of scrap. Scrap availability on the west coast has been dramatically affected by slowdowns in aerospace and home construction. The machinists strike last year at Boeing dropped 2008 production by 15 percent. Many domestic and international airlines have either reduced orders or put contracts on hold. Fifteen of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner orders were cancelled. Boeing plans on cutting 10,000 jobs, or 6 percent of its workforce this year. Production at

recreational aircraft companies has slowed and business jet manufacturing has virtually dried up. "Directly and indirectly, approximately 35 percent of my business comes from aerospace," said Rexius.

To acquire more scrap, P&T is being more aggressive on price and going farther away to buy it, even buying out of state. "When business is good people tend to pick the low hanging fruit, now everyone has to reach out to get scrap, which of course drives your margins down due a larger investment in time and higher transportation costs."



PHOTO COURTESY OF P&T METALS CORPORATION
Titanium chips are boxed and ready for processing.

About 60 percent of P&T's scrap metal is exported, primarily to Taiwan and China with minor shipments to Japan. Rexius reported that his orders for exports are actually starting to pick up, mostly from China.

Arthur Ames Scrap Metal, based in Newark, New Jersey is a wholesaler that buys a full range of scrap metals from factories in and around New York. Arthur Ames buys all types of scrap metal, warehouses it and sells most of its inventory domestically to companies that may or may not export. Steve Mersky, vice president of Arthur Ames commented on market conditions: "Scrap metal is like the rest of the world now. The conditions are not great, business is off and prices are much lower than have been over the past few years. But this past week, all of a sudden it's starting to inch up a bit. I have a feeling that it might open up shortly."

International Demand

On the international front, scrap metal volume seems to be recovering. "We are seeing very strong demand for scrap in China and as unusual as it may sound it's still an expanding economy, which is good," said Bob Stein, vice president of non-ferrous marketing and president of the bureau of international recycling non-ferrous division at Alter Trading Corporation.

Stein confirmed that there is strong demand for non-ferrous in China and that

Alter sells there everyday, even through the slowdown in the Chinese economy has weakened their currency against the dollar making United States scrap metal more expensive there. Most of Asia is in the same predicament as Western Europe and the United States because of cut-backs in auto production. "The worst hit of all the metals is secondary aluminum. That is an international phenomenon because a lot of that product goes to the automotive industry," said Stein.

India is a different story. Not only has their economy slowed down, but their currency has also weakened against the dollar making United States scrap metal even more expensive than in China. Despite the slowdowns in China and India, Stein reported that he can sell every pound of non-ferrous scrap that Alter can produce.

According to Stein, scrap inventories are low in China and Asia, especially copper. "Copper prices seem to be in a nice trading range, certainly when at the upper end of that trading range. Four or five years ago we were sitting here scratching our heads wondering if copper would go over a dollar. It hit \$4 dollars last spring, but those were explosive times and they were not reflecting the true fundamentals of the market. It was highly speculative and most speculation is out of the market, so maybe now a buck and a half is the right price for a pound of copper," said Stein. "I have a moderately optimistic outlook. We've already been in a recession for a year and these things usually last about 18 months to 2 years. There is light at the end of the tunnel."

Governments all over the world are pumping huge amounts of money into their economies in the form of bailouts and guarantees. It may not have an immediate impact, but it should shortly begin to stir economies, get people buying and get people back to work.

"We are cautiously optimistic that infrastructure spending in the United States, in China and other countries will help jumpstart prices and demand for our commodities. Our theory has always been it's not a question of if it will rebound, it's a question of when," said Bruce Savage, vice president of communications at Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

Things are always clouded by the events of the day, we always think it's going to be terrible forever, but it is not.

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Colorado's proposed tire fee hike won't clean up tires

Buying a set of four tires will cost Colorado consumers an additional \$13 if lawmakers approve a proposed increase in the state tire fee to \$3.25 per tire.

State tire fees are typically used to pay for the cleanup of discarded tires and creation of markets for scrap tires. Unfortunately, Colorado diverts 80 percent of the current tire fee to other purposes and has not been active in either stockpile abatement or developing markets for the 4.5 million scrap tires the State generates each year.

A state-by-state survey of scrap tire management progress conducted by the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) shows Colorado has the most stockpiled tires of any state with 45 million tires, creating a health, safety, fire and environmental hazard.

"Colorado's pro-environment reputation is challenged by the state's abysmal record in managing waste tires," said Michael Blumenthal, RMA vice president.

If the \$1.75 per-tire fee hike is enacted, Colorado consumers will pay the state \$13 for every set of four tires purchased. The total take for the state will amount to more than \$14 million annually but none of those funds would be used to clean up the largest scrap tire pile in the United States – some 40 million tires in El Paso County.

The Colorado Senate approved SB09-31 18-15 to raise the state tire fee

by \$1.75 and use the funds for economic development. The House should address the measure shortly.

Nationwide, states have been vigorously cleaning up stockpiled waste tires and working to foster the creation of productive markets that reuse tires. In 1990, more than one billion tires were stockpiled nationwide and only 11 percent of scrap tires were reused.

Today, about 125 million tires remain stockpiled and more than 85 percent of annually generated scrap tires are reused. Colorado is home to more than one third of all the stockpiled scrap tires in the country.

The tire industry, led by RMA, has been working for nearly two decades to promote market-based solutions to using scrap tires and reasonable regulations to clean up piles of scrap tires. RMA supports fees on new tires to fund scrap tire management goals. The group opposes efforts to use such revenue for non-scrap tire purposes.

"It makes sense to impose fees on tires if the funds are used to address scrap tire issues," Blumenthal said. "But when these revenues are hijacked for other purposes, a state may suffer far worse environmental consequences and cleanup costs if a major tire stockpile catches fire. In too many states, this failure to act has caused significant environmental harm and cost the state tens of millions of dollars in clean up costs."

An estimated total of 67 vehicles from the European (49) and Japanese (18) markets now contain more than 400 lbs. of finished aluminum.

Experts Weigh In

As the future of the global automotive industry quickly shifts to more fuel-efficient products, vehicles around the world will be manufactured with a variety of solutions and powertrain improvements. In fact, material experts and body engineers surveyed in this study expect 25 percent of fuel economy improvement to come from weight savings, while powertrain experts predict that 50 percent of the improvements will be from weight reduction.

For North America specifically, the use of aluminum as a replacement for heavier materials is a very significant option to improve fuel economy and nearly as important as hybrid technology.

Aluminum

Continued from Page 1

currently made in the United States have aluminum hoods, an all-time record.

Global growth continues

Since the 2006 model year, aluminum content has also experienced steady growth in light vehicle applications in other regions of the world, but especially in Europe and Japan. Long-term growth rates remain in line with the significant growth rates of the late 1970s to early 1990s, despite the shift to smaller vehicles.

Worldwide aluminum content is projected to grow to 28 to 30 billion lbs. per year – up from the current 16 to 17 billion pounds – between now and 2020, not taking scrap and spare parts into account.

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Midwest Clean Diesel partners awarded millions

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will award more than \$4.8 million in grants to 13 state and local partners as part of the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative. The regional grants come from the \$49.2 million 2008 National Clean Diesel Campaign.

EPA presented a \$750,000 check to one of the grant recipients, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative was founded by EPA Region 5 in 2004 to reduce pollution from older diesel engines by making them run cleaner and eliminating unnecessary idling. Since then, the partnership has affected more than 600,000 engines.

"EPA looks forward to funding even more of these very worthwhile clean diesel projects thanks to the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA), better known as the Economic Stimulus Package," said EPA acting regional administrator Bharat Mathur.

Under ARRA, about \$300 million will go to reducing emissions from diesel engines nationally. This additional funding is expected to improve air quality and create jobs at companies that manufacture emission control devices and idle reduction technologies. EPA anticipates that it will also create jobs for the technicians who install these devices on trucks, buses, and construction equipment.

The groups receiving funding from the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative are:

- Illinois Green Fleets – \$678,604.
- Chicago Public Schools (City of Chicago) – \$373,909.
- Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation (ArcelorMittal Steel, NW Indiana) – \$164,032.
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management – \$334,500.
- NextEnergy Center (Southeast Michigan) – \$250,000.
- Lenawee Intermediate School District (Lenawee County, Michigan) – \$154,381.
- Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District (Huron County, Michigan) – \$251,100.
- Clean Energy Coalition (Michigan) – \$250,000.
- Minnesota Environmental Initiative – \$400,000.
- Stark County Educational Services Center (Ohio) – \$465,364.
- Clean Fuels Ohio - \$412,554.
- Ohio Environmental Council – \$394,589.
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation – \$750,000.

Projects include a variety of diesel emission reduction approaches such as retrofit technologies, idle-reduction technologies, cleaner fuel use, engine upgrades and vehicle or equipment replacement.

For more information on EPA Region 5's Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.

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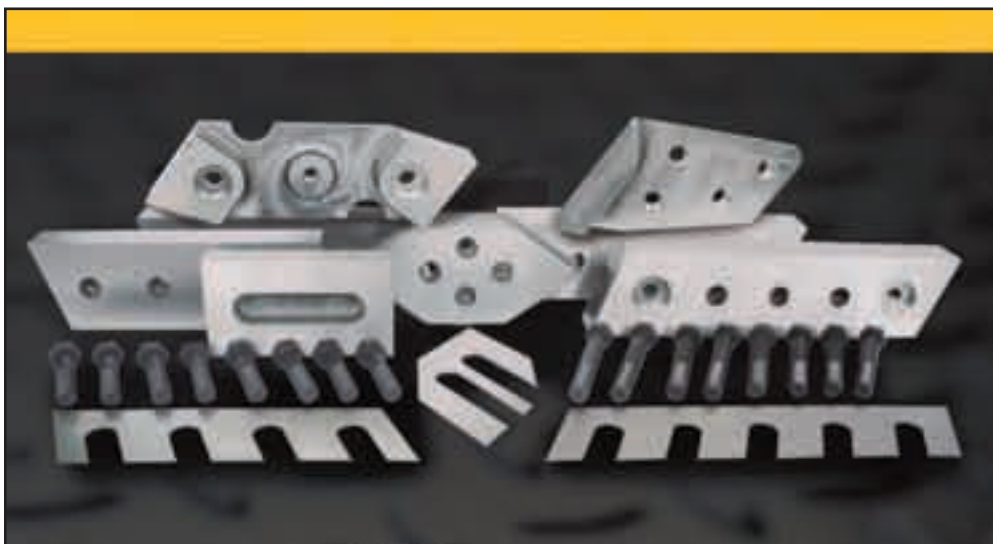
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Oregon DEQ awards grant to salvage useful materials

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has awarded a \$50,000 solid waste grant that the Portland Habitat ReStore will use to launch an outreach program and branding campaign to educate businesses and consumers about the value of new salvaged building materials. The goal is to increase its collection and sales of building materials, thus decreasing the amount of materials discarded as waste.

DEQ is awarding the grant to the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which will supervise the project and use of the grant monies by the Portland Habitat ReStore. The ReStore is a non-profit operation that accepts tax-deductible donations of both used and new salvage building materials at its southeast Portland retail outlet. The ReStore plans to use the grant monies to hire a donor development manager who will develop a branding campaign for new salvaged materials. The donor development manager will also contact Portland metro-area businesses to encourage them to donate any unwanted, new materials to the ReStore, which resells the materials to the public at a discount.

Many building materials currently disposed of in landfills are from demolition or deconstruction projects and are "new" salvage materials. These items (such as plumbing fixtures, various hardware, caulk, grout, siding, tile and carpet) include freight-damaged materials, close-outs and remnants. Many are still usable and in perfect condition. These newer materials now make up about 40 percent of the ReStore's inventory.

The grant will pay for the donor development manager's full salary during the first year of the grant period and a portion in the second year. Habitat ReStore expects to reclaim at least 510 tons of additional reusable materials by the end of the two-year grant period. AmeriCorps VISTA and others will provide another \$50,000 in matching resources. In addition, MarketScape Inc., a marketing consulting firm, will guide the ReStore in developing a strategic marketing plan that the ReStore will use to educate businesses and individuals about the value of new salvage materials, amounting to \$5,000 in additional matching funds.

Meijer installs wind turbines

Meijer will soon expand its green initiatives to include the use of wind power at some of its facilities.

Meijer received approval to install the wind turbines from the zoning board of appeals in the city of Walker, the Grand Rapids suburb where Meijer's headquar-

ters facility is located. Current plans are for six wind turbines to be installed on the roof of the Meijer headquarters facility, with meters placed inside the building.

The wind turbines are being manufactured by Cascade Engineering and should be installed by the end of May.

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e n g i n e e r e d t o u g h

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New York City begins new rail haul operation for waste

Thirty five percent of city solid waste is exported by rail

New York City, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, sanitation commissioner John J. Doherty and Waste Management of New York, LLC announced that New York City has taken the next step in implementing its Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) by exporting North Brooklyn's residential and municipal solid waste by rail instead of truck.

Instead of using long-haul tractor trailers rail cars will export waste using a newly re-designed transfer station.

"By exporting 950 tons of residential and municipal waste per day by rail, we're eliminating more than 40 long haul tractor trailer trips each day – or about 13,000 trips per year," said Mayor Bloomberg.

Six days per week, the newly re-designed Varick Avenue I transfer station will receive an average of 950 tons of waste per day from Brooklyn Community Boards 1, 3, 4, and 5. Waste will be loaded into rail containers, each holding approximately 18 tons. Once sealed, the containers will be loaded onto rail cars at the adjoining rail yard, and moved by the New York & Atlantic Railway to the Fresh Pond Yard, where it will be connected to CSX Transportation trains for transport to disposal sites.

The SWMP, which was adopted by the City Council and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2006, changes the way the City transports waste. The SWMP will eliminate nearly six million miles of truck trips per year in New York City and ensure that every borough has the capacity to handle its own waste and recyclables.

Oregon proposes amendments to composting facility rules

Composting contributes to achieving Oregon's solid waste recovery goal of 50 percent by 2009. In 2006, 41 permitted composting facilities in the state composted over 591,000 tons of feedstock, which accounted for 15 percent of all solid waste diverted from landfills.

The Oregon DEQ supports and encourages composting. At the same time, if composting is not conducted in the proper manner, or if conducted at an improper location, composting presents potential environmental problems, most notably to surface water and groundwater.

DEQ is proposing significant amendments to the existing rules for composting facilities to ensure protection of public health and the environment while allowing Oregon's composting industry to grow.

The proposed rules make the following significant changes to the structure of DEQ's composting program:

All facilities, both existing and new, will be screened to evaluate the degree of environmental risk posed by the facility. Low risk facilities will operate under a Registration permit. Higher risk facilities will be required to provide an Operations Plan for DEQ approval that addresses the identified risks. These facilities will operate under a Composting Permit.

The rules give operators the responsibility and flexibility to design, construct, and manage their operations – subject to DEQ approval – to meet the performance measures.

DEQ will focus its inspection, technical assistance and compliance efforts on the facilities that present significant environmental risks.

Comments may be submitted prior to the deadline of 5 p.m. on April 30, 2009.

To review the rulemaking documents and for instructions on how to comment, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.

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ELECTRONICS

New phone brigade program launched

ReCellular announced a new strategic partnership with TerraCycle. By the end of the year, the partnership hopes to have over 1,000 brigades that collect and donate cell phones, raise funds for local causes and keep e-waste out of landfills.

The partnership provides a solution for TerraCycle to expand their upcycling efforts to include consumer electronics. TerraCycle first launched the Brigade concept in 2006, paying schools and non-profits to collect 20-ounce soda bottles. TerraCycle's Brigade concept quickly became a grassroots phenomenon, with more than 20,000 participating

locations by the end of 2008. In just two years, the programs raised more than \$100,000, primarily donated to public-school organizations, and rescued and reused tens of millions of soda bottles, yogurt cups, and snack wrappers.

Based on the success of their bottle and wrapper brigades, TerraCycle decided to expand their upcycling collections to help address the estimated 65,000 tons of cell phones that are discarded every year.

For additional information, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.

WeRecycle! files Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

WeRecycle! Inc., (WeRecycle), a Connecticut electronics recycler, announced that it has filed a petition to restructure under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

The company also announced it has received a proposal for investment by Hugo Neu Corporation (HNC) that is intended to allow WeRecycle to continue its growth both during and after the restructuring process.

Subject to bankruptcy court approval, Hugo Neu's plan would provide interim resources, if necessary, to

help finance WeRecycle's reorganization. Under the proposal, Hugo Neu Corporation would acquire a controlling interest in the business of WeRecycle and make investments in technology and downstream recycling processes.

WeRecycle anticipates no job losses during the restructuring process.

John L. Neu, chairman of Hugo Neu Corporation, said, "We were looking for cutting-edge electronics recycling companies in which to invest and reached out to WeRecycle because we believe they are the best."

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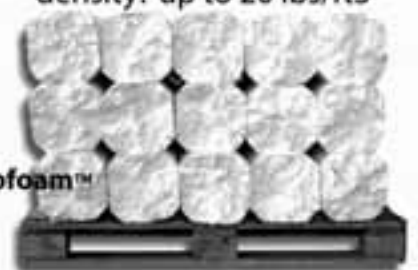


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ELECTRONICS

ReCellular recycled 5.5 million cell phones in 2008

ReCellular, an electronics-sustainability firm, collected and processed 5.5 million phones for reuse and recycling in 2008. This represents a 35 percent increase year-over-year, reflecting ReCellular's ongoing efforts to increase the availability and consumer awareness of cell-phone recycling in the United States and Canada.

"This year, we made great progress towards our goal of transforming the life-cycle of a cell phone," says Chuck Newman, ReCellular CEO.

That progress is documented in the company's first annual sustainability report, available on their website at www.ReCellular.com/Sustainability.

Highlights of the report include:

- The collection of 5.5 million phones.
- ReCellular donate-a-phone programs raised \$4.0 million for charitable causes and grassroots organizations, from local Boy Scout troops to the national Cell Phones for Soldiers program.
- ReCellular recycled 1.2 million pounds of materials, including handsets, batteries, phone chargers and accessories, and paper and plastic shipping materials.
- ReCellular reclaimed 21,000 pounds of copper, 954 pounds of silver, and 96 pounds of gold from recycled circuit boards and electronics accessories.

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PLASTICS

State expands bottle bill to include bottled water

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reminded beverage distributors that in compliance with new state law they were to file a report by March 15 that detailed the receipt and expenditure of funds resulting from deposits on bottles.

This first-ever financial accounting on bottle deposit funds must show activity from December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009 in special bank accounts distributors were required to establish for this purpose.

The next scheduled financial report from beverage distributors is required April 30, at which time funds remaining in the special accounts will escheat – or be turned over – to the state of Connecticut's General Fund for the first time. Funds remaining in these accounts will result

from the fact that consumers do not redeem all beverage containers for which they have paid a deposit.

The accounting requirements for beverage distributors were adopted during the November 24 special session of the General Assembly. In January, the legislature approved a measure requiring balances remaining in the special accounts of distributors to be turned over to the state. In February, the legislature expanded the bottle deposit law to include water bottles.

The expansion to water bottles is effective April 1. Distributors of water bottles are also required to establish special bank accounts for deposit funds and will be required to submit their first financial reports April 30. At that point funds remaining in these accounts must also be turned over to the state.

Tomra and Albertsons work together to collect containers

Tomra of North America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tomra Systems ASA announced an agreement with Albertsons to conduct a recycling pilot program to handle the return of beverage containers.

Under the program, Tomra of North America will place its UNO reverse vending systems at Albertsons' Corona and Huntington Beach, California stores.

"Studies show that consumers who return empties during their shopping visit purchase up to 52 percent more than other shoppers," said Greg Knoll, President and CEO, Tomra of North America. "When shoppers have containers to return, they tend to go to their local store with the best return solution. Up to 22 percent of consumers are willing to change where they shop if they find a store with a better container return solution."

Despite having launched the pilot program only recently, both Tomra of

North America and Albertsons are already planning the expansion of the program, with an objective to have machines installed in approximately 30 more stores by the end of the year. All machines will be launched under Albertsons' environmental stewardship brand initiative Val-uEarth™.

The UNO machines come equipped with technology to allow Tomra to access them remotely for repairs and preventative maintenance. In the event of a machine issue, the machines automatically send e-mail notifications for service. Tomra's patented recognition technology provides video recognition of inserted items, ensuring correct deposit refunds, the best protection against fraud.

Tomra has installed nearly 65,000 recycling systems and collects more than 30 billion used beverage containers through its recycling machines.

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PLASTICS

Analysis indicates no technical barrier for recycling plastic bottles made from plants

Following an extensive analysis of current technology, NatureWorks LLC concludes that automated systems being used today in the recycling industry are capable of sorting natural plastic bottles from other plastic bottles with an accuracy approaching 100 percent. This finding is significant because it demonstrates that there is no technological barrier to recycling bottles made from plants instead of oil.

"To become more sustainable, the packaging industry must lower the overall waste, energy consumed, and greenhouse gas emitted from the use of plastics, metals, and fibers," said Steve Davies, NatureWorks director of communications and public affairs. "Demonstrating that natural plastic bottles can be brought seamlessly into the recycling stream through the use of automated sorting equipment available today is a major finding and another step towards greater sustainability."

During the past two years, NatureWorks has surveyed equipment manufacturers that have systems with the potential to sort biopolymers from such other plastics as PET, HDPE, PVC, and PS. These sorting systems are usually based on one or more of the following technologies: infrared, ultraviolet, x-ray, color identification, and laser. NatureWorks has identified a dozen

companies offering systems that can potentially sort bioresins and has worked closely with three to ascertain actual sorting accuracies.

Titech demonstrated the ability of its near-infrared sorting systems to eject concentrated amounts of NatureWorks Ingeo natural plastic in a PET sorting operation. Sorting efficiency in a single pass was found to be a minimum of 97.5 percent accurate. This result is consistent with sorting efficiencies for other materials the equipment ejects as contaminants or passes through as desired streams.

Unisensor showed its laser technology was fully capable of sorting Ingeo flakes from desired PET flakes at efficiencies of 96 to 99 percent. This is consistent with other plastics considered contaminants in the PET flake stream.

MSS tested Ingeo natural plastic in its Aladdin near-infrared system. The test confirmed that Ingeo emits a unique polymeric signature. The test demonstrated that Ingeo comes up as "other plastics" in a system specifically designed to identify PET, PE and other plastics. The unique signature of Ingeo means that the equipment is programmable to identify Ingeo and sort with high accuracy.

WRAP, the internationally recognized not-for-profit company that helps

individuals, businesses and local authorities to reduce waste, conducted a comprehensive assessment of its own. Published in June 2008, WRAP concluded in Domestic Mixed Plastics Packaging Waste Options that "Near-infrared (NIR) systems can effectively remove PLA bioplastic and carton board from a mixed packaging stream."

"Accurate sorting is at the heart of making recycling an economically viable business because the recycling operation must be able to separate materials into pure streams – aluminum separated from steel or PET and HDPE plastics from other polymers," Davies said. "Based on our own work and the analysis of WRAP, we know now that automated systems on the market today can sort natural plastics within industry accepted norms."

A comprehensive overview of NatureWorks analysis of Ingeo bottles and automated sorting equipment can be downloaded from the company's website under "Our Values & Views" at www.natureworkslc.com.

NatureWorks also publishes a newsletter covering developments of Ingeo bioresin and relevant industry developments — see their "News and Events" page.

Knowing when to keep your mouth shut is invariably more important than opening it at the right time. —Malcolm Forbes

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Biodegradable hot cup lid introduced

Eco-Products, a biodegradable and compostable food service company, announced it has developed a compostable hot cup lid. Eco-Products will unveil the first commercially-available compostable hot cup lid in North America this spring, addressing the growing demand from conscious coffee and tea enthusiasts.

Created from Ingeo™ biopolymer from NatureWorks LLC, the product enables restaurants, hotels, and university and corporate campuses to break away from the status quo and provide the first fully renewable hot cup and lid system.

In keeping with the company's commitment to zero waste, Eco-Products has submitted the lid to Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) for certification. Eco-Products hot cup lid will debut in April 2009. The lid is heat stable up to 220 degrees and is designed to break down and return to the earth within 90-120 days in a commercial compost facility.

Everyday, across North America, millions of single-use disposable hot cups and lids are discarded and destined for the landfill. Traditional hot cup lids and the liner used to coat the paperboard are made from oil, a nonrenewable resource, while Eco-Products' new hot beverage system is made from plant starch materials.

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PLASTICS

Sears launches apparel made from recycled plastic bottles



Apparel designed using a blend of fibers, made from plastic bottle chips and wool, results in a fabric that looks elegant and feels luxurious. Bagir Group Ltd. has adapted this fabric into fashionable suits that appeal to the eco-conscious customer under the EcoGIR™ name. The collection is only available at Sears under the “Covington Perfect Wardrobe” label.

It takes approximately 13 2-liter plastic bottles to make one full suit whose fabric contains 54 percent recycled post-consumer materials. In addition, the collection also offers a sports coat made out of 100 percent recycled polyester.

This approach benefits the environment as apparel made of recycled material can help save energy consump-

tion while striving to reduce carbon footprints and diverting waste from landfills.

The suits will have an introductory price of \$149. Customers wishing to purchase the jacket and pants separately will find an introductory price of \$99.99 for the jacket and \$50 for the pants.

Plastic bag and film recycling rate hits record high

According to a report released by the American Chemistry Council, Americans recycled an estimated 830,180,000 pounds of post-consumer film and plastic bags in 2007. This upward trend of plastic recovery resulted in an overall increase of 27 percent since 2005. These numbers are based on recovery data from 18 domestic processors or end-users of film material and 45 companies that export to overseas markets.

Exports of plastic film rose enough to cover the slight decrease in demand from the composite lumber market, which remains a significant user of scrap plastic film.

To view the full National Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Bag and Film Report, view this article on www.americanrecycler.com.

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METALS

Finished steel imports increase by 15% in January 2009

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the United States imported a total of 2,343,000 net tons (NT) of steel in January 2009, including 2,134,000 NT of finished steel (up 13 percent and 15 percent, respectively, vs. December final data).

Total and finished steel imports on an annualized basis are down 12 and 1 percent, respectively, vs. 2008. Annualized total imports of steel in 2009 would be 28.1 million MT. The 15 percent increase in imports occurred while United States domestic facilities operated at a 44 percent utilization rate in January. Finished steel import market share surged to an estimated 36 percent in January, after averaging 32 percent average in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Key products with increases in January 2009 compared to December include Reinforcing Bar (up 295 per-

U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (Thousands of Net Tons)					
	JAN 2009	DEC 2008	JAN 2008	2008 Annual	% Change 2009 Annual vs. 2008
CHINA	435	486	272	4,821	8.3%
SOUTH KOREA	259	113	232	2,305	34.8%
JAPAN	147	115	124	1,614	9.1%
TURKEY	112	72	69	827	62.6%
GERMANY	93	83	86	1,122	-1.0%
INDIA	80	123	102	1,102	-12.4%
TAIWAN	77	38	66	662	39.9%
BRAZIL	42	27	56	436	15.6%
RUSSIA	41	69	15	376	31.4%
MALAYSIA	32	10	1	50	656.7%
All Others	816	715	1,181	12,641	-22.5%
TOTAL	2,134	1,850	2,204	25,956	-1.3%

cent), Heavy Structural Shapes (up 136 percent), Sheets and Strip All Other Metallic Coated (up 112 percent), Cold Rolled Sheets (up 52 percent) and Cut Length Plates (up 43 percent) and Line Pipe (up 25 percent).

In January, the largest volume of finished imports from offshore was from China (435,000 NT, down 10 percent from December).

Other major offshore suppliers in January were Korea (259,000 NT, up 130 percent from December), Japan (147,000, up 28 percent), Turkey (112,000 NT, up 55 percent), Germany (93,000 NT, up 12 percent) and India (80,000 NT, down 35 percent).

Steel import permits drop

Based on the Commerce Department's most recent Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that steel import permit applications for the month of February totaled 1,623,000 net tons (NT).

This was a 29 percent decrease from the 2,285,000 permit tons recorded in January 2009, and a 31 percent decrease from the January preliminary imports total of 2,343,000 NT. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in February was 1,511,000 NT, a decrease of 29 percent from the preliminary imports total of 2,134,000 NT in January. February 2009 total and finished steel import permit tons would annualize at 23,793,000 NT and 21,870,000 NT, down 26 and 16 percent, respectively, from the 31,927,000 NT and 25,956,000 NT imported in 2008.

In February 2009, the largest finished steel import permit applications for offshore countries were for China (307,000 NT), South Korea (148,000 NT), Japan (102,000 NT), Turkey (97,000NT) and Brazil (59,000 NT). Cumulative tonnage from the top three offshore suppliers (China, South Korea and Japan) accounted for 37 percent of all finished imports in February, which was one-third more than the amount from NAFTA countries (28 percent). In spite of the lower import tonnage in February, finished steel import market share last month was well above the 10-year average, as China remained the largest foreign supplier of finished steel.

Major finished steel import products that registered large increases in February vs. the January preliminary include Plates in Coils (up 54 percent), Standard Rails (up 19 percent) and Reinforcing Bar (up 17 percent).

Don't call it sleeping at your desk; call it "rationing consciousness".

December steel shipments down 45.7% from previous year

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that for the month of December 2008, United States steel mills shipped 4,617,000 net tons, a 45.7 percent decrease from the 8,495,000 net tons shipped in December 2007 and an 11.6 percent decrease from the 5,223,000 net tons shipped in the previous month, November 2008.

A year-to-year comparison of year-to-date shipments shows the following changes within major market classifications: service centers and distributors, down 6.2 percent; automotive, down 11.2 percent; construction and contractors' products, down 11.6 percent; and oil and gas, up 5.6 percent.

More METALS news is available in this issue's Focus Section, Page B1

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#1 Bundles	per gross ton	169.00	130.00	148.00	185.00	205.00
Plate and Structural	per gross ton	168.00	120.00	136.00	168.00	202.00
#1 & 2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	165.00	115.00	132.00	155.00	165.00
Shredder Bundles (tin)	per gross ton	143.00	115.00	127.00	100.00	145.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	140.00	115.00	115.00	110.00	140.00
Steel Turnings	per pound	65.00	70.00	65.00	60.00	93.00
#1 Copper	per pound	1.35	1.39	1.55	1.45	1.55
#2 Copper	per pound	1.30	1.24	1.40	1.30	1.45
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.29	.29	.38	.37	.40
Auto Radiators	per pound	.92	.80	.79	.71	.95
Aluminum Core Radiators	per pound	.28	.22	.29	.35	.40
Heater Cores	per pound	.45	.40	.58	.84	.70
Stainless Steel	per pound	.38	.34	.42	.36	.46

All prices are expressed in USD. Printed as a reader service only.

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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

300 natural gas vehicles deployed

UPS has deployed 300 new delivery trucks powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) to seven cities in Colorado, Georgia, Oklahoma and California.

The CNG vehicles, part of an order placed last May, will allow UPS to further reduce its dependence on gasoline and diesel and lower its carbon footprint. UPS operates the largest private fleet of alternative fuel vehicles in its industry – 1,819 in total with these additions.

The new CNG trucks have been deployed to Denver (43); Atlanta (46); Oklahoma City (100), and four cities in California: Sacramento (21), San Ramon (63), Los Angeles (9) and Ontario (18). All are now in service.

“Deploying alternative fuel vehicles dates back to the early days of UPS and this CNG deployment is one more step towards the greening of our fleet,” said Robert Hall, UPS’s director of vehicle engineering. “Continuing to add CNG delivery trucks to our fleet is a sustainable choice because natural gas is a cost effective, clean-burning and readily available fuel.”

The 300 trucks deployed over the past month were built from scratch as CNG vehicles. They join more than 800 CNG vehicles already in use by UPS worldwide.

The CNG truck bodies are identical externally to the signature-brown trucks that comprise the UPS fleet. Marked with decals as CNG vehicles, the trucks are expected to yield a 20 percent emissions reduction over the cleanest diesel engines available in the market today.

For its alternative fuel fleet, UPS has deployed CNG, Liquefied Natural Gas, propane, electric and hybrid electric vehicles in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Germany, France, Brazil, Chile, Korea and the United Kingdom. The company recently announced the purchase of seven hydraulic hybrid delivery vehicles, a first in the industry, and has conducted research with hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Wal-Mart tests alternative fuels and hybrids

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. will test two new types of heavy-duty commercial hybrid trucks and two different alternatively fueled heavy duty trucks as a part of the company’s efforts to build on its progress in developing a more sustainable trucking fleet. The new trucks include:

- A full-propulsion Arvin Meritor hybrid that will initially operate in the Detroit area. This dual-mode diesel-electric hybrid is believed to be the first vehicle of its type;

- Fifteen trucks operating in Buckeye, Arizona distribution center near Phoenix, will be converted by Environmental Development Group to run on Reclaimed Grease Fuel, made with the

waste brown cooking grease from Wal-mart stores. In addition, the remaining trucks located in the Buckeye distribution center will operate on an 80/20 blend of biodiesel made of reclaimed yellow waste grease;

- Five Peterbilt Model 386 heavy duty hybrid trucks with diesel-electric hybrid power systems developed by Eaton Corporation and PACCAR, that will be based in Dallas, Houston, Apple Valley, California, Atlanta, Georgia and the Washington/Baltimore regions and;

- Four Peterbilt Model 386 trucks and one yard truck, which operates only on the distribution center property, will operate on liquid natural gas. These trucks are part of a partnership with the

Mojave Air Quality Management District and will operate out of the distribution center in Southern California.

Wal-Mart achieved more than a 25 percent increase in efficiency within its private fleet between 2005 and 2008, surpassing one of the company’s stated sustainability goals. By reaching this goal, Wal-Mart has been able to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions and its fuel use. This goal was reached by using a combination of new, innovative technologies, better delivery routes and by loading its trailers more efficiently. Now, the company is working toward its goal of doubling its fleet efficiency by 2015, from its 2005 baseline.

University of Dayton researcher finds cheaper method to create longer-lasting fuel cells

Liming Dai, the University of Dayton’s Wright Brothers Institute endowed chair in nanomaterials, and fellow scientists have taken a step toward a more efficient fuel cell that can be affordably mass-produced. They found that carbon nanotubes containing nitrogen are cheaper and work better than platinum in providing long-term fuel cell power.

Fuel cells convert hydrogen and oxygen to electrical power and water with no air pollution, hazardous waste or noise.

“Traditionally, fuel cells employ expensive platinum-based electrocatalysts, which cost about \$4,000 for a passenger car,” Dai said. “The goal is to reduce the major cost of a fuel cell in order to compete with current market technologies, including gasoline engines. Our finding is a major breakthrough toward commercialization of fuel cell technology for various applications.”

Dai said those applications could someday include electric and hybrid vehicles, submarines that could operate silently underwater for weeks, airplanes pow-

ered by only a fuel cell and lightweight batteries, power plants, notebook computers, portable charging docks for electronics, and power-hogging smart phones with large displays and elaborate features like GPS.

“The importance of developing new types of energy is evident from the fact that global energy consumption has been accelerating at an alarming rate due to rapid economic expansion worldwide, increase in world population and ever-increasing human reliance on energy-based appliances,” Dai said.

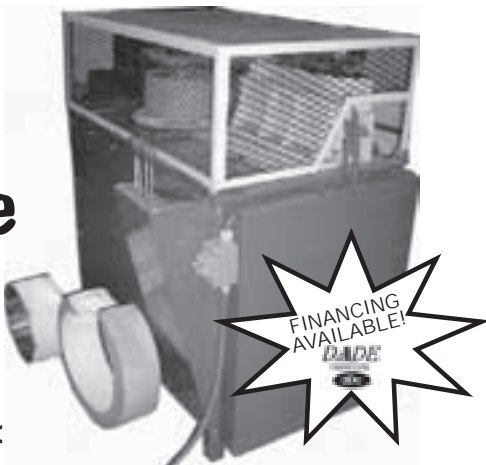
Dai also believes the role of nitrogen-doping, or adding nitrogen to carbon nanotubes, could be applied to the development of new materials for applications beyond fuel cells.

Michael Durstock in the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Zhenhai Xia in the University of Akron department of mechanical engineering, and Kuanping Gong and Feng Du in the University of Dayton departments of chemical and materials engineering contributed to the report.

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ON TOPIC — Q & A

by Irwin Rapoport

The economic impact on the metals recycling sector

The decline in the price of metals has impacted the metal recycling sector, as well as the major producers of metals, who have seen demand for their products fall in this period of global economic crisis.

To explain the current market situation American Recycler spoke with Bob Garino, director of commodities with the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI).



—Robert J. Garino

What is the current state of the domestic metal production sector in the United States in terms of recycling operations and major producers of steel and other commodities?

Garino: We look at industrial production as measured by the government – a very important indicator of the overall health of the economy. We've seen the manufacturing component of industrial production fall off the cliff. As industrial production is metal intensive, this has affected everyone all along the supply chain.

We are seeing less demand for industrial goods that has negatively affected the demand for raw materials and certain scrap materials that are vital to the manufacturing process. That is translating into lower demand and subsequently lower prices. It's not just in the United States that we are feeling the effects of a slowdown – it's global.

What effect could the Obama administration's economic stimulus package have on the production and sales of metals in the United States and worldwide?

Garino: The stimulus package has very good potential to give life to the metals that are depressed because of the lack of industrial production. If this money is properly allocated to things such as infrastructure, that will translate into higher use for steel and other metals.

Stimulating the economy means stimulating the consumer. The key is to really have the consumer confident again to start looking at automobiles, appliances and everything else like that. Two-thirds of our economy is dependent upon consumer spending and without it; it is hard to imagine much of a recovery. It is also getting the credit marking working again so that people feel confident about borrowing money and for banks to lend money – that will drive the economy.

The economic stimulus package emphasizes, "buy America" in terms of construction materials and metals needed by industry. How do you see this policy element affecting the domestic metals production sector and the metals market?

Garino: The statement says "buy America," but within that statement there are a lot of qualifiers. The devil is in the details. It's far less onerous in terms of international trade than I think some people are speculating. There are exceptions and exclusions in the legislation.

What is dangerous about it though is that it suggests a more restrictive trade policy and a more protectionist point of view. ISRI is a strong supporter of free and fair trade, so without knowing all the details, we would not want to see artificial restrictions placed on trade.

The United States is import dependent on steel and I do not know what that package will do to that, other than suggest that it is protectionist. It could set off other countries doing similar kind of things, which is not good for anybody.

The Obama administration is playing a crucial role in trying to stem the decline of the automobile industry, appointing a czar and a task force. How do you see these efforts playing a role in recovery and promoting the purchase of various metals by the auto industry?

Garino: The question is does the administration believe that the auto industry is so vital to the economy that we'll support it no matter what? Is it just too big to fail? Whether that is true, I do know that a bankruptcy by General Motors is to be avoided, but I am not sure at what taxpayer cost.

A bankruptcy would have a tremendous affect all along the supply chain – it would affect the parts people right down to the steel that goes to manufacture GM cars, but I don't know if it is in our long term best interests to continue to support a failed industry.

The metal recycling industry and infrastructure is important to maintain. If this decline in the price of metals continues, what will happen to this sector?

Garino: We have gone through cycles before. It will get better. There will be, as we are bouncing along the bottom, some companies that will not survive and others that will be absorbed into other companies. We'll see a lot more mergers and acquisitions going on, especially in the latter part of the second quarter. It's Darwinian economics – survival of the fittest.

I cannot predict who will survive, but it really depends upon how smart one manages their business and watches their receivables.

Do you foresee a time when prices for ferrous and nonferrous metals will increase?

Garino: Absolutely. I am a believer in the super cycle that we seem to be in. We went through six years of pretty much synchronized global growth and now we are in a period of synchronized global contraction. This is just a small cyclical downturn in a longer-term secular increase. You have to balance what is going on in that cycle, but the longer secular trend is very positive.

Industrial production, whether it is in the United States or Russia, China, Brazil, India or any of those other countries, is not going to stop. As it gets back on track, there will be a demand for everything – copper, aluminum, nickel, stainless steel, zinc, iron and steel. Prices will rise. We will get through this.

I can only go with what mainstream economists are saying and they expect to see that as this de-stocking continues through the supply chain, that it will end soon. Most people seem to be saying that we should see some rays of positive, fresh consumption in the latter part of this year.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

BP and Verenium form venture to deliver biofuels

BP and Verenium Corporation announced the formation of a 50-50 joint venture to develop and commercialize cellulosic ethanol from non-food feedstocks. The joint venture company will act as the commercial entity for the deployment of cellulosic ethanol technology being developed and proven under the first phase of the BP-Verenium partnership, announced last August.

Together the companies have agreed to commit \$45 million in funding and assets to the joint venture company. This collaboration is intended to progress the development of one of the nation's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facilities, located in Highlands County, Florida and to create future opportunities for leveraging cellulosic ethanol technologies.

Highlights of the collaboration include:

- Formation of a joint venture company with a total commitment of \$45 million in funding and assets contributed from BP and Verenium, including a total of \$22.5 million from BP and develop-

ment assets from Verenium, including the Highlands County, Florida project and another commercial project site in early stages of development;

- The joint venture company will be led and supported by a team comprised of employees from both BP and Verenium and will be governed by a board with equal representation from both parent companies; and

- The joint venture company will initially be based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The joint venture company will initially focus on developing and securing financing for a first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facility in Highlands County, Florida and expects to break ground on that site in 2010. The estimated construction cost for this 36 million gallon-per-year facility is between \$250 and \$300 million. Production from this plant is expected to begin in 2012. With plans to add additional capacity, the joint venture company also intends to develop a second site in the Gulf Coast region.

Wheelabrator to build waste-to-energy facility in Maryland

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, in conjunction with the Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management and Carroll County Department of Public Works, has selected Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc., as the preferred vendor to construct and operate a regional waste-to-energy facility that will serve the solid waste disposal and energy needs of Frederick and Carroll Counties. The facility will be located in Frederick County.

The facility will be owned by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority and will serve Frederick and Carroll counties.

Upon a positive vote from both counties' Board of Commissioners, the permitting and approval phase will begin this spring and will take approximately two

years, followed by a three-year engineering and construction period. The projected completion date for the facility is 2014.

At the height of construction, the project is expected to employ 1,000 workers engaged in excavation, concrete work, electrical work, fabrication and steelwork. Once completed, Wheelabrator expects to employ approximately 50 full-time employees to operate the plant.

The waste-to-energy plant will be capable of processing up to 1,500 tons per day of municipal solid waste with an electric generating capacity of 55 megawatts.

At full capacity, the proposed facility would be able to produce 55 megawatts of clean, renewable electricity from every day trash, potentially eliminating the need for Maryland utilities to annually burn 500,000 barrels of oil or 130,000 tons of coal.

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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Nexterra launches program to commercialize high-efficiency biomass power

Nexterra Energy announced a program to commercialize a new application of its biomass gasification technology to generate power and heat from small-scale plants (2 - 10 MWe) by direct-firing syngas into high efficiency gas engines.

An illustration of Nexterra's 2 MWe commercial demonstration plant featuring a GE Jenbacher engine that will be built in Phase 2 of the biomass power program.



Once fully developed, Nexterra's gasification technology is planned to be combined with GE's Jenbacher gas engines to form modular biomass combined heat and power (CHP) plants. The scale of individual plants will range from 2 - 10 MWe (megawatt electric) and will yield net efficiencies of up to 60 percent in cogeneration mode and 30 percent in combined cycle mode. The plants will be fully automated and will not require steam generation equipment.

The new biomass CHP system is designed for on-site applications at public institutions such as universities, hospitals and other government facilities; industrial operations such as food and beverage plants, waste management facilities and forest products mills; as well as stand-

alone power for independent power producers or electric power utilities.

Over the next 24 months, Nexterra and GE will test and demonstrate the new power application in two phases. The total cost of this program will be approximately \$30 million over two years.

In the first phase, Nexterra's proprietary syngas conditioning technology and a GE Jenbacher J208 GS 250kW engine will be installed and tested at Nexterra's product development center in 2009. For the second phase, a first commercial scale 2 MWe plant will be demonstrated at a customer site.



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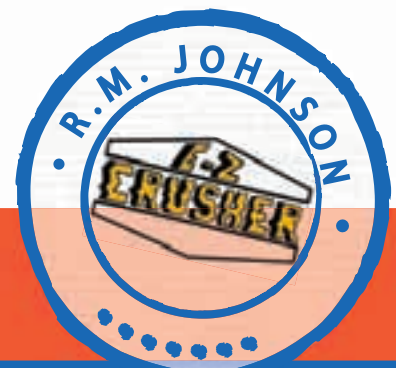
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AUTOMOTIVE

Honda's Ohio and Alabama plants earn 'Energy Star'

Honda's auto plants in Ohio and Alabama have received Energy Star awards from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for curbing energy use.

For the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2008, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.'s average CO2 emissions per vehicle produced in North America were at their lowest levels since the company began measuring results in 2001. The EPA bases the award points on the amount of energy needed to produce an automobile, and includes factors such as vehicle size and production volume.

In the Marysville, Ohio plant, associates reduced electricity use by reprogramming plastic injection molding machines to run only during the production cycle. This reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 80,000 pounds per year. At the East Liberty plant, Honda replaced chiller pumps with more efficient units, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 508,000 pounds per year.

Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC, which produces the Odyssey minivan, Pilot sport utility vehicle and now the Ridgeline truck, also earned the Energy Star award. The plant implemented an initiative to monitor the use of equipment between shifts, during breaks and on weekends. The monitoring program helped reduce electricity use on the paint line by 10 million kilowatt hours, representing about 15 million pounds of CO2.

In addition, these auto plants are implementing a unique "intelligent paint booth" technology that reduces energy consumption and related CO2 emissions from painting operations by as much as 25 percent. Automobile body painting consumes large amounts of energy because automakers need to condition the temperature and the relative humidity of the air to achieve the desired product appearance and finish quality. Developed by Honda in Ohio and Ohio State University, the system uses a predictive control mechanism to keep the temperature and humidity within specifications, even as weather conditions change.



Water-borne coatings are applied to cars and light trucks at the new paint line that opened in 2006 at Honda of America Manufacturing's auto plant in Marysville, Ohio. The line significantly reduces chemical emissions and contributed toward earning the Energy Star award.

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AUTOMOTIVE

National fraud and theft prevention system goes live

The United States Department of Justice announced the availability of an on-line computer system to help protect states and consumers from automobile fraud and to provide law enforcement with new tools to investigate fraud, theft, and other crimes involving vehicles. The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS), will be accessible through third party, fee-for-service websites.

The Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers NMVTIS in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The system allows state motor vehicle administrators to verify and exchange data and provides critical information regarding vehicle histories. Consumers now have access to the vehicle's brand history, odometer data and basic vehicle information and can be redirected to the current state of record to access the full title record if available. Law enforcement can track the vehicle's status from state to state by accessing the system directly.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, car theft is a profitable

business generating nearly \$8 billion a year. Along with implementing this system, the department has outlined the various responsibilities and reporting requirements for states, auto recyclers, junk yards and salvage yards, and insurance carriers. The department has designed the system consistent with federal law that requires that the system be paid for through user fees and not dependent on federal funding.

Since 1997, the Department of Justice has committed over \$15 million to assist states and other stakeholders in the implementation of NMVTIS. Currently, NMVTIS has the participation, or partial participation, of 36 states.

Ultimately, with full participation from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, NMVTIS will prevent stolen motor vehicles, including clones, from entering into interstate commerce, protect states and consumers from fraud, reduce the use of stolen vehicles for illicit purposes including fundraising for criminal enterprises, and provide consumer protection from unsafe vehicles.

IBM builds grid for electric cars

IBM announced its membership in the Electric Vehicles in a Distributed and Integrated Market using Sustainable Energy and Open Networks research consortium, a Denmark-based collaborative developing an infrastructure that will make large scale adoption of electric vehicles powered by sustainable energy possible.

Market introduction and investment plans in Denmark will result in upwards of 10 percent of the country's vehicles being all electric or hybrid electric during the coming years. To achieve this on a large scale, electric vehicles require smart technologies to control charging and billing and to ensure the stability of the overall energy system.

The first step of the consortium is to develop smart technologies to be imple-

mented on the Danish island of Bornholm, designed to function as a testbed. The island has 40,000 inhabitants and an energy infrastructure characterized by a large proportion of wind energy.

Within the project, researchers from IBM Denmark and from IBM's Zurich Research Laboratory will develop technologies that synchronize the charging of the electric vehicles with the availability of wind in the grid. IBM has also contributed a hardware platform to the Technical University of Denmark that will be used for large-scale real-time simulations of the energy system and the impact of electric vehicles. When completed, the project will contribute to reaching the political objective of increasing the share of renewable energy in overall energy consumption.

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LKQ announces 2008 financial results

LKQ Corporation announced results for its fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2008.

Net income for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$13.0 million and diluted earnings per share were \$0.09. For the full year of 2008, net income was \$99.9 million and diluted earnings per share were \$0.71. Excluding the effect of restructuring expenses totaling \$1.9 million in the fourth quarter of 2008 and \$8.6 million in the full year of 2008, diluted earnings per share would have been \$0.10 and \$0.75 for the quarter and full year, respectively.

For the fourth quarter of 2008, revenue totaled \$470.3 million compared with \$414.7 million for the fourth quarter of 2007, an increase of 13.4 percent. Organic revenue growth for the quarter was 0.7 percent. Net income for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$13.0 million compared with \$21.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2007, a decline primarily attributable to \$11.8 million in operating losses in LKQ's self-service recycle operations as a result of a steep decrease of commodity prices over a short time frame.

For the full year of 2008, revenue totaled \$1.9 billion compared with \$1.1 billion for the prior year, an increase of 71.9 percent. The majority of the revenue growth during 2008 was attributable to LKQ's purchase of Keystone on October 12, 2007. Net income for the full year of 2008 was \$99.9 million compared with

\$65.9 million for the prior year, an increase of 51.6 percent.

During 2008, LKQ acquired three separate heavy-duty truck recycled parts businesses in Houston, Chicago and Toledo, a large multi-location self-service auto recycler in California, and two wholesale automobile recyclers in Ontario, Canada. Collectively, the businesses acquired had approximately \$152 million of historical annual revenue.

Additionally, in early 2009, the company acquired a heavy-duty truck recycled parts business in Tampa and a wholesale automobile salvage business in the Raleigh/Durham market with combined historical annual revenue of \$13 million.

In light of current conditions and excluding any restructuring expenses, LKQ anticipates full year 2009 net income will be in the range of \$114 million to \$123 million and earnings per share will be in the range of \$0.80 to \$0.86.

Net cash provided by operating activities for 2009 is projected to be over \$145 million. The company estimates capital expenditures related to property and equipment, excluding expenditures for acquisitions, will be between \$75 million to \$80 million. Maintenance or replacement capital expenditures are expected to be slightly less than 20 percent of the total for 2009.

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INTERNATIONAL

MeWa puts refrigeration recycling system into operation in Austria

Germany-based MeWa Recycling Maschinen und Anlagenbau GmbH has put a highly modern refrigeration equipment processing system into operation at Kematen, in Austria. The virtually complete recycling of the materials and the environmentally harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) with just one machine are carried out more efficiently.

The use of CFCs in refrigeration equipment was banned as early as 1996. The coolant was revealed as the number one ozone killer at the time. Despite this legislation, the number of CFC-powered

refrigeration equipment in Europe is still put at more than 200 million.

Only recently, specialist associations drew attention to the improper disposal of refrigeration equipment in Europe and the illegal export of old equipment. That it can also be done differently is shown by the new plant in Kematen, Austria.

"The system makes it possible to process CFC and pentane equipment at the same time, without them having to be sorted beforehand," said MeWa managing director, Helmut Oberguggenberger, highlighting one of the benefits of the system.



A device at the screening station for PUR foam separates the fine ground PUR foam from metal, aluminum and plastic fractions.

In the new disposal facility, up to 300,000 refrigeration systems or 90,000 tons of CFC per year will be processed. This equates to savings of around 900,000 tons of CO₂ per year.

The MeWa Querstromzspanner (QZ) exposes the individual fractions in just one processing step. The QZ first separates the material composites of the refrigeration equipment into iron, aluminium, copper and plastic. At the end, the secondary raw

materials roll into the container for collection as class 1 refrigeration scrap ready for sale.

"State-of-the-art technology makes it possible for almost 95 percent of the materials to be recycled from a refrigeration system as raw materials for new products," explained Dr Helmut Kolba, managing director of newly established UFH Recycling GmbH, which has its registered office in Vienna.

SALVAGING Millions

by Ron Sturgeon
Autosalvageconsultant.com

The strategic planning advantage

Part 1 of 2

How much time did you use last week on strategic planning for your business?

Two things I have learned in all my experience working with large businesses over the last decade: Those big guys that we often dismiss as too big and too slow are very focused on doing the things they do best, and they set aside lots of time for strategic planning.

I know that most small businesses owners prize their ability to move quickly and improvise, but there are good reasons large companies invest so much in strategic planning. Before we dig into those, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you have a detailed written plan of the initiatives that you plan to undertake this year?

- Do have three new ways to attract customers that you are planning to try this year?

- Have you set aside time to evaluate where you could make changes to lower costs over the next 12 months?

- Do you have a written plan to improve your operations so that you can find and hire excellent employees?

"But, Ron, I can't do all that strategic planning and run my business, too!" No doubt, entrepreneurs are the busiest people on the planet, but failing to make time for strategic thinking costs more in lost time and lost profits in the end.

In the absence of sound written strategic planning, owners and managers have the course of their business days dictated to them. They drift when they could be doing the few things that

would be most crucial in the long haul. Of course, events play a role in the course of everyone's day, but the entrepreneur that has done sound strategic planning can see how to position the business to take advantage of them. This operator is working on the important initiatives, and he or she is ready to ask, "How can I use this circumstance to reach my goals sooner?"

The non-planners can only respond to events and hope for the best.

Here's one more thing to consider as you decide whether to invest time in strategic planning: Most of the small businesses you compete against won't make a written strategic plan this year. The point: You will be surprised at how little time you have to invest in strategy to get past competitors who don't do any. Make the time, make the plan, put it in writing and measure the results.

Because most small businesses do not have a written strategic plan they do a little of this and a little of that. Their initiatives don't work because they're poorly prepared and executed. Often a business that has no strategic plan does not know which initiatives to undertake so they try too many.

Maybe skipping strategic planning worked a decade ago, but it won't work in today's global marketplace. Next month I will share an outstanding tool that I use to simplify my clients' strategic planning!

We will be hosting an upcoming peer Benchmarking Group meeting for auto recyclers on May 7, in Ft. Worth, Texas.

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This article was provided by autosalvageconsultant.com, which was formed in 2001 by recyclers for recyclers, to help them improve their businesses.

WASTE

San Juan's waste handling sees island-wide improvements

The general public, municipal employees and others will get the opportunity to learn to properly handle used oil, oil filters and mercury-containing bulbs and lamps, thanks to a settlement between the municipality of San Juan, Puerto Rico and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agreement settles a complaint issued to the municipality under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for failure to determine if solid waste generated at the facility was hazardous waste, resulting in the improper handling and disposal of hazardous waste and used oil at one its facilities. San Juan has now agreed not only to comply with federal hazardous waste and used oil laws and to pay a \$25,000 penalty for past violations, but also to spend in excess of \$100,000 to educate the general public and other municipalities throughout the island about environmental and health risks associated with the improper handling and disposal of used oil waste and fluorescent bulbs and other used bulbs and lamps containing mercury.

The municipality of San Juan owns and operates a facility that its Department of Public Works and Environment uses to house and maintain municipal vehicles. EPA inspected the facility and discovered various waste storage violations. The violations included the failure to: determine if solid waste generated at its facility constituted hazardous waste; stop, contain, clean up and manage the release of used oil properly; and use proper storage containers.

The municipality will educate the general public about the proper handling and disposal of used oil and the risks associated with its disposal. It will develop a training session to educate municipal employees and community groups about the environmental risks associated with the improper disposal of used oil and used oil filters, and will also conduct training sessions related to the handling and disposal of spent fluorescent bulbs and lamps and other mercury containing used bulbs and lamps.

For more information on the management of solid waste in Puerto Rico, visit www.americanrecycler.com/pr.

When his copier type began to grow faint, he called a local repair shop where a friendly man informed him that the it probably needed only to be cleaned. Because the store charged \$50 for such cleanings, he told him he might be better off reading the manual and trying the job himself.

Pleasantly surprised by his candour, he asked, "Does your boss know that you discourage business?"

"Actually, it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly. "We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."

Republic Services and Renewable Solutions open landfill gas facility

Renewable Solutions Group and Republic Services, Inc. announced the opening of Georgia's first high BTU landfill gas facility. The Winder Renewable Methane Facility is located at the Oak Grove Landfill near Atlanta and will provide a locally produced, cost-effective source of renewable energy for residential and commercial customers.

The Winder Renewable Methane Facility began operations in December of 2008. By converting landfill gas to pipeline-quality gas, the project will not only offer economic cost-savings which are passed along to thousands of Georgia residents and establishments, but

also provides environmental benefits.

According to the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program emission reductions and environmental and energy benefits calculator, the plant's full capacity (over 2,500 dekatherms per day) will supply enough fuel to heat 10,500 homes. The process also results in the reduction of 44,500 tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere each year.

Republic Services, a provider of environmental services, uses innovative technologies to capture and use renew-

able energy from decomposing waste in landfills.

Landfill gas, which is created when organic material in a municipal solid waste landfill decomposes, consists of about 50 percent methane (CH₄), which as a greenhouse gas is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The gas from the Oak Grove Landfill is collected, processed and sold as pipeline-quality gas. Currently, there are more than 65 landfill gas facilities located on landfills owned by Republic Services.

Waste Management reorganizes to save millions

Waste Management, Inc. announced financial results for its fourth quarter and for the year ended December 31, 2008. Revenues for the fourth quarter of 2008 were \$3.11 billion compared with \$3.36 billion for the same 2007 period. Net income for the quarter was \$218 million, or \$0.44 per diluted share, compared with \$309 million, or \$0.61 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2007.

For the full year 2008, the Company reported revenues of \$13.39 billion compared with \$13.31 billion for 2007. Earnings per diluted share were \$2.19 for the full year 2008 compared with \$2.23 for the full year 2007.

"The fourth quarter was a challenge on a number of fronts, and I am pleased with the way we have reacted to the tough economic circumstances. Despite the challenges, our adjusted earnings per share for the quarter beat consensus, we met our full year expectations for earnings per share, we increased our adjusted margins, and we generated strong free cash flow," stated David P. Steiner, chief executive officer of Waste Management.

Waste Management returned \$132 million to shareholders through dividend payments in the quarter. For the full year, they returned \$941 million to shareholders, consisting of \$410 million of common stock repurchases and dividends of \$531 million.

Steiner added, "The majority of our business, which relates to commercial and residential customers, is recession resistant, and the fourth quarter reflected that. Internal revenue growth from volume in those lines was consistent across all quarters of 2008. But the sharp decline in economic activity in the fourth quarter did cause further volume declines in our more economically sensitive industrial collection, transfer and recycling businesses.

"Recycling commodity revenues were affected by both steep price declines and greatly reduced volumes as a result of the lack of demand for these commodities. We expect volumes in these economically sensitive lines of

business to remain soft in 2009. So, we will redouble our focus on pricing discipline and driving continued efficiency throughout our organization.

These targets must be met in order for eligible employees to receive the financial performance portion of their 2009 annual bonuses. This will help to ensure that we maintain our focus on our pricing programs in 2009."

The Company announced a reorganization that will cost approximately \$50 million to implement, but will result in annualized savings in excess of \$100 million. Some of their plans to save follows:

- See Waste Management pays quarterly cash dividend, Page A27.
- The restructuring of field operations through consolidation, reducing market areas from 45 to 25 and eliminating duplicative functions;
- The realignment of corporate staff to more efficiently support field operations;
- The elimination of calendar year 2009 merit-based salary increases for salaried exempt personnel, unless we see a turnaround in the economy and our business; and
- Delaying until June 30, 2009 our merit-based pay process for hourly personnel.

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WASTE

California, Oregon introduce legislation to reform financing for product's end-of-life

An international movement to improve product design by changing how recycling and waste disposal are financed is gaining momentum in North America. The movement, known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or Product Stewardship, picked up speed as two states recently introduced "framework" EPR legislation and more states are expected to follow suit. Additionally, last week Canada announced a nationwide framework EPR policy.

EPR policies internalize product lifecycle impacts into product prices to generate green jobs and unleash the creativity of businesses to design and provide "cradle to cradle" product management. The framework approach allows one law to establish EPR as policy and gives state government the authority to address multiple products over time.

Several provinces in Canada, including British Columbia, already have Framework EPR regulations in place.

•February 12: California Product Stewardship Act, AB 283 – Introduced by Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro

(D-Arcata), the bill is based on Framework EPR policy adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in January 2008.

•February 18: Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, with a strategy for sustainable packaging as the first priority, released for public comment by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's Extended Producer Responsibility Task Group.

•February 26: Oregon House Bill introduced by the House Environment and Water Committee. The Product Stewardship framework bill names mercury-containing lights and rechargeable batteries as initial product areas, and designates the state Environmental Quality Commission to adopt recommendations to the legislative body for future products. A companion bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate.

Local governments have led the push for state framework EPR legislation through Product Stewardship Councils and the adoption of "Joint Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy." The principles were drafted by

the Northwest (Washington and Oregon) and California Product Stewardship Councils. More recently the principles were adopted by the Vermont and British Columbia local government Product Stewardship Councils.

"California, Oregon and Canada are trail-blazers in establishing comprehensive EPR legislation," said Bill Sheehan, executive director of the Product Policy Institute, which was instrumental in harmonizing the final Framework Principles and starting local government Councils in California, Vermont and Texas. "These laws will relieve the financial

burden on local governments of managing difficult and toxic products and will stimulate manufacturers to design better products."

"The primary responsibility should rest with producers," said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council. "It is far less expensive to design a product and packaging to reduce waste than it is to create expensive end-of-life recycling and disposal systems that are funded by the taxpayers and garbage ratepayers."

Robertson Sanitation fined for failure to hire female drivers

EEOC: Company hired less qualified males

Robertson Sanitation, a Phoenix-based trash hauling, recycling and disposal company that operates in Georgia, will pay \$475,000 to settle a sex discrimination lawsuit brought by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

According to the EEOC's suit, Jeanine Moore applied for a truck driver position with Robertson at its Winder, Georgia, facility in August 2005. Although she was more qualified than a number of male applicants who were hired, Moore was never interviewed and never received an offer.

The EEOC said that the job applications for the Winder location between January 2005 and September 2006 shows that some of the men hired were less qualified than Moore, including six males who the agency claims lacked Robertson's minimum qualifications for the truck driver position. Investigation of Moore's allegations revealed a class of similarly qualified women who, like Moore, were also rejected despite their qualifications. The EEOC said the employer subjected female applicants to discriminatory hiring practices at the Winder facility as well as the Austell, Georgia, facility.

The consent decree settling the suit provides for \$475,000 in monetary relief to the class of qualified female applicants who were discriminatorily rejected for employment between January 1,

2005 and October 31, 2006. Moore will receive \$70,000 in damages while the remaining funds will be distributed among the remaining qualified claimants whose eligibility will be determined by a procedure set forth in the decree.

In addition to the monetary relief, Robertson Sanitation, a division of Republic Services of Georgia, has agreed to exercise good faith in offering employment to qualified female applicants for residential, commercial, industrial and roll-off truck driver positions at the Winder and Austell facilities. According to the decree, "good faith will be measured against the standard of offering employment to at least 70 percent of the females in the qualified applicant pool."

The decree has a term of four years and requires Robertson to submit a report each year identifying the name, sex and qualifications of all qualified applicants for truck driver positions, the persons offered positions, and the persons hired. Robertson shall also maintain all driver applications for the duration of the decree for inspection, and provide an explanation for each time a qualified female applicant is not offered a position. The EEOC will have the right to review Robertson's compliance with the requirements of the decree through, among other things, inspection of all documents used or considered in the hiring process.

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WASTE

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Largest recycling center opens in New York

■ Fred J. Dufek, president/CEO and managing director of e-Green Management, LLC, announced the successful opening of its largest recycling and reclamation center in Long Island, New York.

Dufek also announced the partnership of Kevin Ryan as executive vice president and managing member to e-Green's executive board. Ryan brings his expertise in environmental conservation to promote e-Green to become one of the leading enviro-friendly companies in the region.

Gene Boniberger, vice president of operations for Rudin Management, with Dufek, tailored a program in which commercial building tenants are provided the opportunity to recycle their e-waste easily and efficiently and have made a commitment to a "zero-waste-to-landfill" policy. This has resulted in a steady stream of material deterred from overflowing landfills.

Former Natural Fuels board members join Vega board

■ Vega Promotional Systems, Inc. announced it has appointed former Natural Fuels Industries, Inc. (NFI) board members William Jacobson and Nadir Manji to the Company's board of directors.

After acquiring NFI, a Nevada corporation established to produce and sell biomass products predominately in the green fuel category, Vega has announced plans to change its name to Natural Fuels Industries, Inc. and has appointed Jacobson as CEO.

The addition of Jacobson and Manji to the Company's board of directors signals the Company's intention to focus its efforts in the alternative energy industry.

Jacobson and Manji have significant experience in the biomass industry and bring a tremendous amount of knowledge to the Company's executive management team.

Impact Services to acquire GeoMelt assets of AMEC

■ Impact Services, Inc., a waste processing facility located at the East Tennessee Technology Park, has reached an agreement in principal to acquire all assets relating to the GeoMelt business of AMEC plc. The GeoMelt technologies are a collection of vitrification processes that are used to safely treat and stabilize a wide variety of materials including organics, heavy metals, and radioactive contaminants.

The GeoMelt technologies transform hazardous chemical and radioactive wastes into an ultra-stable vitreous and crystalline material similar to volcanic obsidian that is typically 10 times stronger than concrete. Corrosion tests have demonstrated that the GeoMelt product is more durable than granite or marble.

The transaction was conditional on the customary conditions precedent. The closing was to take place in March.

ARCA hires Jeffrey M. Brown as vice president

■ Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc. announced that the company has hired Jeffrey M. Brown for the newly created position of vice president of recycling systems.

Brown will focus on developing sales and appliance recycling opportunities for ARCA, which holds distributorship of UNTHA Recycling Technology (URT), one of Europe's manufacturers of refrigerator recycling systems and waste disposal recycling facilities for electrical household appliances and electronic scrap.

In his new position, Brown will work to develop ARCA's appliance recycling business with manufacturers, retailers and other entities that have opted to become partners in the United States EPA's Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Program. Using best practices, RAD partners sponsor recycling programs that recover ozone-depleting substances; recycle metals, plastics and glass; and properly dispose of environmentally damaging materials found in unwanted appliances.

Brown brings to ARCA 27 years of sales, marketing and merchandising experience with Whirlpool Corporation, including management of retail field sales, national sales, corporate marketing, and corporate merchandising. Most recently, Brown worked closely with retail appliance dealers and appliance recyclers to develop a reverse logistics dealer network to manage discontinued, obsolete and damaged products for Whirlpool Corporation.

Harsco secures refocused metal services contract

■ Harsco Corporation announced that its Harsco Metals group has been awarded a five-year contract renewal valued at up to \$50 million over its duration from North America's largest stainless steel production facility.

The award from Kentucky-based North American Stainless (NAS) focuses Harsco's services on the higher value "hot work" requirements for onsite molten slag and scrap handling services, while re-signing lower-end services for general labor, road watering, sweeping and scrap yard stacking to a handful of other companies. Harsco's contract covers a five-year period with provisions for rollover renewal, and represents win-win scenarios for both NAS and Harsco Metals.

EnergySolutions makes management change

■ EnergySolutions, Inc. announced that J. I. "Chip" Everest stepped down as vice chairman of EnergySolutions. Everest will remain on the board of directors and will continue to work with the EnergySolutions Foundation.

As part of his board responsibilities, Everest will maintain an office at corporate headquarters. He will resume his role as partner in Western Pacific Group looking for investment opportunities.

MONTHLY CROSSWORD

BY Myles Mellor

SOLUTION FOUND ON PG A30

ACROSS

1. Trash heap
5. ___-loop recycling, recycling materials into their original form
9. Home of the free and brave
10. Fit of fever
13. ___ goods, obsolete electronic products
15. Roman pot
17. ___degradable, when a substance is able to be broken down by microorganisms into basic elements
18. London's continent, for short
19. Baby's room
20. Compass direction
22. Baseball hat
24. Min.part
26. Aka No. 4 Plastic, abbr.
28. Corrugated ___board, layers of paper glued together with a ruffled or grooved inner liner
30. ___ ton, 2,240 pounds
32. Green eggs go-with?
33. Material made of pulp from wood
35. Email destination
36. Power plant that uses municipal solid waste as a part of its fuel supply
38. Martini ingredient
39. Eldest in the family
40. Without
42. Having a pH less than 7
44. Used beverage cans
45. Ancient time period
46. Trendy
47. Per ___
48. Temperature control
49. Certificate of insurance, abbr.
50. Greek cheese
52. ___ barrel, 90-gallon plastic residential garbage container with wheels
54. Buddhist sound
56. Camera part
58. Go bad
60. Mixed color, broken or crushed glass
61. Type of plastic that is clear or colored transparent with high gloss
62. ___loader, an automated residential solid waste collection truck

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50				51		52	53					54	55	
				56	57						58			59
60									61					

DOWN

1. ___ trimmings, includes wood scraps from new construction
2. Oakland baseball team
3. This material used in papermaking comes primarily from wood and recovered paper
4. Green expanse
5. Copper symbol
6. Rented
7. ___ reduction, backyard composting, for example
8. Lion's room?
11. African antelope
12. Any item or material that reduces the quality of paper for recycling or makes it unrecyclable
14. Monotonous routines
16. Colorful rug
21. DNA's is double
23. Food waste description
25. ___-collection, the collection of bagged recyclables together with other municipal garbage
26. Football position, for short
27. Parent/Teacher association
28. 1984 Olympics state
29. Demolition ____, includes lumber and other wood products from older construction
31. Current events
32. ___ grade papers, usually de-inked office paper
33. Exercise class
34. Princess woe
37. "Jaw" ____, a solid waste collection vehicle equipped with a clam bucket attached to a hydraulically-operated boom
40. Ice cream amounts
41. News channel
43. The left side of an account
46. That is, for short
48. Patch of land
50. Communication regulators
51. To be unwell
53. Lexus model
55. Missy Piggy's me?
57. Memo beginning
59. Vital card

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Perma-Fix appoints Ben Naccarato as CFO

■ Perma-Fix Environmental Services, Inc. announced the appointment of Ben Naccarato to the position of chief financial officer of the company.

Naccarato had been appointed interim financial officer of Perma-Fix in October 2008 and previously held the position of corporate controller and treasurer at the firm. He has been with Perma-Fix since September 2004 and has twenty years experience in senior financial positions in the waste management and used oil industries. Prior to joining Perma-Fix, Naccarato served as chief financial officer for Culp Petroleum Company, Inc., a fuel distribution and used waste oil company. Prior to that, he spent fourteen years at Safety-Kleen Corp., Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. and USPCI, Inc., in various corporate and operational positions.

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B1	Excel Manufacturing	#1050
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A7	Foam Equipment	#1231
A25	Government Liquidation	#1057
A11	Granutech-Saturn	#1199
B4	Granutech-Saturn	#1199
A19	Haag Manufacturing	#29517
A14	Heartland Aluminum	#1081
A13	International Fabricating	#1090
A31	Iron Ax, Inc.	#1091
B8	Iron Ax, Inc.	#1091
A10	Jordan Reduction	#1117
A15	Maurer Mfg.	#1059
B5	Metso Minerals	#17264
A19	National Recycling	#1087
A32	OverBuilt, Inc.	#1125
B3	Recycling Services	#1134
A16	RM Johnson Co.	#1143
A8	Rotobec	#46105
A6	SAS Forks	#1147
A10	Sebright	#1194
A18	Steco	#1159
A3	Superior Recycling Solutions	#24568
A5	Taylor Machinery	#1168
A7	Tire Service Equipment	#1174
A4	Windsor Barrel Works	#1221

Heil Environmental expands Florida coverage

■ Heil Environmental announced the appointment of Sunbelt Hydraulics and Equipment Inc. of Delray Beach, Florida, as its authorized dealer for southern Florida. For the last decade, Sunbelt has served public and private haulers in the region as a Heil Parts and Service Center, providing replacement parts, maintenance and repair for refuse and recycling collection vehicles.

Mickey Chavez founded Sunbelt in 1997, drawing upon his 20 years of experience providing hydraulic system service and repair for refuse collection vehicles and other equipment.

To continue this superior level of service in meeting his customers' new equipment needs, Mickey brought a new partner into the business. Jay Luck came out of a three-year retirement to become Sunbelt's new chief operating officer and body sales manager, bringing Sunbelt and its customers extensive truck sales and management experience.

In addition to parts, service, and Heil vehicles, Sunbelt also provides the most requested line of hydraulic cart lifters, manufactured by Bayne Premium Lift Systems. Sunbelt only offers product lines related to the waste industry.

Safety-Kleen acquires Gateway Petroleum

■ Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. has acquired the assets of Gateway Petroleum Company, Inc., based in Belleville, Illinois, an oil management services firm. Gateway provides used oil management services to customers in the eastern Missouri, central and southern Illinois, and Cape Girardeau areas.

Since 1974, Gateway Petroleum has served more than 4,500 customer locations with collection services for used oil and oil filters, as well as providing parts cleaners and windshield washer fluids.

Florjancic said Gateway customers will experience a seamless transition, with no interruptions in service. Safety-Kleen will also honor current service agreements and schedules for existing Gateway Petroleum customers.

Met-Pro Corporation names new vice president

■ Raymond J. De Hont, chairman and chief executive officer of Met-Pro Corporation, announced that Gennaro A. D'Alterio has been named a vice president.

D'Alterio has served as general manager of the Company's Pump Group, which includes the Dean Pump, Fybroc and Sethco product lines, since July 2007. Since joining the Company in 1994, he has served in a variety of roles including: sales and marketing manager for the Dean Pump and Fybroc product lines and regional sales manager for the Fybroc product line. D'Alterio's base of operations will be the Company's Fybroc and Sethco manufacturing facility located in Telford, Pennsylvania.

Eriez opens Pennsylvania equipment service center

■ Eriez' new 5-Star Service Center helps eliminate or reduce equipment downtime by ensuring that customers' magnetic, vibratory and inspection processing equipment is quickly back in operation and functioning at peak performance.

The Eriez 5-Star Service Center, located in Lake City, Pennsylvania, is staffed with trained service technicians to expertly handle even the toughest service projects.

Eriez also has service technicians available for in-house repairs and routine maintenance checks.

Bobcat Company and Polaris announce alliance

■ Bobcat Company and Polaris Industries Inc., of Medina, Minnesota, announced a long-term strategic alliance that will leverage the complementary strengths of both companies to penetrate work-related market segments globally. The alliance will include co-development of work vehicles, supply of highly differentiated work vehicles and technology sharing, with a planned launch by the second half of 2010.

Scott Wine, Polaris Industries CEO, said this alliance is consistent with Polaris' stated goal of diversifying beyond core powersports segments and will enhance efforts to accelerate the growth of their military and international business.

Waste Management pays quarterly cash dividend

■ Waste Management, Inc. announced the declaration of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.29 per share payable March 20, 2009 to stockholders of record on March 9, 2009.

The dividend payment is a 7.4 percent increase to the quarterly dividends paid in 2008 and reflects a yield of over 4 percent based on the closing stock price.

Hirschmann names new premier dealers

■ Hirschmann Automation and Control (PAT) located in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania has named Laguna Crane & Field Service and Universal Crane premier dealers for the state of Texas. Both companies are full service dealers carrying Hirschmann's entire line of PAT and Krueger load moment indicators and indicating devices for the retrofit crane market in Texas.

Valhi declares quarterly common stock dividend

■ Valhi, Inc. announced that its board of directors has declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.10 per share on its common stock, payable on March 31, 2009 to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 10, 2009.

ChromaScape names new director of administration

■ ChromaScape, Inc. headquartered in Twinsburg, Ohio has named Marion LaBella, director of corporate administration.

LaBella has worked in corporate administration since starting with ChromaScape in 2004. As director of corporate administration, LaBella will be responsible for the implementation and execution of corporate human resources and administrative policies and procedures. Previously, she worked for the M.A. Hanna Company, as well as two of their business units (Allied Color Industries, Inc. and Harwick Chemical Company) in the human resource field.

Events Calendar

April 26th-30th

2009 ISRI Convention. Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. 202-662-8500 • www.isriconvention.org

April 29th-May 1st

7th Annual CARE Conference. The National Conference Center, Lansdowne, Virginia. 706-428-2127 • www.carpetrecovery.org

May 3rd-6th

Battery Council International's 121st Convention. Red Rock Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada. 312-644-6610
www.batterycouncil.org

May 17th-19th

2009 Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show. Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, San Diego, California. 800-441-7949
www.waste-to-fuels.org

May 26th-29th

Wastetech-2009. International Exhibition Center Crocus Expo, Russia. +7 495 225 5986 • www.w2009.sibico.com

June 3rd-4th

Scrap to Profit 3. Hyatt, Buffalo, New York. 716-645-3446 • www.scraptoprofit.com

June 8th-9th

NRRA's 28th Annual Recycling Conference & Expo. Radisson Manchester Hotel/The Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, New Hampshire 603-736-4401 • www.nrna.net

June 8th-11th

WasteExpo 2009. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada. 800-927-5007 • www.wasteexpo.com

June 24th-26th

Electronics & Battery Recycling '09. Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Canada. +41 62 785 10 00 • www.icm.ch

August 7th-9th

Pennsylvania Automotive Recycling Trade Society's Annual Convention & Trade Expo. Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. 877-211-0266 • www.parts.org

September 16th-18th, 2009

14th International Congress for Battery Recycling - ICBR 2009. Hotel InterContinental, Geneva, Switzerland. +41 62 785 10 00 • www.icm.ch

October 28th-29th

Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo. Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia. 877-534-7285 • www.cwre.ca

NEW PRODUCT SHOWCASE



FLIP SCREEN'S MOBILE SCREENING ATTACHMENT

The multi award winning Flip Screen is a next generation mobile screening attachment that uses a unique continuous rotating action with no shaking or vibrating. The innovative recycling attachment is quickly attached and removed from the carrier machine and has models to suit excavators, wheel loaders, backhoes, telehandlers and skid steers. Its high tensile mesh screens range in size from .5" up to 12" and can be changed in under 4 minutes. The Flip Screen is incredibly robust, easy to use and requires only one operator.

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www.flipscreen.net



ATLAS COPCO PROVIDES NEW HB 3600 HYDRAULIC BREAKER

The HB 3600 hydraulic breaker has a service weight of 7,940 pounds. It is suitable for hydraulic carriers in the 35 to 63 metric ton weight class. The breaker accepts maximum hydraulic flow of 79 gallons per minute at 2,610 psi. Delivering an impact rate of up to 560 blows per minute, the HB 3600 is ideal for applications such as demolition, trenching, tunneling, rock mining and secondary breaking.

The HB 3600 comes standard with Atlas Copco's PowerAdapt which automatically shuts down the breaker if it receives excessive oil pressure.

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www.atlascopco.com



ERIEZ LAUNCHES POWERFUL ELECTRIC ROTARY VIBRATORS

Eriez has introduced the rugged Electric Rotary Vibrators (ERVs). These powerful vibrators provide an effective flow-aid for hoppers and chutes or a driving force for vibratory screeners, feeders and conveyors.

The elliptical action of the ERV helps settle materials in bags, boxes or other materials for shipping or storage.

Other features include durable powder coat finish, tropicalized windings, continuous operation at 100 percent force output, high quality bearings and more.

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www.eriez.com



ONSET'S WIRELESS SENSORS MONITOR ENVIRONMENT

Onset Computer Corporation announced the HOBOnode Series: A family of research-grade, wireless sensors for outdoor environmental monitoring.

HOBOnode sensors can transmit high-accuracy air temperature and soil moisture data to a computer several miles away without cables. Software displays graphs of environmental conditions and provide alarm notifications when conditions exceed set thresholds.

HOBOnode sensors offer a number of features to help simplify deployment. HOBOnodes feature integrated, solar-rechargeable batteries so they can run for years without having to replace batteries.

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www.onsetcomp.com



RAYCO MANUFACTURING'S NEW RH7154 HORIZONTAL GRINDER

The new Rayco RH7154 is the newest addition to Rayco Manufacturing's line of environmental equipment.

It's designed to be both compact and affordable. At 14,500 lbs, the RH7154 allows easy transportation from job to job and can be maneuvered and operated on small jobsites, inaccessible to larger machines.

This unit is capable of grinding a wide variety of wood waste materials. Ideal for processing tree limbs and brush, sawmill waste, dimensional lumber scraps, pallets, and for re-grinding wood chips.

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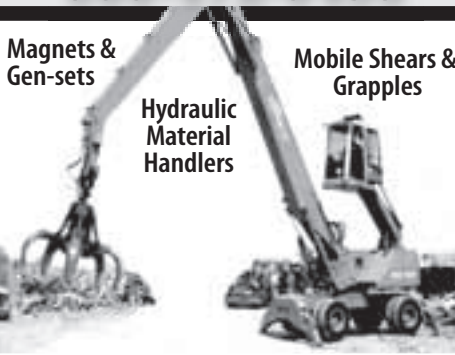


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2000 LIEBHERR R914 REBUILT (crawler), 38' reach, 4' cab riser, gen-set and grapple.
2000 LIEBHERR A904 REBUILT (rubber), 35' reach, 4' cab riser, gen-set and grapple.
1998 LIEBHERR A922 REBUILT (rubber), gen-set, grapple and magnet, no riser.
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1994 & 1995 FUCHS MHL350 REBUILT (rubber) 50' reach, hydraulic cab, gen-set and grapple.
2004 & 2008 COLMAR 5500 AUTO LOGGER/BALER with 18 1/2' chamber, crane and grapple.
1997 MAC portable car crusher.
2003 SENNEBOGEN 835M (RUBBER), 54' reach, hydraulic cab, gen-set and grapple.
2000 & 2001 SENNEBOGEN 830M REBUILT (rubber), 50' reach, hydraulic cab, gen-set and grapple.
2005 CAT M325C REBUILT (rubber) with 50' reach, hydraulic cab, A/C, gen-set and grapple.
2003 CAT M322 (rubber), 42' reach, hydraulic cab, gen-set and grapple.
2003 NEW HOLLAND MH (rubber), 46' reach, cab riser, gen-set and grapple.
2001 NEW HOLLAND EW200 (rubber) NEW, solid tires, gen-set and 48" magnet.
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- '06 Daewoo 300 excavator w/LaBounty contractor's grapple, 4000 hrs.
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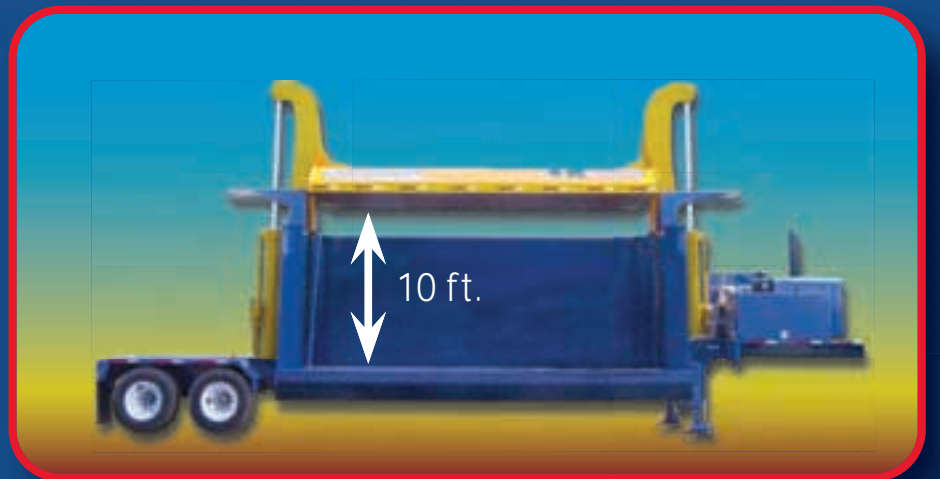
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Panning scrap streams for gold

by MIKE BRESLIN

mbreslin@americanrecycler.com

Recovering precious metals from electronic scrap and catalytic converters from autos has become more profitable than ever before. That may explain why more and more specialized “niche” recyclers and refiners have sprung up and the sector has really surged over the past several years. Gold, which traded at an average annual price of \$264 per ounce in 2000, has been trading near \$1,000 per ounce in recent days. Of course, prices fluctuate, but they have been trending steadily upward for gold, silver and the platinum group metals: ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum. The obvious reason for the sharp price increases is the economic crisis; for the feeling of security in uncertain times and as a hedge against inflation. Precious metals do not even have to be converted to cash – they are tradable as investment or industrial commodities – gold, silver, platinum, and palladium have an ISO 4217 currency code.

There are scant amounts of precious metals in e-wastes, but more in catalytic converters. When processed in

in the processes such as copper, plastic, steel and glass.

Precious metals from e-waste

“If you have a typical printed circuit board (PCB) in your hand, maybe 2 percent of the weight is gold. Another 18 to 22 percent would be copper and then you have trace amounts of silver, palladium and things of that nature,” said Bill Rockett, vice president of the M&K Recovery Group in Boston.

M&K is a privately held company with 30-years experience in recovering precious metals from electronic wastes. It operates a 35,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art processing facility in Boston and a 12,000 sq. ft. collection center in Texas from which e-waste is trucked to Boston. In Boston, M&K uses a chemical refining method to recover gold, silver and platinum group metals from encapsulated and clad materials, and a cyanide strip method for gold-plated scrap products. Both processes are zero-discharge, emission-free and operate under a Massachusetts B4 recycling permit.

While copper is the most common material used to conduct electricity in electronic circuitry, silver and gold are also used in thinly plated forms for better conductivity in high-quality surface-to-surface contacts.

In electronics recycling, the primary sources of precious metals are found in PCBs and integrated circuits (ICs) and vary in yields depending on size and type of the board or chip. The highest yields come from personal computers, laptops and cell phones in the

form of motherboards, main boards, video and audio boards, network cards and related PCBs and ICs. Lower value PCBs are found in monitors, amplifiers, DVD players, printers, speakers, VCRs, MP3 players, cameras and the like.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TECHEMET LLP

Slag tapping at Techemet from submerged electric arc furnace removes impurities to refine platinum group metals from ceramic catalyst materials.

volume by an efficient recycler, though, value begins to add up. The amounts of precious metals alone found in e-wastes do not even begin to pay for the costs of recycling and are subsidized by disposal fees and by other materials recovered



PHOTO COURTESY OF TECHEMET LLP

The receiving and grading area at Techmet takes in shipments of waste and sorts it for further handling and processing. Techmet pays anywhere from \$3 to \$120 depending on the type of unit sent in.

These usually contain copper and lead, but in much lower quantities of precious metals than computers.

“In the average personal computer there is, generally speaking, 20 percent copper, 2 percent gold, 1 percent silver and 1 percent palladium. Beyond that there’s iron and plastic content that we recycle,” Rockett stated.

After an electronic unit is manually stripped at M&K, PCBs and ICs and other precious metal-bearing components are set aside. An alligator shearing machine is used to trim off small precious metal-bearing pieces from PCBs such as ICs, fingers, connectors, plugs and pins. The small pieces are sent through M&K’s chemical treatment process where the precious metals drop off the PCB fiberglass substrate and are later cast into bars. M&K holds pool accounts with various bullion dealers and bars of precious metals are sold at the daily spot price.

The stripped PCB fiberglass is collected into 25,000 pound lots and sent out to a smelter where it is burned and scrubbed to remove and recover copper.

Approximately 60 percent of e-waste volume processed by M&K comes from OEMs via take-back programs and the balance from corporate

customers and miscellaneous sources, but not much from municipal programs. In certain cases, when a customer wants to dispose of a large quantity of electronic components, M&K will process the materials at a contracted price and return the redeemed precious metals to the customer.

Precious metals from catalytic converters

Replacing a catalytic converter (CC) is expensive. Depending on the auto’s make and model, an OEM replacement part can cost anywhere from \$50 to over \$1,500. One muffler shop estimate for a Subaru CC system was for \$1,300, not counting installation labor. Aftermarket CC prices are less, usually because they are smaller and contain less of the precious metals used as catalysts, such as platinum, rhodium and palladium.

Depending on the size and type of CC, a repair shop can get \$25 to \$50 for a used one. Increasingly, auto manufacturers are asking dealers to return used units so they can recycle parts and recover precious metals.

Most scrap recyclers accumulate CCs and send them off in bulk shipments to companies like PMR Catalytic

See PRECIOUS METALS, Page 7

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Nucor releases first quarter guidance

Nucor Corporation released guidance for its first quarter ending April 4, 2009. Nucor expects first quarter results to be in the range of a loss of \$0.55 to \$0.65 per diluted share. By comparison, Nucor earned \$0.34 per share in the fourth quarter of 2008 and earned \$1.41 per share in the first quarter of 2008.

Nucor had not previously issued numerical guidance for the first quarter. The qualitative guidance for the first quarter, given in late January, was for marginally better earnings than the fourth quarter of 2008. The expectation for marginally better earnings assumed improvement in first quarter order entry over that of November and December, tied to the end of customer inventory destocking such that orders would move closer to real demand. In addition, no further erosion in pricing was forecast.

Revised guidance for a first quarter loss reflects continued deterioration in economic and market conditions. Customer demand has continued to weaken, with resulting downward pressure on orders, production rates and steel pricing in all product lines. Nucor's overall steel mill utilization rate is expected to decline to approximately 43% in the first quarter from the fourth quarter of 2008 level of 48%. The dramatically lower production has further slowed the rate at which Nucor's sheet mills are consuming higher cost iron units, in particular pig iron inventories, which were purchased prior to the collapse in both the economy and scrap/pig iron pricing in last year's fourth quarter.

Steel: It's been green for years

by IRWIN RAPOPORT

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With the Obama administration hoping to implement a cap and trade system to help the nation reduce its emissions of green house gases (GHG), the United States steel industry is poised to benefit from a desire by companies to purchase environmentally-friendly steel products.

While America still imports steel, the desire to purchase green steel could help to spur steel production domestically. In a major sense, American steel already has a green element to it as recycled steel is a key ingredient in new steel production and the steel recycling rate in the States is high.

Bill Heenan, president of the Steel Recycling Institute, said that the nation's steel industry has seriously reduced its carbon footprint over the past 20 years.

"In 2007 the industry reduced energy per ton of steel produced by 33 percent since 1990, the base year for the Kyoto Protocol," he said. "Although the United States has not ratified the Protocol, which called for a seven percent reduction, the steel industry has achieved this extraordinary performance via a combination of capital and material utilization improvements and technological



Scrap metal being charged into an electric arc furnace.

advances such as the use of electric arc furnace steelmaking, which enabled significant increases in utilizing recycled steel.

"Due to the close relationship between energy use and GHG emissions," he added, "the industry's aggregate carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per ton of steel produced have also been substantially reduced. Compared to the Protocol's call for an average United States reduction of 7 percent in GHG emissions between 1990 and 2012, this means the American steel industry has already surpassed the Kyoto target."

American-made steel, compared to producers in other nations and regions, shows that steps are being taken in America to limit impacts on the environment.

The measures taken by the industry, said Heenan, were not limited to innovations and efficiencies at the plant.

"In addition to collaborating with the international steel industry," he said, "we are working hand-in-hand with our customers to provide them with the answers to their carbon footprint queries and are advising them on how to maximize green manufacturing goals, which in many cases give them a competitive edge."

"When it comes to steel," he added, "that often extends to its rebirth due to

the ability to recycle it again and again, which accounts for its high recycling rate. Be it bridges or buildings, we see steel that is employed in construction or consumer products as scrap in waiting."

"We are working hand-in-hand with our customers to provide them with the answers to their carbon footprint queries and are advising them on how to maximize green manufacturing goals, which in many cases give them a competitive edge."

The use of high-performance steels is making a difference in carbon emissions, especially in the case of bridges, automobile manufacturing and the production of wind turbines to generate electricity.

Because of improvements in steel technology and design approaches, nearly the same amount of steel can be used in the construction of a new eight-lane bridge as was used in the older, narrower bridges that are being replaced as they age.

Compared to the early 1980s when domestic steelmaking processes consumed 37.8 gigajoule (GJ) of energy per ton of steel produced, the steel industry, by 2005, lowered the average energy consumption per-ton of steel produced to 11.5 GJ. This was achieved through the increased use of scrap and technological innovations.

High-performance steel is also improving performance advantages for new trucks and cars due to new grades of Advanced High-Strength Steel (AHSS). This steel provides lighter optimized body designs that have translated into improved vehicle crash-worthiness and improved fuel economy, which are reducing total GHG emissions.

"Using AHSS provides a sustainable solution for reducing GHG emissions over the complete life cycle of the vehicle," said Heenan. "Should body structures of all cars produced worldwide be made of AHSS instead of conventional steel, 172 million tons of CO₂ equivalents could be avoided."

"Less steel is required per-vehicle," he added, "which reduces emissions from steel production. Fuel savings reduce emissions from driving. Every 2,205 pounds of AHSS used in a vehicle can result in total life cycle savings of 19.85 pounds GHG – a 5.7 percent reduction in GHG emissions over the full life cycle of the vehicle."

Employing AHSS could result in lifetime saving of 2.5 tons CO₂ equivalents per vehicle, which, said Heenan, more than offset the total CO₂ emitted during steel manufacturing for all the steel used in the vehicle.

"Should body structures of all cars produced worldwide, estimated to be 71 million in 2008," he said, "be made of

AHSS instead of conventional steel, this would result in total lifetime emission savings equivalent to 156 million tons CO₂."

Globally, approximately 85 percent of the wind turbines are installed on tubular steel structures. Additionally, 80 percent of all materials used to construct a wind turbine, on average, consist of steel.

According to recent statistics, the amount of energy used to manufacture, operate and dismantle a typical turbine is recovered within nine months of operation.

"Steel offers considerable advantages for the construction of wind turbine towers due to its strength and durability," said Heenan, who noted that towers can be manufactured in sections of up to 100 feet, and be fitted together and installed on site. "The global wind energy sector consumes approximately 1.65 million tons of steel annually. Because of the high steel content in a 2 megawatt, 260 foot-high wind turbine, at least 80 percent of all materials are recyclable. On average, at least 90 percent of the steel from wind turbines can be recovered for recycling."

When the turbines at the Horns Rev wind farm in Denmark reach the end of their life, steel recycling will save 52,000 tons of CO₂ in primary steel production."

Steel recycling, he added, is key to maximizing GHG reductions in wind farms.

"Without it," said Heenan, "the environmental impacts of the power production phase would be significantly higher. A 6 percent increase in recovery from 90 percent to 96 percent would result in a reduction of GHG emissions of approximately 3 percent based on LCA studies."

"While the above mentioned numbers are based on studies in Denmark," he added, "they can be applied to one of



An electric arc furnace recycling tons of scrap metal into new high quality steel.

the first urban wind farms in the United States – the Steel Winds' site. This farm in New York State generates over 50 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity annually, powering about 6,000 homes and saving 28,000 tons of CO₂ per year."

Case studies are now being developed for automobile fuel tanks, canned food, passenger rail and building sectors to address carbon footprint issues, with an emphasis on life cycle approaches, including the manufacturing, use and end of life stages.

Steve Rowlan, director of Environmental Affairs for North Carolina-based Nucor Corporation, has concerns about

See GREEN STEEL, Page 5

Upcoming Section B editorial focus topics:

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JUN	5/18	Paper/Plastics	
JUL	6/17	Wood/Green Waste	
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International metals trade hit by downturn

by **BRIAN R. HOOK**

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The worldwide economic slowdown is hurting the international trade of scrap metal. As demand for scrap drops, exports and imports are slowing to a crawl.

"International trade has decreased dramatically over the past year," said Jeff Solomon, chief executive officer of scrap dealer and buyer Globe Metal Recycling Services Inc. in Montreal Quebec, which processes industrial-generated metals.

Solomon said the current economic downturn is unique. When the downturn started, economists first predicted that the slowdown would not be as severe worldwide due to the growth in emerging countries such as India and China. However, globalization has dragged these markets into the current negative economic quagmire as well.

"The North American downturn and the European downturn have negatively impacted all economies and we now have a global recession rather than a regional one," Solomon said, adding that he is not sure what to expect for the rest of this year.

Because the prices for metals have dropped below the cost of production in some cases, Solomon said, some producers have curtailed production. Often the prices do not cover the cost of transport and processing. Therefore, if this continues much longer, Solomon said, scrap processors might enact a fee to cover the cost of removal.

"As the price of scrap drops, the radius of economic shipping costs becomes an issue and you can't ship the goods as far as you could before," Solomon said.

The downturn may be considerably deeper than even what the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast earlier this year, according to the chief economist for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. "This recession will deepen... there's no doubt," Klaus Schmidt-Hebbel told Reuters in early March.

The IMF cut its economic forecast in late January for global growth of only 0.5 percent in 2009 from an earlier prediction of 2.2 percent. The IMF also forecast a 2 percent slide in economic output this year for the world's most advanced economies.

Economic conditions throughout the world continue to look worse with each month that goes by and many economists continue to downgrade their expectations, said John Mothersole, senior economist at IHS Global Insight Inc. in Washington D.C.

"While we continue to see recovery, or at least a start of a recovery, in the latter half of this year, that recovery comes off of a lower base," Mothersole said. "We continue to downgrade the immediate outlook and therefore push the recovery back."

Mothersole doesn't expect a recovery in developed markets until 2010.

"Trade flows have been reduced as a part of the global recession and that certainly includes the scrap metal trade," Mothersole said. "It simply reflects that less stuff is being made and therefore

there is less waste material and less material moves back and forth."

Despite all the negative economic indicators, there is some encouraging evidence that international trade in scrap metal might be improving. Mothersole cited the Chinese purchasing managers' index, which rose to 49.0 in February – the highest level in five months and the third consecutive rise. While a reading below 50 indicates contraction, Mothersole said the rising number indicates that China might be starting to stabilize.

"If that is the case, it is a hopeful sign," Mothersole said. He said this might be the reason behind why the reports about scrap metal being refused delivery in Chinese ports have stopped. Late last year there were numerous reports about companies breaking contracts and importers finding excuses, refusing to take delivery of scrap metal.

Bob Garino, director of commodities at the Washington D.C.-based Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc. – a trade group which represents over 1,600 companies that process, broker and consume scrap commodities – confirmed that the problem of contracts not being honored by importers of scrap metal in China has stopped.

"There are still issues out there that have to be resolved," Garino said. "But we're not hearing of any new cargoes in route where the buyer has decided to walk away."

Despite the falling economy and reports last year of some importers refusing shipments of scrap metal, Garino said there have not been any problems with new tariffs being imposed or reports of

dumping hurting the international trade of scrap metal.

Last year, in fact, was another record year for exporting scrap metal, Garino said, with the United States continuing to be the largest exporter of scrap metal. The largest importer of non-ferrous scrap is China and the largest importer of ferrous scrap is Turkey.

Ferrous scrap exports were up 37 percent in 2008 compared to 2007. Aluminum was up for the year by 28 percent. Copper, however, was only marginally higher.

"Every year we have seen year on year increases," Garino said. "But we definitely saw a change as the fourth quarter came about. The buying dried up drastically."

What will happen this year? Will trade pick up? Garino said it is hard to forecast. He said it depends on whether the stimulus packages that have been introduced around the world work. As industrial production increases, Garino said he looks at the manufacturing component of industrial production, because it is metal intensive.

"As that begins to turn around in a positive direction, metals will increase," Garino said. "That should help drive metal demand and scrap metal demand."

The biggest issue in regards to the trade of scrap metal is the macro-economic picture from around the world, Garino said. "It all goes back to industrial production globally. Without that as the driver for metal it is hard to imagine volumes turning around until we start getting concrete evidence that industrial production has picked up."



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EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Eddy current separators

by MARK HENRICKS

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Ordinary electromagnets suffice to separate iron and steel from all kinds of shredded recyclable materials. But when it comes to removing other valuable metals such as aluminum and copper, recyclers have to turn to eddy current separators. These machines employ a somewhat lesser known but very well tested magnetic phenomenon to separate non-ferrous metals from other materials.

Eddy current separators (ECS) use powerful rotating permanent magnets to induce a magnetic field in conductive non-ferrous metal items passing by

on a conveyor belt. The field that is created is opposite to the magnetic rotor, causing the items to be repulsed so they can be separated from the other material using a

splitter. Sometimes the separation occurs quite dramatically. "When you're doing beverage containers, sorting aluminum from tin cans, there's so much aluminum that they literally fly across the room," said Keith Rhodes, president of Magnetic Products, Inc. in Highland, Michigan.

Even much smaller particles can be effectively removed using well-designed magnetic rotors and well-placed separators. Today eddy current separators are widely used to separate non-ferrous metals from auto shredder output, solid waste incinerator ash, crushed glass CRT tubes and other electronics waste and foundry sand as well as sorting steel and aluminum beverage cans.

Rhodes, whose company makes three eddy current separators in widths from 20 inches to 40 inches and of 4 to 8 tons per hour, said that the technology of eddy current separators differ significantly from manufacturer to manufacturer. Magnetic Products, for instance, emphasizes building rotors with a large amount of high-grade neodymium iron boron in order to increase the strength of the effect. "The customer is trying to separate out as much metal as he can," Rhodes reasoned. "That's directly related to the strength of the rotor."

Another feature Rhodes emphasizes is the control system. Magnetic Products' eddy current separators employ a soft start approach that allows operators to bring the spinning magnet rotor up to its operating speed of approximately 2,500 rpm before engaging the conveyor bringing material past the rotor and separator. This, Rhodes said, avoids having material passing over the separator before the eddy current effect has reached full potential. That reduces the amount of unwanted contamination of non-ferrous metals in the separated stream of material.

Another important consideration involves how robustly the machine is constructed. The rapidly spinning rotors weigh hundreds of pounds, so bearings and shafting must be up to the powerful forces brought to bear. "The general construction of the unit becomes a very critical design element of the system," Rhodes said.

Finally, Rhodes said his customers are looking for well-designed splitters, where the non-ferrous items reacting to the eddy current are actually separated from the other materials. "The real essence of an ECS is your ability to separate the non-ferrous materials from the conductive ferrous materials," Rhodes said. And aluminum cans are not the biggest challenge here. "When you get into wire and other materials where you're trying to influence copper and stainless steel that is machined down to small levels, that splitter becomes important," he said.

At Huron Valley Steel Corp. in Belleville, Michigan, General Manager Ben Davis said powerful magnets are also a key feature of his company's eddy current separators. "We can go through 4 inches depth of burden," he said. "The more power you have the more separation you can get." Howev-

er, the company also employs smaller, less powerful magnets for removing fines.

Most eddy current machines are low maintenance when properly cared for, Davis said. Spending a few minutes to wipe down the rotor accomplishes most necessary maintenance. "It takes very little effort to take care of," he said. "Consequently that's not always done."

Steinert US LLC in Clearwater, Florida, uses a twist on the basic eddy current separator design with its eccentric pole rotor system. The company said this approach allows it to concentrate the eddy current effect at the most optimal spot for separation to occur. Sales Manager Dennis Ciccotelli also emphasized the flexibility of Steinert's designs.

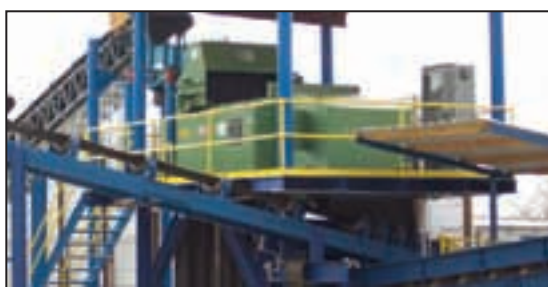
"Most of our eddy current separator lines are totally adjustable," he said. "What we seem to see as a rule in the scrap industry is that each operation is slightly different, either in the feed stock or rate of feed or environment it has to be operated under." Steinert therefore set out to make a machine adjustable enough to handle a variety of situations. "You can adjust the speed of the belt, the speed of the rotor, the position of the rotor and the position of the splitter," said Ciccotelli. "Those major factors give you an almost infinite variety of settings for different materials."

Durability is also a major factor in waste-to-energy applications. These facilities may run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, something which Steinert's eddy current separators are up to, Ciccotelli said. "You can maintain these machines in constant operation. The only requirements are a minimal amount of housekeeping and periodic lubrication."

One big change in today's market compared to a year ago is that payback periods for eddy current separator purchases have lengthened. "We were having payback periods in like 20 to 26 weeks," Ciccotelli said. "Today, it'll be two or three years in some cases."



Magnetic Products, Inc.



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Manufacturer List

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Al Gedgudas
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www.eriez.com

Huron Valley Steel Corp.
Ben Davis
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www.hvsc.net

Magnetic Products, Inc.
Keith Rhodes
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www.mpimagnet.com

Osborn Engineering, Inc.
Marlin Bills
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www.osborneng.com

SGM Magnetix Corp.
Robert Melenick
714-441-2800
www.sgm-magnetix.com

Steinert US LLC
Dennis Ciccotelli
727-573-2482 x102
www.steinertus.com

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Pieter Van Dijk
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Green steel

Continued from Page 2

the potential impact of a cap and trade system on the American steel industry.

“With all this wonderful environmental performance by the industry, we are still being asked to do more,” he said. “Cap and trades are putting the industry in peril, potentially causing this incredible green effort to be pushed offshore and be undone. If we want to truly impact global carbon concentrations, we have to look at cap and trade to see if it really discourages the very behavior that we think it is encouraging.”

Rowlan said that Congress could pass regulations that would not violate existing trade agreements and minimize the impact of a cap and trade program on the steel industry.

“They could require that all steel sold in the States, whether it’s produced domestically or abroad, meet the carbon footprint requirements that American steel is already meeting,” he said, “but people tend to balk and pull away from that. It shows that their motive is not really about climate change, but is more about regulating domestic industry.”

In the past, Congress has called upon foreign nations to match or take steps to match American standards regarding labor and other dossiers. Rowlan said this is more of case of making demands and showing American leadership, but that these nations have no legal requirement to follow our lead.

“A well done climate change bill could encourage more recycling,” he said, “but we have to be aware that it will raise our energy costs, making the ability to recycle steel and other materials much more expensive. When that expense starts to hit us and makes our steel – which is highly recycled – more expensive than steel produced in a country where they have no environmental laws or GHG regulatory laws, you have basically exported the emissions.”

The next step for the steel industry, said Rowlan, is to ensure the recognition of its reductions in GHG emissions, and to show the indirect effects that would

affect the industry, even were it excluded from the cap and trade program.

“The indirect costs of having our energy costs – natural gas and electricity – go up significantly,” he said, “will still be a significant burden on us and reduce our international competitiveness. There are some estimates that our power rates could double. For an electric arc furnace that is a huge cost and we’ll have no way of passing that on to our customers if we are competing directly with producers that don’t have those same costs coming to them.”

Harsco enters UAE metal services sector

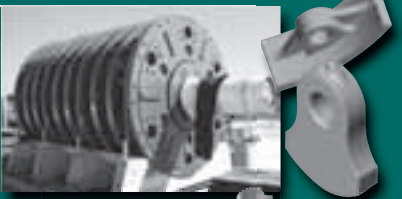
Worldwide industrial services company Harsco Corporation announced that its Harsco Metals group is expanding into the United Arab Emirates under a new ten-year contract valued in excess of \$35 million over its term.

The contract with Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Steel L.L.C. installs Harsco as the principal onsite service partner to a new electric arc furnace (EAF) steel plant entering production with capacity for up to 400,000 tons of steel billets and 250,000

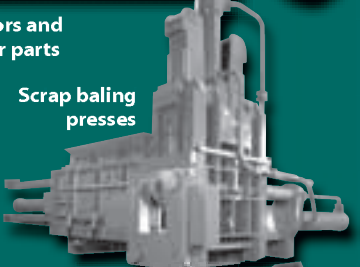
tons of gas based DRI production per year. Harsco was invited to take on responsibilities for a broad range of high value onsite material handling and environmental services, having worked successfully with the mill’s management team at other steel-making operations. The mill is a subsidiary of Al Nasser Industrial Enterprises (ANIE), one of the leading manufacturing companies in the United Arab Emirates. Harsco expects to begin work within the next 1-2 months.

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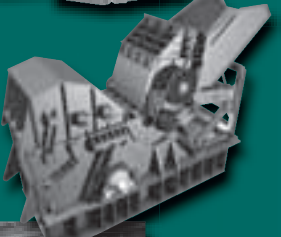
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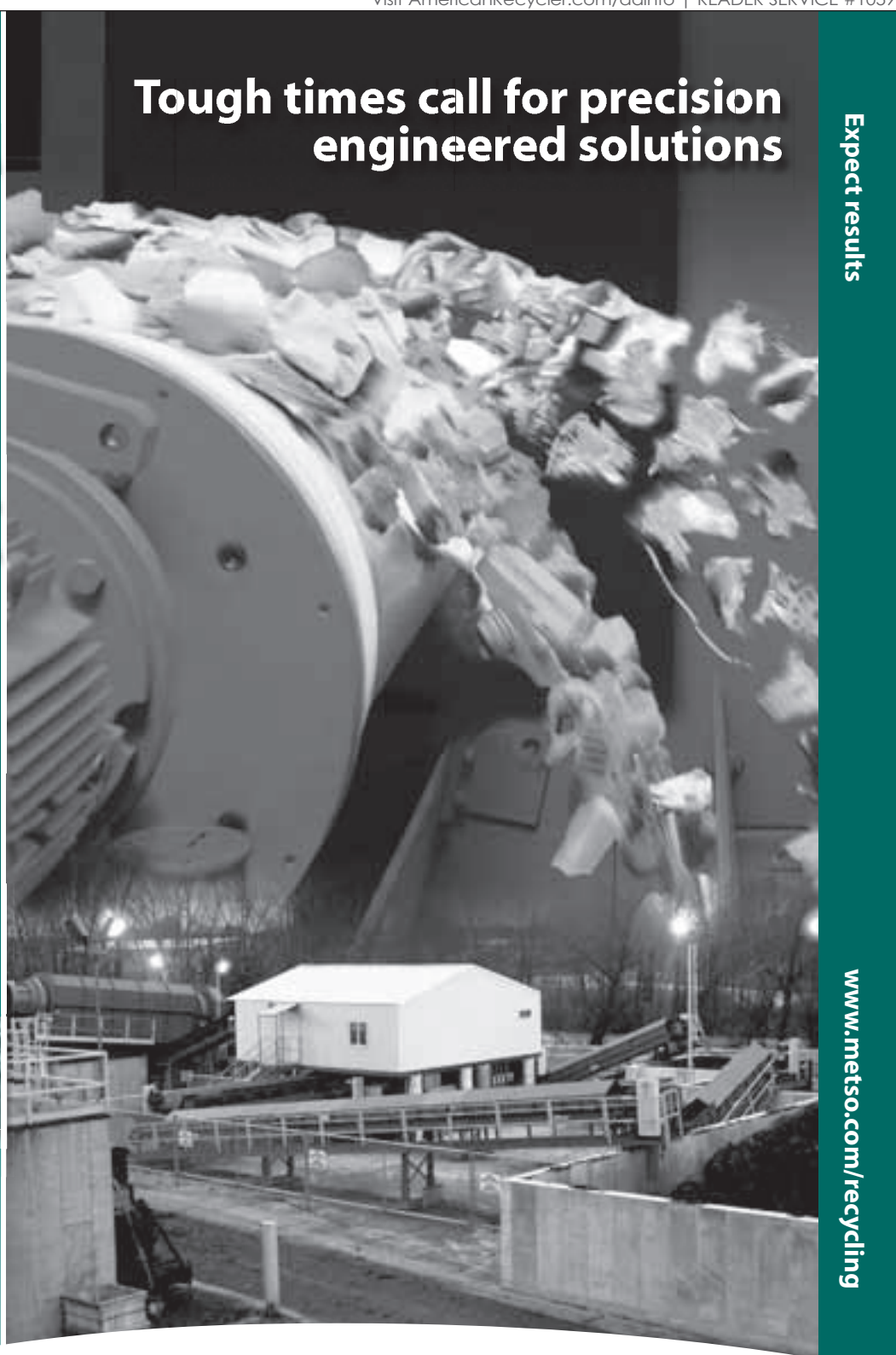


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Ventures Metals acquisition now finalized

Industrial Services of America, Inc., (ISA) said the company completed the purchase of stainless steel and high temperature metals inventories from Ventures Metals, LLC, and agreed to lease Venture Metals' processing equipment and facilities.

ISA announced January 20 it would enter the stainless steel and high-temperature metals recycling business through the purchase of Venture Metals' inventories and through access to processing sites leased at Campground Road in Louisville and in Mobile, Alabama.

The agreement provides ISA the option under certain conditions to buy Venture Metals' fixed assets and equip-

ment such as cranes, forklifts, loaders, and scales, for approximately \$1.5 million.

The transaction was funded through a \$12 million Branch Banking and Trust Company non-revolving funding facility. As previously reported, ISA has contracts to market a substantial amount of the purchased stainless steel scrap inventory during the first quarter of fiscal 2009.

In addition to the transactions with Venture Metals and the related loan, ISA concluded the settlement of a suit filed by All American Recycling (AAR), which has returned control to ISA of a recycling retail operation. On February 9, ISA paid

AAR approximately \$990,000, which was reserved as of December 31, 2008, and certain other transaction and legal costs to settle a breach of agreement claim.

As of March 31, ISA also regained access to several acres of property and facilities as part of the settlement to develop its shredder operations and to relocate its stainless operations to Grade Lane. ISA plans to renovate the Campground facility that is primarily a stainless yard at this time into a full-service yard that will feed ferrous, nonferrous and stainless material into the Grade Lane operations.

Zanesville Works' safety awarded

AK Steel said that its Zanesville, Ohio Works received three awards for outstanding safety performance from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, division of Safety and Hygiene.

The safety awards presented to Zanesville Works include: The Group Safety Award for having the lowest incident rate in the industrial group for 2008; the 100% Award for operating the entire year of 2008 without a lost-time injury; and, a Special Award for working 2,825,818 hours without a lost-time injury from April 21, 2003 through December 31, 2008.

A Closer Look

by Donna Currie

P&L Scrap Iron & Metal

John Lujan • 719-471-9876

"We've seen it all," John Lujan said, referring to some of the more peculiar things that have come into his scrap yard in the past 37 years. One of the oddest was a cremation urn found in the back of a car purchased from the local impound lot.

Lujan said that the owner had left the urn in the back of the car. It was there when the car was impounded, and still there when it was finally sold for scrap. "It was the guy's mother," Lujan said, but despite several calls, no one ever came to pick it up.

"We finally buried the damned thing," Lujan said. "It was all we could do."

Lujan has also been witness to marital friction when one spouse sells a car for scrap and the other shows up and wants to buy it back. "It can get messy," Lujan said.

His 37 years in the scrap business in Colorado Springs have taken him through a lot of ups and downs in the industry. And before he started his own business, he worked at his father's junkyard near Alamosa, Colorado, which had been operating "since the thirties," according to Lujan. "We just kind of grew up in it."

Lujan didn't plan on going into the scrap business, but when he got out of the military, he was looking for something to do. His brother was a mechanic at the time, and the two decided that there was money to be had in junk. They started the business "with nothing - a pickup and a trailer, and that's about it."

During the best years, P&L employed about 20 people, but now it's a family operation again with Lujan and his wife and son, his brother, and a nephew. "We used to do up to 1,500 cars a month, but now we don't do 30 cars a month when metal prices go down," Lujan said.

Even so, P&L accepts scrap from towing companies, salvage yards, and the public, and has industrial accounts. "We'll drop a box off for them," he said. Many of his regular customers are holding back on selling cars, hoping prices will go up, but competition from auto shredding companies that have moved into the area have also eaten into his business.

But when there's work to be done, Lujan's got a car crusher and plenty of torches and other equipment ready to process what comes in.

Most of Lujan's scrap is sold locally, but he said that one of his biggest challenges has been "dealing with foreign markets." And of course, anticipating local markets can be just as trying. "All the fire's gone out of it," Lujan said. "It was great then, but not now."

Whether he'll choose to weather out the current bad economy, he hasn't decided. "I'm 64 now, my brother's 68," he said. Even if the scrap business doesn't get passed down to the next generation as-is, Lujan said that he had a piece of property set aside where his son could operate a towing business.

Meanwhile, he's got no regrets about his career choice, noting that having a business like his allowed him the freedom to take time off when he wanted. "No need to ask anyone," he said. "You can take off to go hunting or fishing whenever you want." As for the future? "It's anybody's guess."

China Gengsheng Minerals signs contract with Jiangsu Sha Steel Group

China Gengsheng Minerals, Inc., a materials technology company in China, announced that it has signed a refractory material supply contract with Jiangsu Sha Steel Group Co., Ltd.'s (Sha Steel) Zhangjiagang-based subsidiary. Total value of the contract is \$1.2 million.

Pursuant to the contract, Gengsheng will ship refractory materials for reheat furnaces used in Sha Steel's hot rolling mill in Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu Province. Sha Steel is China's largest non-state-owned steel producer by output. Founded in 1975 and headquartered in Zhangjiagang, Sha Steel has a

total annual capacity of 24 million tons of rolled steel products, according to its website.

Said Mr. Shunqing Zhang, Gengsheng's chairman and CEO, "Inventories declined in late 2008, but we now are seeing Chinese steel mills quickly re-stocking their products, especially hot rolled steels for infrastructure materials designed for railroads and highways. We are hopeful that the Chinese stimulus package will yield more opportunities like this for us to supply to large steel mills that benefit from this Chinese government policy."

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A string walked into a bar with a few friends and ordered a beer. The bartender said, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve strings here." The string went back to his table. He tied himself into a loop and messed up the top of his hair. He went back up to the bar and ordered a beer. The bartender squinted at him and said, "Hey, aren't you a string?" The string replied, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."

Universal Stainless and PNC enter into credit agreement

Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc. announced that it has entered into a new credit agreement with PNC Bank providing for a \$12.0 million term loan scheduled to mature in 2014 and a \$15.0 million revolving credit facility with a term expiring in 2012. The new agreement replaces the company's existing revolving credit agreement that was set to expire June 30, 2009.

The company intends to use the borrowings under the term loan to fund its previously announced capital investment program totaling \$13 million in its Bridgeville melt shop and other related costs.

The investment is for major upgrades in equipment, automation and plant layout, including installation of a 50-ton electric arc furnace shell, upgrade of alloy addition equipment at the Argon-Oxygen Decarburization (AOD) unit, and the addition of new ladle preheating equipment.

The equipment and infrastructure spending is expected to be completed by the end of 2009 and the automation spending is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 2010.

The investment is expected to yield annual cost savings of more than \$7.5 million beginning in the 2009 fourth quarter.

Alcoa is Fortune's most admired

According to Fortune magazine's annual survey of the World's Most Admired Companies, Alcoa is the world's most admired metals company. Fortune's most admired ranking is a report card on corporate reputation.

In addition to being the most admired metals company, Alcoa also took top position in innovation, social responsibility, and quality of products and services within the entire industry.

Alcoa has been included in the ranking of the most admired companies for 26 consecutive years.

More than 4,000 corporate executives, directors and financial analysts were surveyed ranking companies on nine key attributes from investment value to social responsibility.

Anshan Iron enters into waste contract

China Industrial Waste Management, Inc. announced that it has signed an agreement to provide waste management services for Anshan Iron and Steel Group, the second largest steel producer in China.

CIWT won the open tender offered by Anshan Iron & Steel Group to process waste generated by its Angang Steel Subsidiary and Bayuquan Steel Subsidiary in February, 2009 and finalized the contract in early March. Under the agreement, CIWT will provide incineration and landfill services for hazardous waste generated at these two facilities. The waste will be processed at CIWT's SEPA certified waste incineration facility and waste landfill site located in Dalian. Since the contract was signed, CIWT has made four collections of hazardous waste from Anshan.

Precious metals

Continued from Page 1

Converter Recycling in Quebec that specializes in recycling CCs. It is the only company of its type in Canada and bills itself as the North American leader in the analysis, cutting and recycling of the metals and ceramics found in all models of catalytic converters. "I buy in Canada and all over the United States, anywhere," said Pierre Marchend, PMR's general manager and principal buyer. "On average we pay roughly \$45 for each scrap unit and process about 100,000 catalytic converters each month."

At PMR, the first step is to "decan" or remove the auto catalyst materials from the whole steel converter unit. This involves shearing open the steel or stainless steel case to release the bead or honeycomb ceramic biscuits. Since the recovery value is in the Platinum Group Metals (PGM) that coat the ceramic catalyst material, all the dust and small pieces are collected. The catalyst material is then crushed and milled into a uniform powder. PMR's powder is then assayed to determine the precious metal content, but this is only a conditional assay, a rough approximation of content that accompanies the material to the next step in recovery.

PMR sends its catalyst powder for refining to Techemet, a technical, chemical and metallurgic group headquartered in Pasadena, Texas and one of the top three companies of its type in the world. From Texas, Techemet directs its international recycling and refining operations in the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Mexico and Central America. Catalytic converters represent approximately 90 percent Techemet's business, but it also recovers platinum, palladium, rhodium, gold and silver from industrial catalysts used in petroleum and chemical processing

as well as from electronic, jewelry and dental scrap.

"At the moment, business is slow. Last year was our best year ever in volume, but it trailed off in November and December, said Stewart Prentice, a Techemet partner. "Currently, everyone in our industry is running about 50 percent of the level of last year. There's a shortage of catalytic converters, too, because a lot of auto wreckers are not selling. They are stockpiling, waiting for prices to go up."

Techemet takes in decanned catalysts from companies like PMR. While catalysts represent the majority of Techemet's business, it also takes in whole converters from scrap dealers. Because there are literally thousands of types of catalytic converters in a range of sizes, Techemet pays anywhere from three dollars to \$120 for a whole unit.

To refine catalysts, Techemet uses two submerged electric arc furnaces that have a combined capacity of 20 million pounds of annual feed. Submerged electric arc furnaces are physically different from steel-making furnaces. In submerged arc furnaces the electrode tips are buried in the slag-charge and arcing occurs through the slag between a matte and an electrode. Steelmaking arc furnaces arc in the open and usually operate on a continuous, rather than on a batch basis like a submerged arc furnace.

After the catalyst material is refined in the arc furnace, the extracted metal is called "PGM alloy" and it contains approximately 10 percent precious metals. The remaining ceramic material is of negligible value and is used for road fill. Techemet sends out its PGM alloy to chemical refineries for final processing into 99.99 percent pure platinum, palladium and rhodium sponge. Techemet's smelter generates no waste streams, nothing that is processed is discarded and everything is recycled.

A wealthy investor walked into a bank and said to the bank manager, "I would like to speak with Mr. Reginald Jones, who I understand is a tried and trusted employee of yours." The banker said, "Yes he certainly was trusted. And he will be tried as soon as we catch him."

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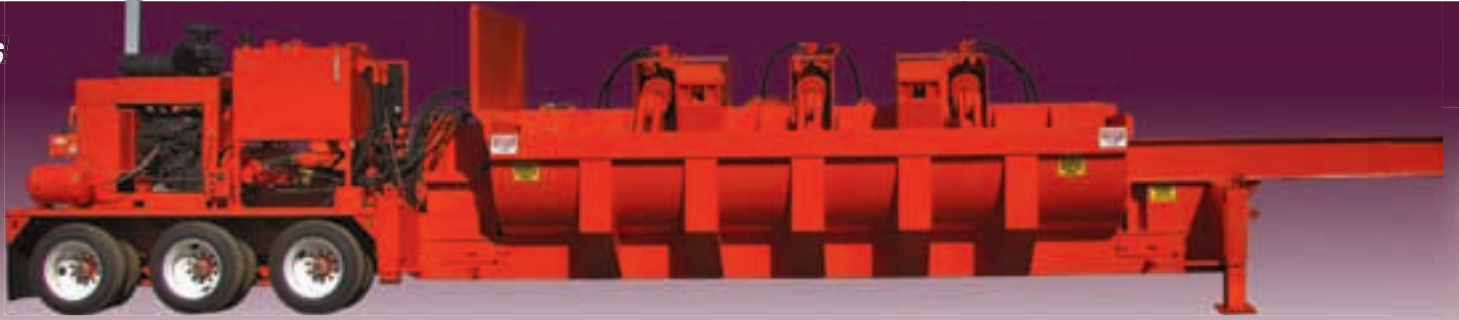
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