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Recycling small mobile devices emerges as big business

by MIKE BRESLIN

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As smart phones get smarter and smaller, they also get slimmer, more fragile and more prone to breaking. But most will become obsolete and be upgraded to newer, more powerful devices before they crack. The same can be said for regular cell phones, pagers, PDAs, e-readers, mobile MP3 players and the new breed of wearable electronics now entering the marketplace. Wherever there is a mobile device, and they are seemingly everywhere in ever growing quantities and configurations, they are destined to be trashed, refurbished or shredded to recover materials. It all adds up to a boom in business for e-recyclers.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), mobile phones are usually replaced every 18 months, yet nearly 66 percent of men believe that their current wallet will outlast their smartphone and 53 percent of women believe their current purse will last longer than their smartphone. Turnover times get shorter each year and tech savvy enthusiasts constantly upgrade to the most recently released devices.

Mobile devices are a prized recyclable commodity because they can contain small but valuable amounts of various precious metals, including silver, gold, palladium, platinum, tin, copper and more. Plastics and glass are other valuable materials found in cell phone casings and screens. But beyond growth in recovering materials, refurbishing and reselling small devices is a rapidly growing business and highly profitable for many recyclers.

The Pew Research Center reported that 91 percent of all adults in the U.S. owned a cell phone in 2013. Although manufacturers produce a massive variety from basic cell phones to fully-featured touch-screen smart phones to other mobile devices, environmental organizations recommend reusing or recycling phones rather than discarding them whenever practical. This conserves materials and lessens the environmental impact to landfills and prevents a witch's brew of toxic substances from leeching into water supplies. These can include lithium, cobalt, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, arsenic, bromides, tantalum and antimony.



Before refurbishing, each phone is registered with a unique barcode, and scanned into inventory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS INTERNATIONAL



Located in high traffic areas, ecoATM machines offer a convenient way to recycle mobile devices and receive cash for reusable products.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOATM

The U.S. EPA's latest estimate of the mobile phones collected for recycling in 2009, found that 38 percent were refurbished or reused and the remaining 62 percent were recycled.

Being small by nature, these wireless devices and accessories are too often thrown in the trash, but there are nationwide efforts to further educate the public to recycle, either to have devices refurbished for continued use, or responsibly dismantled to recover valuable feedstocks. Most major wireless carriers and many electronic retailers have instituted free, drop-off or mail-in programs to recycle handsets, tablets and netbooks as well as chargers, batteries and accessories. Unfortunately, many national and Internet retailers that sell these devices are not providing recycling services.

Before recycling, all users are urged to erase all stored information, remove SIM cards and restore the device to factory settings. If not cleared of personal information, an R2 or eSteward certified electronics recycler will automatically wipe all user content. Tolena Thorburn, senior communications manager at T-Mobile USA shared, "Our handset recycling and reuse program provides the opportunity for our customers to bring their used handsets to any T-Mobile location in the United States and Puerto Rico.

In 2013, we took back more than 5.2 million handsets and refurbished, resold or inventoried for future use about 90.2 percent of them. We then disassembled and processed responsibly to recover precious metals from the remaining 9.8 percent of the returned handsets. In total, our recycling rate was 21.6 percent in 2013.

"Our recycler is R2 certified. The R2 Standard sets forth requirements relating to environmental, health, safety and security aspects of electronics recycling. R2 also requires e-recyclers to assure that the more toxic material streams are managed safely and responsibly by downstream vendors, all the way to final disposition. It also prohibits e-recyclers and their downstream vendors from exporting these more toxic materials to countries that have enacted laws making their import illegal."

But perhaps the advent of new technology can help recycle older technology? Take ecoATM as an example. It's the first company to create an automated self-serve kiosk system that uses patented, advanced machine vision, electronic diagnostics, and artificial intelligence to evaluate and pay cash for old and unused electronics.

Founded in 2009, ecoATM became a subsidiary of Outerwall, Inc in 2013, a major provider of automated retail solutions. Thus far, ecoATM kiosks have collected over two million mobile devices. And collection is snowballing according to Amy Rice, company spokesperson. "It took from 2009 to April, 2013 for us to collect our first million units, however we reached two million by January of this year."

See MOBILE DEVICES, Page 4

Shaw Industries Group expands with Georgia facility to recycle more fiber types

Shaw Industries Group, Inc. will expand its robust reclamation and recycling program to include a new Evergreen facility in Ringgold, Georgia. The Berkshire Hathaway company will create at least 70 new full time jobs and invest over \$17 million into the facility.

Shaw has recycled more than 700 million pounds of carpet since 2006 via the company's take-back program and an expansive reclamation network. As an addition to Shaw's portfolio of recycling solutions, Evergreen Ringgold will give the company a flexible recycling solution that is capable of recycling nylon and polyester carpet.

Complementing Shaw's carpet recycling portfolio, Evergreen Ringgold will create a high purity post-consumer recycled material that can be used in a broad range of applications. The facility will be operational in 2015 and will be located in what was previously Shaw Plant 37 – a rug distribution center.



Shaw has committed to 100 percent of its products being designed to Cradle to Cradle protocols by 2030.

Carl Campbell, senior project manager for the existing industry and regional recruitment team, oversaw the

project for the state. In addition, Georgia Quick Start, the nation's top-ranked workforce training program, will work with Shaw to ensure its employees receive the proper training to support the company's recycling investments.

University of Dayton and Rumpke form partnership

A new, five year agreement with Rumpke Waste and Recycling will support the University of Dayton's sustainability education efforts and recover more than 1.6 million pounds of recycling annually.

In addition to weekly trash and recycling collection, Rumpke will:

- Support the University's sustainability curriculum with hands-on educational experiences and campus sustainability programming such as facility tours, guest lectures and special projects.

- Assist with the University's sustainability education efforts in local schools.

- Assist with the University's participation in the nationwide Recyclemania competition to encourage a campus-wide recycling culture.

- Sponsor messages at University of Dayton athletics events to help promote recycling and sustainability initiatives beyond campus.

Earlier this year, the University earned a silver rating in the Association

for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System for its sustainability achievements.

The University also made The Princeton Review's Guide to 332 Green Colleges: 2014 Edition for demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainability in the University's academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

GlyEco boosts glycol recycling

GlyEco, Inc. has increased its waste glycol recycling capacity 400 percent at its Minnesota processing center.

During the first quarter, GlyEco relocated its Minnesota facility from 2,000 sq.ft. to a 10,000 sq.ft. stand-alone building which provides improved logistics for large volume operations.

Additionally, GlyEco completed a series of technology and equipment upgrades, including new main circulation equipment, an advanced pumping system, and secondary containment system.

"Our recent upgrades at this facility enable us to produce larger batches of recycled glycol from multiple new waste streams," stated John Lorenz, chief executive officer of GlyEco. "We can now process ethylene and propylene waste glycols as well as ethylene oxide waste in Minnesota. We intend to ramp sales by expanding our services into the heat transfer fluids and aircraft deicing waste markets. We also intend to service a larger geographic territory at this facility."

ReCommunity acquires JFD

ReCommunity has acquired the assets of JFD Associates. The addition of JFD's facility in Farmingdale is ReCommunity's fifth processing operation in New Jersey. ReCommunity provides service to dozens of haulers and more than 110 communities across the Garden State.

JFD has operated this facility for more than 10 years.



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Clothing bins continue to be targets

A Buzz Lightyear action figure was used last month to capture a thief outside Atlanta, Georgia. The Buzz Lightyear doll, with a hidden GPS transmitter, was placed inside a bag of used clothing in a collection bin operated by Mid-Atlantic Clothing Recycling (MAC Recycling) of Owings Mills, Maryland. The collection bin being monitored was at the Douglas Marketplace in Douglasville, Georgia just west of Atlanta.



"We have experienced a recent rash of thefts from our collection bins," said Max Glikman, operations manager of MAC Recycling. "In some cases our collections were down as much as 40 percent at specific locations. The team at MAC Recycling came up with the idea of using a GPS device to track materials once they were taken illegally from one of the company's collection bins."

Tim Peck, Atlanta territory manager for MAC Recycling recently hid one of the company's 90 GPS monitors in a Buzz Lightyear stuffed toy along with other items of used clothing. An online tracking system allows Peck, and other MAC Recycling managers to remotely monitor the "seed" materials. Yesterday, Peck was alerted that Buzz Lightyear was on-the-move. Peck immediately contacted police to report a "theft in progress."

"We have found law enforcement officials to be very appreciative of our efforts with the GPS devices," said Glikman. "While we can't identify the make and model of the vehicle transporting the stolen items, we can direct the police to within a few feet of the GPS tracker."

Following the directions of Peck, Douglas County police located the stolen property and observed a suspect unloading the materials from the back of a pick-up truck. The officers used a directional finder to sweep the property and found Buzz Lightyear and the GPS device inside the suspect's house. The man confessed to stealing a total of six large bags of clothing. He was arrested and taken to jail.

Glikman said the company has used the trackers in five other cases. Most cases involved individuals removing items from MAC Recycling clothing collection bins, although in one case a competitor was caught with the stolen goods.

I was having trouble with my computer so I called Harold the computer guy, to come over. He clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

He gave me a bill for a minimum service call. As he was walking away, I asked him what was wrong.

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but I inquired, "What's that?"

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down: I D I O T... I used to like Harold.

Recycling industry brings \$13 billion boost to South Carolina's economy

The recycling industry in South Carolina brings a \$13 billion boost to the state's economy annually – double the estimated impact of recycling in 2006 – according to a new report compiled by Dr. Frank Hefner.

The economic impact report quantified the contributions of recycling through a combination of direct survey data from recycling companies as well as economic modeling through IMPLAN. The report was an update to a 2006 study with the same methodology.

Despite the recession, the total economic impact of recycling activities in the state grew nearly 5 percent annually to double its impact in 8 years, while recycling's benefit to jobs across South Carolina grew to 54,121 jobs impacted – a 44 percent increase since 2006.

The updated report was commissioned through a partnership between the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), New Carolina and RecyclonomicsSC, a non-profit organization that promotes recycling as a way to improve the economy.

The 2014 report's key findings reveal that recycling contributes:

- \$13 billion in total economic impact – double the impact of \$6.5 billion in 2006.

- 54,121 jobs, up 44 percent from 37,440 impacted jobs 8 years ago.

- \$2.7 billion in labor income, up 80 percent from the 2006 report.

- \$329 million in state and local taxes.

Moreover, the state's recycling industry expects additional growth this calendar year. Nearly 64 percent of survey respondents indicated they are planning an expansion in 2014 with an average of 3.5 employees each, or approximately 1,162 new employees added to payrolls this year. The average annual growth rate predicted for the industry is 19 percent.

"While many recognize the environmental benefit of recycling, these results show the strong connection between recycling and business," said secretary of commerce Bobby Hitt. "As the business agency for South Carolina, Commerce will continue to provide support for the more than 500 companies in the state that are engaged in recycling activities and making sizeable contributions to our state's economy."

Along with the growth of recycling's impact to the economy, participation in recycling also has grown. The state's recycling rate increased to 31 percent in 2013 from 22 percent in 2009, with each South Carolinian on average recycling 1.59 pounds per day.

"Last year, South Carolina recycled almost 600 pounds per person. It is an extraordinary number and is only growing thanks to the grass roots dedication of our local governments in partnership with DHEC," said Catherine Templeton, director of SCDHEC. "As a result, local governments saved more than \$53 million in disposal costs last year alone

and have earned more than \$67 million in the last 4 years."

A directory of businesses engaged in recycling activities maintained by the Department of Commerce identifies 524 firms in 2014, up 54 percent from 340 firms in 2006. These companies include collectors, haulers, processors, end-users, exporters and others. Since 2006, the state's recycling industry has announced more than \$4.63 billion in new investments.

Companies large and small comprise South Carolina's recycling industry. Of the more than 520 recycling firms in the state, the number of personnel ranges from 1 to 577 employees. The average number of employees per company is 63, while the median number of employees is 14. Additionally, the average payroll per employee in the industry is \$40,203, above the average wage in South Carolina of \$38,700.

"With an annual economic impact of \$13 billion and over 520 companies across the state, there's no denying that recycling in South Carolina is making treasure out of trash," remarked Tina Huskey, chair of RecyclonomicsSC. "RecyclonomicsSC set a robust goal to 'Arrive at 75' by increasing our current recycling rate from 31 percent to 75 percent before 2030. That success would mean even more innovation, job opportunity and cost savings – further proof that making one small change today can lead to a greener, more prosperous South Carolina."

Republic opens recycling facility in North Carolina

Republic Services dedicated the Conover Recycling Facility in Catawba County, which will introduce or expand single-stream recycling capabilities throughout Alamance, Catawba, Guilford, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties. The expanded, highly-advanced facility has the capacity to process more than 25 tons of mixed recyclables per hour, or 400 tons per day.

The Conover Recycling Facility accepts and processes all plastics marked 1 through 7, paper products, cardboard, glass, aluminum and other materials. The facility utilizes several advanced technologies which include a touch-screen Human Machine Interface control, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition monitoring and innovative sorting technologies that maximize sorting efficiencies. The facility has the capacity to sort and process incoming materials, and ship finished commodities to domestic and international markets.

There are approximately 43 full-time employees working at the Conover Recycling Facility. In addition, the facility offers a unique Learning Center for the community to visit and experience a rare, up-close view of the recycling process.

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■Continued from Page 1

Today ecoATM has over 900 kiosks located in 42 states, mostly in metro areas in high traffic locations like malls. The company is currently expanding into retail stores and now has kiosks in Wal Mart and Kroger. The machines accept e-readers, MP3s, tablet computers, cell and smart phones.

"We've found that our machines are convenient and easy for people to get cash for recycling old devices when cleaning out drawers and getting rid of old phones, or when upgrading their phones," said Rice.

To use the machine, and prevent the acceptance of stolen goods, the user has to be 18 years or older and show a valid, state picture ID such as a driver's license, plus a thumbprint. "While the phone is being evaluated we have three high resolution cameras that take photos of the person standing in front of the machine. Then back at our headquarters in San Diego we have live humans verifying that the person in front of the machine is the person on the ID. All machines are live-monitored for verification in this way," Rice explained.

Users put their device in the ecoATM's 10" x 5" inspection station for automatic evaluation. Many devices presented have a secondary resale value. Sellers have been paid upwards of \$250 dollars for newer models. It depends on the make, model and condition of the device. The machine dispenses \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills. If there is no market for refurbishing the device for resale, the ecoATM offers \$1 in exchange for the device to ensure it gets properly recycled, or instead of taking the \$1 the user has the option of donating it to a selection of charity partners.

"We are simply an aggregator and our partners either refurbish or recycle what we collect. We have really strong standards and

are R2 certified. That means that the companies that buy phones from us have to adhere to R2 compliance standards," said Rice.

"We also have an excellent relationship with law enforcement. On staff, we have two directors of law enforcement who are retired police officers. A key part of our business is making sure we work closely with law enforcement to stop cell phone theft and catch thieves," Rice concluded.

Jamie Hastings, vice president, external and state affairs for CTIA, also known as The Wireless Association, said, "CTIA and its member companies offer a number of programs to encourage consumers to responsibly retire their wireless products, including accessories. According to the EPA, recycling one million cellphones saves enough energy to power more than 185 U.S. households with electricity for a year.

"CTIA and our participating companies developed the CTIA Green Working Group, which has developed some initiatives and benchmarks. We encourage consumers to visit our website for step-by-step directions to remove their personal information before they recycle their devices and accessories," said Hastings.

John Shegerian, president and chief executive officer of Electronic Recyclers International (ERI) provided insight into what's happening in the business of recycling and refurbishing small, wireless devices. His company is the world's largest privately-held recycler of electronic waste. ERI is dual certified by R2 and e-Stewards to de-manufacture and recycle every type of electronic waste. With 8 U.S. locations, ERI is processing nearly 300 million pounds of electronic waste annually.

"Currently we receive approximately 50,000 cell phones per month which are repaired and sold or responsibly recycled. In seven of our eight locations we have

separated, highly secured areas built-out to handle the asset management part of our business. We refurbish everything from Google glasses and watches to other wearables to cell phones and tablets. There are massive secondary and tertiary markets in the U.S. for these products.

"What we're seeing in small wireless devices is smaller and smaller, lighter, thinner and also wearable. Wearables are the next big thing. In the weeks and months ahead it's going to be clothing wearables. Clothing wearables with electronic sensors are going to be huge for our industry, huge," said Shegerian.

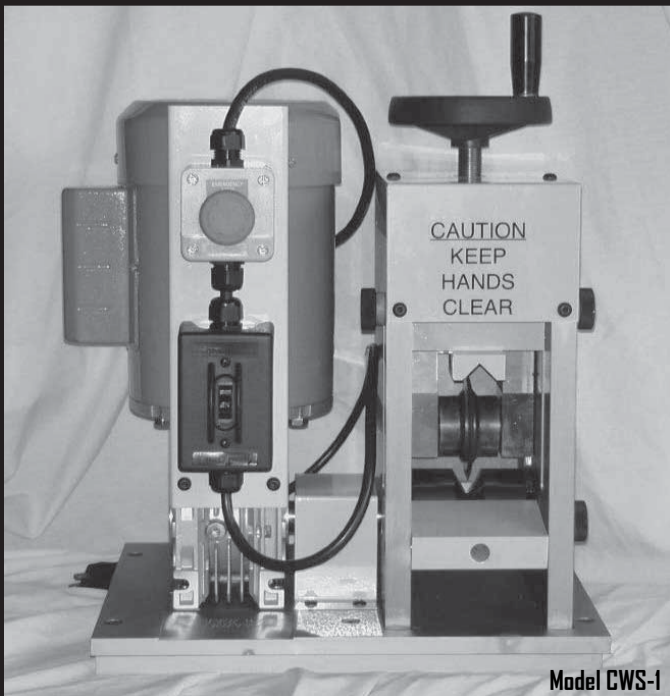
Wearable devices, also called tech togs, or fashion electronics are clothing and accessories incorporating computers and advanced electronics. Wearable Devices Magazine estimated that 90 million wearable devices are expected to ship in 2014. And, that's only the beginning, industry experts predict.

"And we also see growth in the parts sector as well," Shegerian continued. "At end of life, we can remove parts from devices before shredding the remainder. There's going to be a parts replacement business that will be booming in the years ahead. One of the greatest things that comes in to us is shattered glass. Changing out glass for a tablet or phone is part of what we do.

"At the Consumer Electronics Show approximately 20,000 new products are introduced every year. The interesting thing about our industry, besides our shredding to recover plastics, metal and glass, is the human element, which is so important. More and more skilled workers are needed to test, disassemble, data-wipe, repair, retest, recertify and resell these devices. You move from just strict automation in shredding the end-of-life stuff, to needing more and more skilled workers in asset management to handle it. While our end-of-life business has grown 30 percent per year, which is our core business of shredding and making things into commodities, our asset management which covers small devices has grown 50 percent. That's how busy that sector is, and it's growing," Shegerian ended.

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Events Calendar

August 26th-28th

WASTECON/SWANA. Gaylord Texan, Dallas, Texas.
800-467-9262 • www.swana.org

September 17th

Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition Meeting. Bay College West Campus, Iron Mountain, Michigan.
906-786-9212 • www.uprecycles.com

September 23rd-25th

Waste Conversion Tech Conference & Tradeshow. The Westin Downtown Denver, Denver, Colorado.
800-441-7949 • www.waste-to-fuels.org

September 24th-26th

19th International Congress for Battery Recycling ICBR 2014. Hamburg, Germany.
41 62 785 10 00 • www.icm.ch

October 19th-21st

WV Educational Conference on Litter Control & Solid Waste Management. Huntington, West Virginia.
304-573-5194 • www.awvswa.com

October 22nd-25th

71st Annual ARA Convention & Expo. Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee.
888-385-1005 • www.araexpo.org

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Florida passes legislation to protect workers

Florida Governor Rick Scott signed into law legislation aimed at preventing road accidents and fatalities involving waste and recycling workers and vehicles caused by careless drivers.

House Bill 7005, an omnibus transportation bill sponsored by Rep. Frank Artiles (R-Miami) and signed by Governor Scott, includes a section that added sanitation and utility vehicles to the "Move Over Act."

Currently in Florida, when any vehicle approaches an emergency vehicle or tow truck, it must move over one lane. In instances where changing lanes is unsafe or the driver is traveling on a two-lane road, the driver must slow to a speed 20 miles per hour (mph) less than the posted speed limit, unless the posted limit is 20 mph or less. In that case, the driver is required to slow to a speed of 5 mph. This law adds sanitation and utility vehicles to those covered under the act.

"On behalf of the Florida Chapter of the National Waste & Recycling Association, I want to thank the Florida Legislature for adding sanitation vehicles to the Move Over Act," said Chuck Dees, Florida chapter chair and vice president of public affairs for Waste Management of Florida. "We especially want to recognize Rep. Holly Raschein (R- Key Largo), whose original language was incorporated into the final version of H.B. 7005. It was Rep. Raschein's commitment to include sanitation and utility workers in the Move Over Act and the leadership of Rep. Daniel Davis (R-Jacksonville), chair of the House Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee, which allowed this legislation to pass this session."

Being struck by motorists is a leading cause of death for waste and recycling collection employees nationwide and, with proper awareness, is completely preventable.

NW&RA has worked to pass similar "Slow Down to Get Around" legislation in other states. In addition to Florida, NW&RA chapters have successfully championed such legislation in Alabama, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Michigan has passed a similar law. "Slow Down to Get Around" is the industry's safety campaign reminding motorists to drive more carefully when near waste and recycling collection vehicles.



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Industrial Emissions Directive forces European glass factories to invest in modernizations

By 2020, around 14 billion EUR will be invested in European glass factories. The plants have to be modernized to comply with the new limit values of the Industrial Emission Directive, which will result in annual investment increases by up to 50 percent. These are the results of a study by the German consultancy ecoprog.

The European Industrial Emissions Directive came into force in 2013. For the first time ever, it defines obligating limit values for air and water emissions in different industrial sectors. These limit values are effective throughout the EU and the affected industries have to implement them by 2016. Their respective limit values are defined in the so-called BAT reference documents and their legally binding summaries, the BAT conclusions.

The glass industry was one of the first sectors these BAT conclusions have been published for. Such specifications are a completely new issue for the companies and therefore result in considerable uncertainties. Their implementation will thus also give a signal to other industrial sectors.

More than 420 of the largest European glass factories have to comply with the new emission limit values (ELVs). The ELVs for nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides will be particularly challenging for many glass factory operators.

This means that most glass manufacturers have to invest in modernizing their glass factories. Funds will go to optimizing individual production processes or to new technical components for flue gas cleaning, furnace technology or sealing the melter. According to a survey for this study, many operators in Eastern Europe are also considering to construct a new glass furnace.

The Industrial Emission Directive does not only force the manufacturers into unscheduled investments. They also have to prepone routine investments as they have to comply with the ELVs at a specific date. Up to 2.7 billion EUR will be invested in European glass factories in 2016 and 2017. This investment sum will then decrease to around 1.5 billion EUR in the subsequent years.

Investments will increase the most in regions with so far less strict legal frameworks, as is the case in many Eastern European states. However, there are also many glass factories lacking state-of-the-art technology in countries such as France and Spain.

By 2020, about 2.3 billion EUR will be invested in glass factories in Eastern Europe and 4.1 billion EUR in Southern European plants. This is an increase of up to 50 percent compared to the average investments of the past years.

Wise Recycling merges with Source Recycling

Wise Metals Group disclosed the merger of Wise Recycling with Source Recycling. The merger will combine Wise's five yards in Colorado, North Carolina, Florida and Virginia along with Wise's network of feeder locations in six states with Source Recycling's three yards in Maryland and North Carolina and one feeder yard in Maryland.

The new company will be named Wise Recycling and all of the yards will operate under the Wise Recycling name and logo. Wise will own a majority of the equity in the new company which will consist of a new class of preferred interest and a portion of the common equity.

Covanta brings recycling to homes in Indianapolis

Covanta and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard disclosed a plan to bring recycling to all single family homes in the city. The Covanta Advanced Recycling Center, to be built adjacent to the Covanta Indianapolis Energy-from-Waste facility, will be one of the most modern recycling facilities in the world, designed to recover recyclables from mixed municipal solid waste. Covanta will invest approximately \$45 million to build the facility, which will increase the amount of material recycled in Indianapolis by up to 500 percent at no cost to the city or its residents.

The Covanta Advanced Recycling Center is an automated materials recovery facility (MRF) modeled after successfully operating recycling facilities in Europe. Using the latest mechanical and sensor-based technologies, and supported by skilled operators, the facility will efficiently recover recyclables from mixed waste.

The recycling plan will also give an important boost to the local economy, providing green jobs and additional revenue for the city. Approximately 70 jobs will be created during construction of the facility and 60 permanent, full-time workers will be hired to operate the facility.

The Covanta Advanced Recycling Center will accomplish the following:

- Recover up to 80 to 90 percent of recyclable materials, increasing recycling by approximately 500 percent.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 40,000 cars from the road every year and save the energy equivalent of the annual energy use of more than 20,000 homes.
- Complement the existing energy-from-waste facility by sharing trucks and maintaining current traffic flow and avoiding additional vehicle emissions and burdens on road infrastructure.
- Help the State of Indiana take a major step forward in recycling, supporting the new statewide recycling goal of 50 percent.

The recycling plan is subject to approval from the city's Board of Public Works. Covanta expects the facility to be up and running in 2016, following the receipt of necessary permits.

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PAPER

Carton recycling access reaches 50 percent milestone

According to The Carton Council of North America, 50 percent of U.S. households can recycle cartons through curbside and other local recycling programs. This milestone represents the tremendous industry-led effort made possible by the support of countless recycling, packaging, municipal and sustainability stakeholders.

Carton recycling access has grown 177 percent over the last 5 years, starting at just 18 percent in 2009 when the Carton Council was first formed. Since then, impressive progress has been made in building infrastructure and improving access to carton recycling nationwide. The Carton Council is a group of carton manufacturers united to deliver solutions in order to divert valuable cartons from the landfill.

With access growing every day, cartons are quickly becoming a standard recyclable material. Since 2009, carton recycling access has been added to more than 36 million homes and is now in 77 of the top 100 U.S. cities. Today, more than 58 million homes in 46 states have access to carton recycling.

Made primarily from a renewable resource, lightweight and compact in design and with a low carbon footprint, cartons have proven to be a sustainable packaging solution that is growing in use for a variety of liquid and food products. Recycling facility managers and community program officials are finding it necessary to integrate cartons into the recycling supply chain, where they are a proven valuable material thanks to their high-quality, virgin long fiber. In addition to the fiber, cartons have thin layers of polyethylene (plastic). Shelf-stable cartons also have a thin layer of aluminum to enable the product to be stored safely without refrigeration. These materials can also be recovered and recycled.

CARTON RECYCLING ACCESS IS GROWING
faster than you can tweet about it!

PUTTING THE GROWTH OF CARTON RECYCLING ACCESS INTO PERSPECTIVE:

- Access to carton recycling has rapidly increased over the past 5 years. **100% INCREASE**
- Access to carton recycling has grown from 18% to 50% since 2009. That's an increase of **177%**
- 50% OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS 46 STATES HAVE ACCESS TO CARTON RECYCLING. THAT IS 58,358,146 HOUSEHOLDS IN 8,422 COMMUNITIES. **50% INCREASE**
- During the same time, mobile web usage went from 31% to 63%. That's an increase of **103%**
- The number of online adults using social media went from 47% to 73%. That's an increase of **55%**

Cell Internet Usage 2013, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. | Social Media and Young Adults, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. | 77% of Online Adults use Social Networking Site Users, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C.

Carton Council
CartonOpportunities.org

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PAPER

AF&PA releases paper reports

The American Forest & Paper Association released its May U.S. paper reports.

Containerboard

Containerboard production increased 7.7 percent from April and was essentially flat compared to the same month last year. The month-over-month average daily production increased 4.2 percent. Shipments for May were 2,957.6 thousand tons, representing 167.6 billions of square feet. The containerboard operating rate for May increased 2.2 points compared to April.

Kraft Paper

Total Kraft paper shipments were 128.9 thousand tons, 3.4 percent lower compared to the prior month. Bleached Kraft paper shipments dropped from 11.8 thousand tons in April to 9.4 in May, while unbleached Kraft paper shipments decreased from 121.7 thousand tons to 119.5. Overall, shipments for the first 5 months of 2014 were 1.4 percent lower than the same period last year. Total month-end inventories increased 6.4 percent compared to April.

Printing-Writing Paper Report

According to the report, total printing-writing paper shipments decreased seven percent in May compared to May 2013, with total paper inventories increasing two percent from April levels.

- Uncoated free sheet (UFS) paper shipments in May decreased 10 percent compared to May 2013. YTD shipments are down 8 percent in 2014. Year-to-date UFS imports through April are up 19 percent compared to the same period in 2013.

- May coated free sheet (CFS) paper shipments decreased six percent compared to the first five months of 2013. YTD shipments of coated freesheet grades are essentially down one percent and imports through April are down four percent.

- Uncoated mechanical (UM) paper shipments increased eight percent in May, the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year increases. Year-to-date shipments of UM are up three percent compared to 2013.

International Paper gains on sustainability goals

International Paper released its 2013 Sustainability Report titled Connections that Matter, revealing progress against its voluntary sustainability goals and highlighting collaborations that advance sustainability throughout the life cycle of its products. By working closely with employees, customers, suppliers and communities, International Paper has made strong progress in a number of areas, including:

- A 14 percent reduction in criteria emissions from 2010 levels, exceeding the company's reduction goal of 10 percent by 2020;

- The announcement of a new goal to reduce manufacturing waste to landfills 30 percent by 2020 and ultimately aim to achieve zero waste;

- A 20 percent reduction in year-over-year life-changing injuries, reflecting International Paper's commitment to an accident-free workplace; and,

- The announcement of a new, higher target for third-party-certified fiber purchases of 35 percent globally by 2020.

The report also highlights International Paper's collaborations with prominent non-governmental organizations including the World Wildlife Fund, Global Forest & Trade Network and the

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In 2013, International Paper continued its collaborative model to help sustain the economic and environmental benefits of working forests. Efforts included:

- Granting more than \$725,000 in three U.S. regions, resulting in on-the-ground work on the Forestland Stewards Initiative, an International Paper partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;

- Working with 43 landowners to certify an additional 67,000 acres of forestland through the Forest Stewardship Council™ group certification program; and,

- Introducing a Supplier Code of Conduct to more than 40,000 U.S. suppliers, furthering International Paper's sustainable forestry goals and other sustainability objectives.

The report details progress against International Paper's 2020 sustainability goals which were initially set in 2010 and span eight impact areas: energy efficiency, air emissions, safety, waste, water, fiber, supply chain and philanthropy.

To see the complete report, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.

The Newark Group to be acquired

Caraustar Industries, Inc., a portfolio company of H.I.G. Middle Market, has entered into an agreement to acquire The Newark Group, Inc. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions and required regulatory approvals.

Newark is a manufacturer of recycled paperboard, linerboard, industrial

tubes, cores and other converted product including book covers and packaging solutions. Headquartered in Cranford, New Jersey, The Newark Group has approximately 1,500 employees and operates over 20 manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and Canada.

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PLASTICS

Recycling program begins

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Flexible Film Recycling Group (FFRG) is partnering with Dunn County Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Indianhead Enterprises, Inc. and Trex Company, Inc. to help promote a new film recycling initiative of the Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP). This WRAP pilot is designed to increase the recycling of wraps made from polyethylene film.

The pilot is designed to expand the collection infrastructure for businesses and to increase public awareness and involvement in the recycling of postconsumer plastic film packaging. The pilot involves rural drop-off locations, a consolidation point within an industrial park and a col-

lection program run by a vocational center. At present, county residents are recycling approximately 400 lbs. of plastic bags and wraps every 2 weeks at 7 rural collection depots.

There are currently more than 18,000 locations across the U.S. where consumers can bring their used polyethylene bags and wraps to be recycled, primarily at large grocery and retail chains.

Recycling of plastic bags and wraps exceeds one billion pounds annually in the U.S., according to a national report prepared by Moore Recycling Associates, Inc. The report also noted that the recycling of plastic film has grown 56 percent since just 2005.

Consolidated Container buys two plastic recycling firms

Consolidated Container Co. (CCC) has acquired sister companies Envision Plastics Industries LLC and Ecoplast Corp.

Atlanta-based CCC, a rigid plastic packaging company already with more than 50 container manufacturing sites, added 2 locations in Reidsville, North Carolina and Chino, California, for Envision Plastics, a polyethylene recycler.

Ecoplast, which calls itself California's oldest thermoplastics recycler and customer compounder, is located in Fontana. That company handles a variety of resins including polystyrene, ABS, polypropylene, and low, linear low and high density PE.

Both Ecoplast and Envision Plastics had common ownership, Massoud Rad and Parham Yedidion, prior to their sale to CCC, which is itself owned by private equity firm Bain Capital.

In purchasing both Ecoplast and Envision Plastics, CCC gained 2 of the larger plastics recyclers in the country representing nearly 200 million lbs. of reprocessed material annually.

The companies will operate as a stand-alone business, the new owners said. Scott Booth, who has been chief operating officer at Envision Plastics since 2008, will lead the firms along with the existing management team.

Plant will recycle 100 million pounds of bottles annually

CarbonLITE Recycling LLC has signed contracts for the supply of primary process equipment to be installed in its new plastic recycling facility in Abilene, Texas.

The 200,000 sq.ft. plant will annually recycle roughly 100 million pounds of beverage bottles into PET pellets that can be used to make new bottles. It will employ more than 100 personnel. The CarbonLITE group currently operates a similar facility in Riverside, California. This plant also has an annual capacity of roughly 100 million pounds. In keeping with its philosophy of carbon reduction, CarbonLITE intends to power the Abilene plant with 100 percent green energy.

The new plant's front-end, bale-opening and bottle-sorting will be built by Bulk

Handling Systems of Eugene, Oregon using sorting modules from its subsidiary, NRT of Nashville, Tennessee. The label-removal, bottle-washing, grinding and flake-washing modules will be sourced from AMUT S.p.A. of Novara, Italy, and food grade purification and pelletizing will use the Prime technology from EREMA North America Inc. Total investment in equipment and infrastructure will exceed \$60 million.

CarbonLITE has a strategic alliance with Nestlé Waters North America and its Abilene plant will be supplying Nestlé's bottling facilities near Dallas.

Installation of the equipment in Abilene will begin in Q4 2014 with first production expected in Q2 2015.

Vega earns certification for bottles

Plant-based nutrition company, Vega, has received 100 percent post-consumer recycled content certification from leading third-party certification firm, SCS Global Services, for its recycled post-consumer (PCR) plastic bottles. Vega's new packaging, used for its nutritional supplements, is made with Envision Plastics' EcoPrime™ resin, the first food grade recycled HDPE (#2) plastic available in the marketplace.

Vega launched its sustainable packaging initiative after an internal sustainability audit revealed that over 70 percent of its carbon footprint was related to its packaging materials,

specifically petroleum-derived virgin HDPE plastic. As part of its "Journey to Zero" initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Vega partnered with Envision Plastics to develop a system for recycling plastic jugs, milk bottles and other #2 plastics into a food grade vessel.

According to Vega's research, in 2014 its switch from virgin plastic to 100 percent certified PCR bottles will result in 278 fewer tons of CO2 emissions (63 percent less), divert 233 tons of plastic from the waste stream, and use 86 percent less energy than virgin plastic.

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2007 OverBuilt Crusher
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2001 Big Mac Crusher | \$65,000 Portable Automation, New John Deere Engine - Less than 100 hours.
1996 MAC Crusher Portable Remote | \$42,500 Rebuilt diesel engine, remote control. Located in Central FL.
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Seaside Heights man charged in illegal dumping

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) new initiative to crack down on illegal dumping in state parks and natural lands has resulted in charges of a Seaside Heights man who has been court ordered to pay more than \$21,000 in penalties.

The DEP's "Don't Waste Our Open Space" campaign was launched in late March. Since the launch, investigations of illegal dump sites on state properties by State Park Police, Division of Fish & Wildlife's Conservation Officers and DEP's Compliance & Enforcement personnel has resulted in 10 arrests or enforcement actions.

On April 26, Conservation Officer Sean McManus located eight garbage bags with siding shingles containing asbestos and other debris along Dover Road in the Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area in Lacey Township, Ocean County. An investigation of the contents in the garbage led McManus to Adam Wardell of Seaside Heights.

Wardell acknowledged dumping the garbage bags after being paid to remove them from a residence in Brick Township, according to Division of Fish & Wildlife Conservation Officers. Wardell was charged with illegally dumping solid waste in a State Wildlife Management Area. On June 17, under a plea agreement at Lacey Township Municipal Court, Wardell pled guilty and was ordered to pay \$21,533 in penalties.

The "Don't Waste Our Open Space" program is a coordinated effort of a host of DEP agencies, including Parks, Fish & Wildlife, Solid Waste, Water Resources, State Forestry Services and the Natural Lands Trust. All activities of this new effort are posted on www.stopdumping.nj.gov.

Strategically deployed motion-sensor cameras have been set up in select state parks and wildlife management areas to help nab violators.

Benzene gas detected at Missouri landfills

A Missouri Department of Natural Resources on-site inspector detected elevated levels of benzene at the Bridgeton landfill's perimeter substantially in excess of site-specific standards established by the Missouri Department of Health.

The Bridgeton landfill, a subsidiary of Republic Services, has drawn the ire of neighboring businesses and residents ever since an underground fire was detected there over three years ago.

Bridgeton is a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing the cleanup of the radioactive waste in the nearby Westlake landfill, has stated that the landfill does not pose a health risk.

"The release of benzene by Republic into the environment at the Bridgeton Landfill is unacceptable," Attorney General Chris Koster said in a statement. "Despite the order Republic agreed to more than a year ago, the company still does not appear to have the situation under control. My office is asking the court to compel Republic to take additional steps to prevent any such future release of hazardous material into the air."

Attorney General Koster demands additional remedial measures by Republic Services to protect public health and the environment.

In a filing in St. Louis County Circuit Court, Koster is seeking a preliminary injunction for more aggressive landfill management by Republic, as well as additional reimbursement to the state of Missouri for its monitoring of the site. Specifically, Koster asked the court to order:

- Installation of additional control systems to prevent hazardous substances, such as benzene, from entering the air around the site;

- Additional comprehensive air sampling for hazardous substances, including benzene and other volatile organic compounds;

- Additional odor-control measures;
- Enhanced monitoring of the slope and stability of the landfill itself.

Koster also asked the court to order Republic to reimburse the state an additional \$315,000 for site monitoring expenses. Previously, Republic agreed to reimburse the state for costs associated with oversight of the landfill, up to \$900,000. However, the state's costs associated with monitoring the landfill have thus far exceeded \$1.2 million.

The state's demand for additional cost recovery under the Agreed Order does not affect future demands for damages and penalties expected to be a part

of the underlying pending lawsuit against Republic.

Recognizing that potential threats to public safety may extend beyond the boundaries of the Westlake site, Koster also submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) demanding raw sampling data and results from previous radiological testing along roadways leading to the Westlake Landfill.

Koster called upon the EPA to test for radiological contamination along certain roadways leading to the Westlake Landfill, focusing specifically on routes used during the 1970s to haul radiological material from the Latty Avenue storage facility to Westlake. The EPA has declined to conduct new testing, stating as its rationale that similar sampling was conducted prior to 2005.

In response, Koster demanded that EPA and the Army Corps share the raw data with the State of Missouri; however, both agencies have indicated they are now having difficulty locating the data. Koster's FOIA request is a formal demand that such data be immediately found and produced.

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METALS

MRS facilities receive award

All four Metal Recycling Services (MRS) locations won the North Carolina Department of Labor's "Certificate of Safety Achievement" for 2013. This places MRS in a select group of businesses and public agencies in North Carolina. This is the second year in a row that Monroe, Marion, and Whiteville were recognized for their safety record; it is the first year for Gastonia. Each facility was awarded the North Carolina Department of Labor (NCDOL)'s Gold level Certificate of Safety Achievement, the state's highest safety award.

This annual awards program, run by the NCDOL, recognizes companies that strive to excel in safety. In order to qualify for the gold award, each company must have ten or more full time employees, must have had no lost time accidents and also must have achieved incident rates 50 percent below their NAICS code.

Metal Recycling Services operates four scrap recycling facilities in North Carolina: Gastonia, Marion, Monroe and Whiteville.

Steel imports increase 7 percent in May

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 4,016,000 net tons (NT) of steel in May, including 2,925,000 NT of finished steel (up 7.4 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively, vs. April final data). Year-to-date (YTD) total and finished steel imports are 17,480,000 and 12,829,000 NT, respectively, up 32 percent and 23 percent respectively, vs. 2013.

Key finished steel products with a significant import increase in May compared to April are oil country goods (up 55 percent), heavy structural shapes (up 44 percent), tin plate (up 39 percent), standard pipe (up 22 percent), line pipe (up 22 percent), hot rolled sheets (up 21 percent) and sheets and strip galvanized hot dipped (up 21 percent). Major products with significant YTD import increases vs. the same period last year include wire rods (up 96 percent), plates in coils (up 76 percent), cold rolled sheets (up 56 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coatings (up 47 percent), sheets and strip galvanized hot

U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (Thousands of Net Tons)					
	MAY 2014	APR 2014	2014 Annual (est)	2013 Annual	% Change 2014 Annual vs. 2013
SOUTH KOREA	584	402	5,165	3,651	41.5%
CHINA	303	416	3,088	1,652	86.9%
JAPAN	145	210	2,045	1,931	5.9%
TURKEY	149	142	1,825	1,347	35.5%
RUSSIA	103	110	1,202	595	101.9%
GERMANY	105	99	1,158	1,279	-9.4%
TAIWAN	106	90	1,077	833	29.3%
All Others	1,430	1,280	15,231	13,543	12.5%
TOTAL	2,925	2,748	30,790	24,829	24.0%

dipped (up 40 percent), hot rolled sheets (39 percent), mechanical tubing (35 percent), oil country goods (up 26 percent), reinforcing bars (up 24 percent), cut lengths plates (up 24 percent) and heavy structural shapes up 20 percent).

In May, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (584,000 NT, up 45 percent vs. April final), China (303,000

NT, down 27 percent), Turkey (149,000 NT, up 5 percent), Japan (145,000 NT, down 31 percent) and Taiwan (106,000 NT, up 19 percent). For 5 months of 2014, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (2,152,000 NT, up 42 percent), China (1,286,000 NT, up 73 percent), Japan (852,000 NT, up 3 percent), Turkey (760,000 NT, up 19 percent) and Russia (501,000 NT, up 324 percent).

Scouts recycle more than 57,000 pounds of cans

Girls Scouts of Kansas Heartland Council received the National Recycling Champion award in the third annual Great American Can RoundUp (GACR) Scout Council Challenge by recycling 32,199 lbs. of aluminum cans and generating more than \$16,000 for scouting activities. The top recycling troop of the

2014 GACR Scout Council Challenge, Troop 50244 from Hutchinson, Kansas, won \$500, plus the value of the cans collected for recycling nearly 1,500 lbs. of aluminum per scout.

The GACR Scout Council Challenge, sponsored by the Can Manufacturers Institute, is designed to create

awareness of the environmental benefits of recycling cans. The challenge began on January 15, 2014, and ended on April 30, 2014. A total of 27 councils competed for top honors with more than 800 scouts from 56 troops participating in this year's recycling challenge.

Second and third place troop recycling honors went to Girl Scout Troop 50028 from Kansas Heartland Council and Girl Scout Troop 9869 from Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas Council. These top ranking troops recycled 976 and 363 lbs. per capita, respectively.

The Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas Council distinguished itself as GACR Reserve National Recycling Council Champions by recycling more than 3,460 lbs. of aluminum beverage cans and won \$300.

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METALS

May SIMA imports data reflect import market share at 27 percent in May

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 May total 3,950,000 net tons (NT). This was a 7 percent increase from the 3,706,000 permit tons recorded in April and a 6 percent increase from the April Preliminary imports total of 3,726,000 NT. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in May was 2,823,000, up 3 percent from the preliminary imports total of 2,738,000 in April. For the first 5 months of 2014 (including May SIMA and April Preliminary), total and finished steel imports were 17,401,000 NT and 12,717,000 NT, respectively, up 31 percent and 22 percent from the same period in 2013. The estimated finished steel import market share in May was 27 percent and is 26 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Finished steel imports with large increases in May permits vs. the April Preliminary included oil country goods (up 58 percent), tin plate (up 38 percent), heavy structural shapes (up 38 percent), structural pipe and tubing (up 29 percent), line pipe (up 21 percent), hot rolled sheets (up 18 percent), standard pipe (up 15 percent) and sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (up 13 percent). Products with significant year-to-date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2013 include wire rods (up 94 percent), plates in coils (up 72 percent), cold rolled sheets (up 53 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coatings (up 46 percent), hot rolled sheets (39 percent), sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (up 38 percent), mechanical tubing (34 percent), oil country goods (up 27 percent), reinforcing bars (up 22 percent) and cut lengths plates (up 20 percent).

April steel shipments down 1.2 percent from March

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that for the month of April 2014, U.S. steel mills shipped 8,235,096 net tons, a 1.2 percent decrease from the 8,337,578 net tons shipped in the previous month, March 2014, and a 3.2 percent increase from the 7,978,531 net tons shipped in April 2013. Shipments year-to-date in 2014

are 32,086,347 net tons, a 1.7 percent increase versus 2013 shipments of 31,547,910 net tons for four months.

A comparison of April shipments to the previous month of March shows the following changes: hot rolled sheet, up 2.0 percent; hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip, no change; and cold rolled sheet, down 0.1 percent.




Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$276.00	\$282.00	\$296.00	\$375.00	\$385.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	271.00	280.00	289.00	370.00	365.00
Plate and Structural	per gross ton	271.00	280.00	295.00	370.00	372.00
#1 & 2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	268.00	285.00	295.00	335.00	345.00
Shredder Bundles (tin)	per gross ton	228.00	259.00	225.00	285.00	278.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	228.00	259.00	225.00	285.00	278.00
Steel Turnings	per gross ton	175.00	170.00	139.00	225.00	248.00
#1 Copper	per pound	2.90	2.89	3.00	2.90	3.11
#2 Copper	per pound	2.81	2.73	2.82	2.80	3.02
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.65	.70	.77	.70	.73
Auto Radiators	per pound	1.95	1.91	1.95	1.94	1.98
Aluminum Core Radiators	per pound	.61	.65	.73	.70	.65
Heater Cores	per pound	1.60	1.42	1.37	1.60	1.75
Stainless Steel	per pound	.70	.72	.79	.83	.82

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

DISCLAIMER: American Recycler (AR) collects pricing and other information from experienced buyers, sellers and facilitators of scrap metal transactions throughout the industry. All figures are believed to be reliable and represent approximate pricing based on information obtained by AR (if applicable) prior to publication. Factors such as grades, quality, volumes and other considerations will invariably affect actual transaction prices. Figures shown may not be consistent with pricing for commodities associated with a futures market. While the objective is to provide credible information, there is always a chance for human error or unforeseen circumstances leading to error or omission. As such, AR is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information provided, or for outcomes arising from use of this information. American Recycler disclaims any liability to any person or entity for loss or damage resulting from errors or omissions, including those resulting from negligence of AR, its employees, agents or other representatives.

RUBBER

Rubber established as playground safety surface

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) disclosed that it played a significant role in the establishment of standard specifications for loose-fill rubber used in playground surfacing. ISRI members actively participated as part of a taskforce within ASTM's F08.63 committee on Playground Surfacing Systems to create the Standard Specification for Loose-Fill Rubber for Use as a Playground Safety Surface under and around Playground Equipment (standard designation ASTM F3012).

"The work of ISRI members and the taskforce in creating this standard specification will lead to safer, more uniform

loose-fill rubber playground surfacing products," said Robin Wiener, president of ISRI. "By selecting a surface material that meets the standard, playground operators will have the confidence of knowing exactly what the material is children will be playing on, and that it is safe."

As part of the drafting process, the taskforce considered points of view from many stakeholders, including the recycling industry, playground equipment manufacturers, playground operators, concerned parents, government and many others.

For a direct link to the summary and full version of F3012, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.

OSHA cites Liberty Tire for violations

Liberty Tire Recycling LLC has been cited by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration for repeat safety violations for exposing workers to falls, fire/explosion and dangerous, unguarded equipment. OSHA cited the Port St. Lucie recycler following a Site-Specific Targeting inspection in January 2014. Proposed penalties total \$45,000.

Two repeat citations, carrying penalties of \$30,000, were issued for exposing workers to fall hazards while working on platforms that lacked guardrails or had incomplete guardrails, and for exposing workers to caught-in hazards while they worked near unguarded shaft and con-

veyor belts. In November 2013, the company was cited for these same violations at its facility in Slatton, Mississippi.

Three serious violations, with \$15,000 in penalties, were cited for exposing workers to safety hazards while a powered industrial truck was operating with no functioning backup alarm or front lights. Additionally, employees were exposed to fire/explosion hazards from the accumulation of rubber dust and hazards from unguarded dangerous machinery on conveyors. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

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AUTOMOTIVE

EPA settles with Puerto Rico auto crushing company

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached a legal settlement with W.R. Recycling of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, resolving alleged violations of federal hazardous waste law. W.R. Recycling is the owner and operator of an auto crushing and scrap recycling business. As part of the settlement, W.R. Recycling will make a range of site improvements to control runoff and invest \$133,000 in a project to purchase and install equipment that will ensure the clean

extraction, removal and storage of harmful liquids from all the vehicles it handles. These upgrades will benefit the environment and the community and are not legally required to bring the company into compliance. In addition, W.R. Recycling will come into compliance with all federal laws and pay a \$29,000 penalty.

"Recycling old cars has many benefits, but the process must be done in a way that does not cause pollution," said EPA regional administrator Judith A. Enck.

"This agreement will modernize the car recycling operation in Cabo Rojo, ensuring that the facility is complying with all environmental laws.

Under the settlement's terms, W.R. Recycling will construct a sealed concrete pad, with a drainage collection system and an oil water separator, on which all vehicles it handles will be processed, crushed, and stored prior to shipping of the crushed cars for metal recovery. A roof will be built over the vehicle crushing area to shield the fluids collection and crushing processes from rainwater. The company will also purchase and use specialized recovery equipment to ensure the clean extraction, removal and storage of transmission and engine oil, gasoline and diesel fuel, coolant and refrigerants. This recovery equipment will ensure that all vehicle fluids are collected and segregated for reuse or recycling. The facility improvements and new equipment will help prevent the release of hazardous wastes into the environment during W.R. Recycling's operations.

Among the equipment purchased by W.R. Recycling is a mobile automotive

fluid recovery unit that will enable the company to process scrap vehicles not only at its Cabo Rojo base but also at other locations in Puerto Rico where there are no other scrap operators. In areas that lack scrap processors, cars are often abandoned and the fluids and hazardous components are left, resulting in the potential for leaks and releases into the environment. Vehicle fluids and potentially hazardous car parts such as mercury switches, lead wheel weights, batteries and airbag cartridges should be reused or recycled.

On three occasions from 2009 to 2012, the EPA inspected W.R. Recycling's facility to determine its compliance with federal hazardous waste regulations. As a result of these inspections, the EPA issued a legal complaint to the company. Among the violations cited in the complaint were the company's failure to make hazardous waste determinations for the fluids and discarded materials it generates, its failure to minimize the releases of hazardous materials, the disposal of hazardous waste without a permit, the improper disposal of used oil and the failure to label used oil storage containers.

SALVAGING Millions

by Ron Sturgeon
Autosalvageconsultant.com

Pay for performance – Breaking the inventory bottleneck

A continuing series of articles on increasing profits and cash flows.

Increasing sales often takes months and requires the capital to buy more cars and absorb more marketing expenses. Want a quicker path to increased profitability?

You can get back to the level of profitability that you once enjoyed by lowering your costs. The beauty of increasing profits by cutting expenses is that it can be done immediately and often produces better cash flow and profit numbers within weeks. Having achieved better cash flow and profits, you can then use the surplus to buy more cars and get the inventory to drive higher sales.

Are you always behind inventorying cars? Vehicles should be inventoried and in your system within two or three business days. The sooner parts are in inventory, the sooner parts from them are getting sold.

Wouldn't it be nice if cars got inventoried as fast as they arrived? How would you like to see the inventory people so caught up that they were ready to start inventorying as soon as the transport truck arrived with new vehicles!

Pay for performance can move you a long way toward this goal and remove a bottleneck that slows turns and hurts cash flow. Car inventorying is one of the easier departments to transition to pay for performance.

I recommend that you make sure that your people do the full job of inventorying: book in, inventory, research pricing issues, and enter data in the computer system. By ensuring that your people do the job cradle to grave, you can make them fully accountable.

One of the reasons that some yard owners give for not switching the people who inventory cars to pay for performance is that they don't know the right amount to pay. Don't let that stop you. You can gather data on how long it takes your people to inventory a vehicle currently. Depending on complexity of vehicles and other tasks

included (I favor having each person doing the job accountable from cradle to grave). The time involved should be between one to three hours per vehicle.

How much is the right amount per vehicle? How much are you currently paying per hour? (Take current wages for this person and divide by number of vehicles in a given period and you can get an idea of how much you are really paying per vehicle).

You should expect that putting your inventory people on incentive pay will produce a 50 percent lift in productivity.

If your inventory guys get finished early, let them go home early or issue them a purchase order for other work and use the hourly rate they earn inventorying.

So, if your best inventory person is productive enough to earn \$15 an hour getting cars into the system, that's what he gets to sweep the warehouse or for any other side work you give him. Once he realizes that his pay for any work depends on how fast he is at inventorying, he will fly whenever new cars arrive.

Once you switch to pay for performance, your people will begin to earn more and they will be happier and easier to retain. Some will not be able to keep pace and they will leave and you will be better off.

When you bring in new people, you will gain even more because they will always be innovating to try to get more done in less time. Sometimes you get an outsider who finds ways to do things so well that he resets the bar and your inventory group will become more productive than they imagined they could be.

You labor expenses should be at or below 20 percent of your total parts sales. If you are not hitting this benchmark part of the reason may be that you are not on pay for performance. Don't wait. Making this change is a lot easier than you think and makes a far larger difference than you imagine.

Remember, only you can make BUSINESS GREAT!

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

Automotive production sets record, surpasses 1 billion mark

Global production of automobiles keeps rising to new heights. London-based IHS Automotive puts light vehicle production in 2013 at 84.7 million, up from 81.5 million in 2012. The world's fleet of light-duty vehicles now surpasses 1 billion – 1 per 7 people, writes senior researcher Michael Renner in the Worldwatch Institute's latest Vital Signs Online trend.

Five countries account for the production of 60 percent of all light vehicles worldwide. China produced 20.9 million vehicles in 2013. The United States (10.9 million), Japan (9 million), Germany (5.6 million) and South Korea (4.5 million) follow at a considerable distance.

The United States has long been the world leader in motorization. The number of all motor vehicles per 1,000 people there rose to a peak of 844 in 2007.

There are signs, however, that motorization in the United States may

finally have peaked. Almost 1 in 10 U.S. households – 9.2 percent in 2012 – does not have a vehicle, up from 8.9 percent in 2005. In dense cities, the figure is much higher.

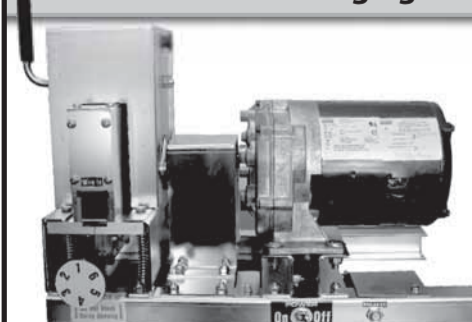
According to IHS Automotive, worldwide production of electric vehicles (battery electric and plug-in hybrids) has expanded from 13,866 in 2010 to 242,075 in 2013. The company forecasts production of slightly more than 403,000 vehicles in 2014, up 67 percent from 2013.

Alternative vehicles are slowly making inroads, but they are not yet significantly altering the resource and environmental impacts of automobiles. As electric vehicles become more numerous, a critical issue will be the source of the electricity that they run on-will it be generated from fossil fuels or from renewable energy?

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

TransForce acquires Veolia Solid Waste Canada

■ TransForce Inc. disclosed that Matrec, a wholly-owned subsidiary of TransForce, has acquired the majority of assets of Veolia E.S. Matières Résiduelles Inc. operating under the name of Veolia Solid Waste Canada.

In the last 12 months, Veolia Solid Waste Canada generated annual revenues of more than \$30.0 million and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of more than \$5.0 million. The purchase price of \$25.0 million, excluding estimated working capital of \$5.0 million, represents an Enterprise Value to trailing 12-month EBITDA multiple of less than 5.5 times.

Veolia Solid Waste Canada has been operating in the Quebec City, Montreal and the Beauce regions for more than 40 years. It offers collection, transportation, disposal and recycling of trash and industrial waste to municipalities, as well as to commercial and industrial customers.

Hendrickson acquires segments of Frauenthal

■ Hendrickson has acquired the leaf spring and stabilizer segments from the Austrian Frauenthal Group along with a number of their subsidiaries in Europe.

"This acquisition of this business will enable us to broaden our footprint in Europe to better support our global spring customer base," stated Gary Gerstslager, president and chief executive officer Hendrickson. The transaction will close later this year.

Repreve Recycling Center expands in North Carolina

■ Unifi, Inc. is expanding its Repreve Recycling Center, which opened in Yadkinville, North Carolina in May 2010. Recycling capacity at the Repreve Recycling Center will increase from 42 million pounds to 72 million pounds, annually. This increase is being driven by demand from new customer adoptions with companies such as Ford, The North Face, Nike, Volcom and Patagonia.

The expansion is expected to create 10 new jobs including 2 salary shift managers, 4 hourly operators and 4 hourly material handlers. The recent \$5 million capital expenditure brings the total investment in the Repreve Recycling Center, since its opening in 2010, to \$15 million.

The largest and fastest growing segments for Repreve continue to be apparel and automotive. The expansion increases the availability of Repreve product offerings such as lower deniers that support lighter-weight fashion trends, FR Flame Retardant yarns and WaterWise™ color technology.

Nelson named marketing specialist with Masaba

■ Masaba, a bulk handling equipment manufacturer, has added Steve Nelson to their marketing department as a marketing specialist. In his new role, Nelson will plan and produce articles, write and edit promotional products, coordinate trade show activities and increase the company's social media presence.

Advanced Disposal sets senior vice president

■ ADS Waste Holdings, Inc., operating as Advanced Disposal, disclosed that Michael K. Slattery has been appointed senior vice president and general counsel following the departure of Scott Friedlander who recently left Advanced Disposal to pursue other opportunities. Slattery will serve as a member of the executive committee and as corporate secretary.

Prior to joining Advanced Disposal, Slattery most recently served as senior vice president and general counsel for Veolia Environmental Services North America for eight years with responsibility for the management of the law department and all legal affairs in North America. Prior to joining Veolia, Slattery served as vice president and deputy general counsel for Fruit of the Loom, Inc. with responsibility for the management of legal affairs throughout North America, Canada, Europe, North Africa and Latin America. Prior to Fruit of the Loom, he served as vice president and general counsel for Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. and as general counsel for several major North and Latin American operating divisions for Waste Management, Inc. over his 15 year career with Waste Management.

Covanta's Waffenschmidt reappointed to board

■ Covanta disclosed that John G. Waffenschmidt, vice president of environmental science and community affairs, has been reappointed to the Pennsylvania Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) secretary E. Christopher Abruzzo.

The EJAB is charged with overseeing the implementation of DEP's Enhanced Public Participation Policy to protect the health of local communities, especially communities with the greatest concentration of environmental risks. Among the group's objectives is to ensure that the DEP maintains a proactive approach to Environmental Justice (EJ) within the state, and increase the level of environmental monitoring in low-income and minority communities.

In addition to his work at Covanta, Waffenschmidt also serves the Product Stewardship Institute Advisory Council, the Regional Plan Association, Long Island Chapter, and was a member of the original workgroup that helped establish the Pennsylvania EJAB. He also participates in different policy forums and gives lectures related to sustainability. His second consecutive two year term will extend through 2016.

Kitchen signs:

1. *So this isn't Home Sweet Home – Adjust!*
2. *Martha Stewart doesn't live here!*
3. *I clean house every other day. Today is the other day.*
4. *My house was clean last week, too bad you missed it!*
5. *A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and this kitchen is delirious.*

Republic names Maruster executive VP and CEO

■ Republic Services, Inc. has named Robert A. Maruster, executive vice president (EVP) and chief operating officer, responsible for the company's expansive field operations, which include 170 business units encompassing 29,000 employees across 39 states and Puerto Rico; 336 collection operations; 199 transfer stations; 190 active landfill operations; and 64 recycling facilities. Additionally, Maruster will be responsible for safety & environmental compliance; operations support; and fleet management, which encompasses the eighth largest vocational truck fleet in the country. He will report to president and chief executive officer, Don Slager.

Maruster is joining Republic from JetBlue Airways Corporation where he was the airline's EVP, chief operating officer, a position he assumed in 2009. In this role, he was responsible for the safe and reliable operations of nearly 900 daily flights to over 85 cities in 16 countries with a mixed fleet of 200 aircraft. He joined JetBlue in 2005 and held key leadership positions.

Prior to JetBlue, Maruster held a variety of leadership roles at Delta Air Lines, including running the Atlanta hub as vice president, operations and customer service.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Voelker promoted to VP of engineering at Morbark

■ Morbark, Inc. has promoted Larry Voelker to vice president of engineering and product development. Over the past two and half years, Voelker has served as director of engineering responsible for the planning and implementation of all engineering activities and providing the strategic technical leadership in continuous improvement of equipment and process capability.

Prior to joining Morbark, Voelker's extensive experience includes engineering, program and business manager positions at Moog – QuickSet International; IMM, Inc. and AAR Mobility Systems.

Britton Industries opens a new Philadelphia location

■ Britton Industries, headquartered in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, will expand with a new location in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Britton Industries, a provider of organic mulch and compost, is proud of its 100 percent recovery rate of the recyclable material brought into each of its facilities and there is no left-over material sent to landfills.

The new Philadelphia location is in the Northeast at 8901 Torresdale Avenue. It is open and fully operational accepting soils, concrete, trees, brush, leaves, clean lumber and pallets for recycling. There is a small supply store on site along with sales of Britton Recycled products including screened topsoil, crushed concrete, crushed stone, mason sand and mulch.

Kormann Rockster Recycler forms partnership

■ Kormann Rockster Recycler GmbH entered into an agreement with two industry recycle veterans to form Rockster Recycler North America and bring its line of products to North America. These include Rockster Recycler's patented jaw/impactor duplex system and its electric hybrid crushing and screening plant. Partners Stu Gamble and Brian Barlow and their team are in the process of selling direct as they develop and support a recycle, demolition and aggregate focused independent dealer network throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Stu Gamble has developed and managed North American sales for several years with various market-related mobile and track-mounted equipment manufacturers, and Brian Barlow and his company Barlow Strategic Sales & Marketing have provided sales development and marketing services to several recycle and aggregate equipment manufacturers since 1991.

The new headquarters is based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with the Parts & Service Center located in Webster, Massachusetts.

Novelis completes sale of consumer foil business

■ Novelis Inc. has completed the sale of its North American consumer foil products business to Reynolds Consumer Products LLC for \$33.75 million. The transaction includes foil manufacturing plants in Toronto, Ontario and Vancouver, BC, in addition to sales offices and distribution facilities in other locations.

Heil of Texas receives Petersen Industries' award

■ Petersen Industries, Inc. recently honored Heil of Texas as their 2013 Dealer of the Year. Petersen presents this prestigious award to the dealer who sells the most Lightning Loader® units for the prior year throughout their nationwide network.

Company vice president, Sam Petersen, presented Larry Davis, the owner of Heil of Texas, with a personalized trophy at Waste Expo held in Atlanta, Georgia. Heil of Texas is the only Petersen dealer who has been awarded this distinction more than 10 times in the history of the dealer recognition program.

Manufacturing facility built for Toter expansion in Utah

■ Toter, a Wastequip brand, and a manufacturer of two-wheel curbside waste and recycling collection carts, has opened its newest manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Toter's investment in the new 60,000 sq.ft. manufacturing facility will create approximately 60 to 70 new jobs in Salt Lake City over the next 3 years. The facility will service retail customers throughout North America, as well as municipalities and haulers in the western U.S. and Canada.

For Toter's parent company, Wastequip, the ability to locate Wastequip manufacturing facilities in areas of key customer density leads to faster service, greater product availability, and more competitive freight rates.

Terex Fuchs names regional sales manager

■ Cathy Mann has been appointed as the new Terex® Fuchs equipment Southwestern regional sales manager for Terex Construction Americas. In a territory that includes Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California and Hawaii, Mann now has sales and distributor development responsibilities for the complete line of Terex Fuchs material handlers, purpose-built for the lifting and reach needs of the scrap, recycling, logging and port markets. Mann has 16 years of equipment manufacturing experience in the industry.

Throughout her 16 year career with Terex Construction and ASV, a Terex legacy brand, Mann has worked in a number of roles for the company. For the past six years, Mann has served as the distributor administration manager, where she worked closely with Terex regional sales managers to establish territories and provide support for new equipment distributors.

Franklin Surplus forms Metal Logics, Inc.

■ Metal Logics, Inc. has officially diversified from Franklin Surplus, Inc., a recycling and total asset recovery firm based in Seymour, Indiana. The diversification grants more flexibility in the area of total scrap management.

Metal Logics, Inc. processes the metal materials while carrying out traditional demolition. Metal Logics, Inc. can then sell the scrap products, mill-direct, to ensure the highest possible net sales.

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NEW PRODUCT SHOWCASE



BANDIT OFFERS STUMP GRINDER ATTACHMENT FOR SKID STEERS

Bandit Industries now offers the Stump Gun, a stump grinding attachment for use with skid steers. The Stump Gun's design allows it to easily grind stumps of virtually any shape or size. It attaches in seconds, and it's powered by the skid steer's hydraulic system. The Stump Gun connects to any skid steer with a quick attach plate. Once attached, it operates vertically, allowing the Stump Gun to grind stumps of virtually any size. The vertical design helps chip containment while also being very effective on odd-shaped stumps and root balls.

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MOD PLASTIC BASE DELIVERS HEAVY DUTY STRENGTH

Meese Orbitron Dunne Co. has introduced a rugged, rotationally molded plastic recycling cart base. Included as standard at no additional charge on the company's best-selling 50P-16R recycling cart, the new, plastic base is rotomolded in one piece from 100 percent waterproof polyethylene in a proprietary design that offers superior load bearing strength and comparable rigidity to metal bases yet does not rust, corrode or discolor to retain its visual appeal. It also weighs less than metal and wood bases to reduce the overall tare weight.

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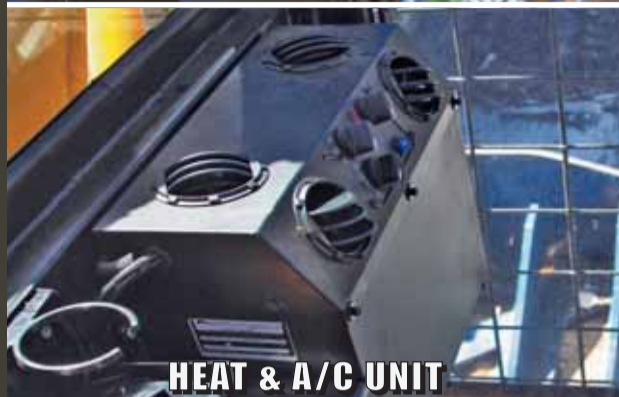
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SECTION B

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AUGUST 2014

Food processors offset energy costs with scraps

by **MARK HENRICKS**

mhenricks@americanrecycler.com

Food processing facilities are beginning to look like potential early adopters of waste-to-energy recycling. Because they are large single-point generators of food scraps, which have more energy content than sewage and some other organic materials, as well as being large consumers of energy, food processors are well-positioned to surmount some of the obstacles to implementation of anaerobic digestion reactors to turn food into electricity and gas.

The topic is an important one. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), food is the largest single component of the material that goes into landfills or is converted to energy, representing 21 percent of the total. About 35 million tons of food waste reaches landfills and incinerators each year in the U.S., according to the EPA.

Processing is a major generator of that food scrap. Food scrap generated by processing accounts for 23 percent of total food losses, including those contributed by distribution, retail operations and households, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), citing a European study. Food manufacturers lose about 16 percent of raw materials during manufacturing, NRDC said.

Adoption of waste-to-energy by food processors is "very important" to encourage broader acceptance of the technology in the United States, according to Brandon Julian, CEO of Pure Energy Group, a Park City, Utah maker of anaerobic digestion reactors that create energy from organic materials. "The amount of waste they produce in day-to-day operations is pretty dramatic, and anaerobic digestion is a very good environmental and business solution for them," Julian said.

So far, adoption of anaerobic digestion for converting scraps from food processing into energy is rare in the United States, especially compared to Europe. However, a combination of regulatory limits on landfilling organic waste and government financial supports for waste-to-energy facilities suggests that may change soon. "There is extreme



The economic barriers to implementing anaerobic digestion systems can be quite steep. Once in place, however, the systems provide a huge economic benefit by saving companies money on energy and waste disposal expenses. Government subsidies can help defray some of the costs of installation. PHOTO BY LIANEM | DREAMSTIME

growth potential in this country for it," Julian said.

One of the best examples of a food processor converting waste to energy is Gills Onions, an Oxnard, California onion grower and processor. Since 2009, the company has converted up to 300,000 lbs. per day of onion peels and other processing leftovers into renewable energy and cattle feed.

Juice extracted from Gills' peels feeds an anaerobic reactor that produces biogas that powers two 300-kilowatt fuel cells. The cells generate \$700,000 worth of electricity annually to power a processing plant, while remaining pulp becomes cattle feed cake. The company saves another \$400,000 annually by not having to haul waste to fields, where it was formerly added to soil. The company said it will recover the \$10.8 million cost in 6 years.

Potato processors are good candidates for waste-to-energy because processing yields as much as 50 percent of

the potatoes as scrap. One potato processor that has gone this route is Belgian company Remo-Frit. Its anaerobic digester turns 3,300 cubic meters of peels and other scrap into biogas each day, providing energy to operate refrigerators and other machinery.

Anaerobic digestion is far more common in Europe than in the United States, in part because energy costs are much higher there than in the U.S. Also, in Europe government financial support of waste-to-energy is much more significant.

Another issue in the U.S. is reluctance by utilities and pipeline companies to allow waste-to-energy generators of electricity and biogas to connect to their grids so companies can sell excess energy from waste, according to Julia Levin, executive director of the Bioenergy Association of California. Grid owners set up stringent standards for waste-to-energy generators that few have been able to meet, Levin said. "It's been virtu-

ally impossible to connect to the pipeline grid," she said. That is why some of the more appealing customers for waste-to-energy facilities are large food processors who can use the energy to power their own operations.

Without revenues from selling generated energy, however, the cost of waste-to-energy facilities makes it impractical for many applications. Costs range from about \$500,000 for Pure Energy's smallest system up to as much as \$500 million for some large municipal facilities that will handle food waste as well as sewage and other organic materials, including those from curbside collections.

Government financial subsidies can help cover the economic gap for potential waste-to-energy users. "In most cases that is very valuable or necessary to make them pencil out," said Julian, although he said that without subsidies their systems can generate break-even

See **SCRAP ENERGY**, Page 6

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A Letter from the Editor

Readers,
Texas Governor Rick Perry recently deployed some 1,000 National Guard troops to Texas's borders in response to what's developing into an immigration and humanitarian crisis. Unaccompanied minors from Mexico and Central America are crossing our southern border at an unprecedented rate. This is creating huge financial and logistical issues for the states affected – the costs of policing and processing these undocumented aliens is rising astronomically.

But the recent deployment of troops isn't actually aimed at curbing illegal border crossings. They won't be apprehending anyone – not that there's any place to put them if they did. Rather, their presence is being used to deter entry (despite the fact that evidence shows that children are actually approaching authorities for help once they arrive at the border), or alternatively, to assist with humanitarian needs of immigrants. So at an estimated cost to the state of Texas of \$12 million per month, is it really worth the additional expense?

Maybe not, but something needs to be done. Currently there are some 243 judges in 59 immigration courts in the U.S. As of the end of July, those courts have a backlog of nearly 380,000 cases. The typical timeframe to clear a case through immigration court is now anywhere from three to five years. New cases are being set for hearings as far off as 2018, and if the flood continues unabated, government estimates peg next year's influx of undocumented minors to reach 150,000 individuals.

While I usually don't mind when our legislators sit on their thumbs or deadlock themselves into inaction, I do believe that Congress needs to do what we pay them to do and figure out a way to fix this issue. Not only is it a burden on states and on citizens, but it also creates humanitarian issues for the children themselves. The journey to our border for these unaccompanied minors is hard, and subjects these children to terrible dangers like malnourishment, dehydration, and even rape or death at the hands of the coyotes they pay to smuggle them to the U.S.

I don't pretend to know how to combat this problem, but jockeying for political position and capital for the upcoming election sure isn't solving anything. This is a real problem that needs real solutions, and our current course of action isn't cutting it.

Until next month,



Dave Fournier
Focus Section Editor
david@americanrecycler.com

RES Americas notified to proceed with construction of Pleasant Valley wind project

Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas) has received notice to proceed for construction of the Pleasant Valley Wind Project in Mower and Dodge Counties in south-east Minnesota.

RES Americas is the developer and engineering, procurement and construction contractor of Pleasant Valley. The company successfully developed the project over a number of years in coordination with county and state officials and through the assembly of a landowner stakeholder committee to represent the community. Upon completion, RES Americas will transfer the project to Xcel Energy which will own and operate Pleasant Valley.

The 200 MW project is comprised of 100 V100-2.0 MW Vestas turbines, 88 of which will be in Mower County and 12 of which will be in Dodge County. During the planning phase, RES

Americas selected the turbine locations so as to preserve the site's wetlands and other biological, natural and cultural resources. Construction of Pleasant Valley began in July 2014, with projected commercial operation in October 2015. The project is expected to employ up to 250 workers during peak construction.

The project is expected to qualify for the Federal Production Tax Credit, and it is anticipated that it will generate nearly \$950,000 in annual local tax revenue that will be split pro rata between the counties and townships.

Xcel Energy estimates that Pleasant Valley will avoid up to 419,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The Vestas V100-2.0 MW turbine, launched in 2013, generates approximately 13 percent more energy than earlier models at medium wind speeds. It is expected that the cost of energy generated by the project will be competitive with or

below wholesale power prices in the region.

"The Pleasant Valley project is 1 of 4 new wind projects under development that will add 750 MW of clean wind energy to our Upper Midwest system," said Dave Sparby, president and CEO of Northern States Power Co.-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company. "These projects will lower our customers' bills, offer protection from rising fuel costs, and provide significant environmental benefits."

RES Americas currently has more than 770 MW of wind and solar power under construction in the United States and Canada. The company recently completed construction on Canada's largest wind project, the 270 MW South Kent Wind Project in Ontario, and Texas' largest solar photovoltaic project, the 41 MW Alamo 1 facility in San Antonio.

SunEdison brings solar power to India's villagers

SunEdison, Inc., a solar technology manufacturer and provider of solar energy services, announced a new project that will install 159 kilowatts (kW) of solar PV micro-grids with battery storage in six remote Indian villages, which will bring electricity to, and thereby improve health and education for, 4,875 off-grid people. Working with the Government of India's Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam state agency, SunEdison will build, operate and then

transfer the facilities to a public entity after five years, giving the freedom of renewable, reliable energy to those who need it the most.

"Solar is often the most practical solution in India's remote areas and building micro-grids allows for scalability as the need grows," said Pashupathy Gopalan, president of SunEdison Asia Pacific, Middle East and South Africa.

SunEdison will begin construction of the micro-grids in September 2014 after the seasonal monsoon rains sub-

side and commission them by December 2014. The project will be completed under the REC's decentralized distributed generation scheme, which enables remote communities to generate the clean, reliable energy essential for their development through small, off-grid systems located in the community, rather than depend on expensive and time-intensive public infrastructure expansion.

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Bluesphere gets emissions permit for North Carolina waste-to-energy

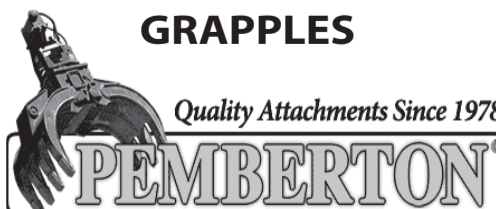
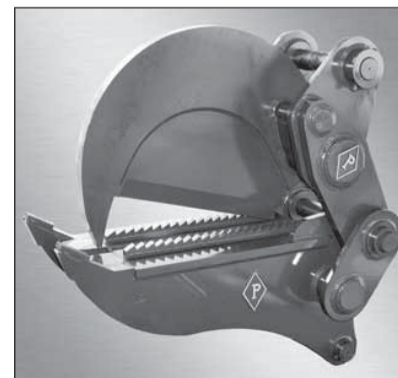
Bluesphere Corp. has been issued an air emissions permit by Mecklenburg County for its 5.2 MW waste-to-energy project in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The 5.2 MW organics-to-energy anaerobic digester will intake organic waste such as food and farm waste that would normally go into landfills. The

organic waste is processed in an anaerobic digester to emit biogas, which then is turned into electricity and compost. The facility generates revenues from intake of organic waste, as well as the sale of clean, renewable electricity, and the sale of compost.

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Wind power growth still surging where strongly supported

Double-digit growth continued in the global wind market in 2013. Of today's 318 gigawatts (GW) total generating capacity, 35 GW was added in 2013 alone. However, this growth (12.5 percent increase over 2012) was a significant drop from the average growth rate over the last 10 years (21 percent). Overall investment declined slightly from \$80.9 billion in 2012 to \$80.3 billion in 2013, according to Worldwatch research associate Mark Konold and climate and energy intern Xiangyu Wu in the Institute's latest Vital Signs Online trend.

In 2013, offshore wind capacity continued to see impressive growth as projects became larger and moved into deeper waters. Until recently, deep-water offshore wind has developed on foundations adapted from the oil and gas industry, but deeper waters and harsher weather have become formidable challenges requiring newly designed equipment. Shipbuilders are expanding to make larger vessels to transport bigger equipment and longer and larger subsea cables to more-distant offshore projects.

These trends have kept prices high in recent years. As of early 2014, the leveled cost of energy (LCOE) for offshore wind power – which includes the cost of the plant's full operational and financial life – was up to nearly \$240 per megawatt-hour (MWh). By comparison, the LCOE of onshore wind installations in various regions of the world is under \$150 per MWh, having fallen about 15 percent between 2009 and early 2014.

Onshore, wind-generated power is becoming more cost-competitive against new coal or gas-fired plants, even without incentives and support schemes.

Over the past few years, capital costs of wind power have decreased because of large technological advances such as larger machines with increased power yield, higher hub height, longer blades, and greater nameplate capacity (which indicate the maximum output of a wind turbine).

Tighter competition among manufacturers continues to drive down capital costs, and the positioning of the world's top manufacturers continues to shift. The top 10 turbine manufacturers captured nearly 70 percent of the global market in 2013, down from 77 percent the year before.

In an effort to maintain profitability, manufacturers are trying new strategies, such as moving away from just manufacturing turbines. Some companies focus more on project operation and maintenance, which guarantees a steady business even during down seasons and can increase overall value in an increasingly competitive market. Some manufacturers are also turning to outsourcing and flexible manufacturing, which can lower overall costs and protect firms from exchange rate changes, customs duties, and logistical issues associated with shipping large turbines and parts.

Country Highlights from the Report:

•Among the world's regions, the European Union is in the lead for installed wind power capacity. Its 37 percent share of global capacity edges out Asia's 36 percent. However, the European wind market slowed in 2013. The two most dynamic markets were Germany, which added 3 GW to bring its total to 34.25 GW, and the United King-



Offshore wind capacity continued to grow in 2013, and projects expanded into deeper waters.

PHOTO BY CARSTEN MEDOM MADSEN | DREAMSTIME

dom, which installed nearly 2 GW, much of which was offshore installations.

•In 2013, China installed 16.1 GW of new wind power capacity, 24 percent more than it added the previous year. By the end of 2013, total installed wind capacity there measured 91.4 GW.

•In India, government policies in support of wind power have lapsed. Only 1.7 GW were installed there in 2013, compared with a record 3 GW in 2011. To return to more robust growth, the Indian government reintroduced its generation-based incentive for wind and solar power projects between 100 kW and 2 MW.

•The United States now has 61 GW of wind power capacity installed. But the expiration of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) at the end of 2013 led to factory closures and layoffs due to the scarcity of

new turbine orders. Renewal of the PTC was proposed as part of a larger bill in the spring of 2014. If it passes, it could mean an uptick in new wind power projects in 2014 and 2015, but it appears the bill will be stalled until after this year's mid-term elections.

•Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East saw only 90 MW of new wind power additions in 2013. Taken together, these three regions have 1,255 MW of installed capacity.

•Continuing its drive to increase energy security and diversify supply, Latin America added almost 1.2 GW of new capacity, bringing the region up to 4.8 GW by the end of 2013. A big factor in the region's wind expansion last year was innovative policy approaches taken by Brazil and Uruguay.

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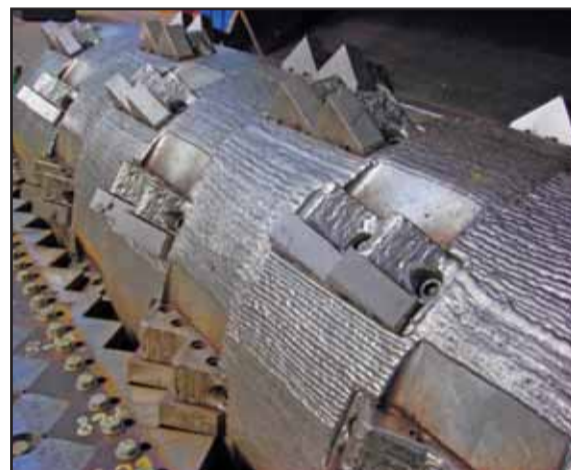
Waste-to-Fuel Equipment

by MARY M. COX

maryc@americanrecycler.com

Awareness of the benefits of waste to fuel conversion continues to grow. Two of the factors at play in this trend are the increasing costs associated with fossil fuels and landfill usage. As a result, there are also an increasing number of options available in the global market, offered by manufacturers of waste-to-fuel equipment.

Business development manager Greg Wright said that Granutech-Saturn offers many types and sizes of shredders and grinders for the waste to energy industries – including “our Saturn line of dual and quad shaft rotary shear shredders, our ram fed Roto-Grind – a



Granutech-Saturn Systems

single rotor grinder – and our line of Grizzly grinders that include the S50, M80 and the new S80. Processing volume for these machines may fall anywhere from 1 to 60 tons per hour. The machine we’d suggest for a given job would depend on factors such as ferrous contamination, incoming product size, final product size needed, if separation is required and throughput rate,” stated Wright.

He explained that waste to energy/alternative fuel can involve items such as tires, biomass and ordinary municipal solid waste, and depending on the energy generation methods used, the processing equipment required can vary greatly. Wright said, “Sometimes a large primary shred will work, and other times a much smaller shred will be required. This can translate into one big shredder or multiple stages of shredding and separation. Also, acquiring EPA or other environmental regulations can result in a lot of time and testing for permit approval. It can be a problem when identifying a location to install a new

facility as most people do not favor living in close proximity to such a facility. A challenge relating directly to the material may also pop up, such as size of the material coming in and level of ferrous contamination. If some degree of presorting of the material can be done, it would be beneficial, but for many operators this is not an option.”

The waste to energy market is an expanding business segment at Granutech-Saturn. “We’re selling more equipment and taking increased inquiries regarding this application. A lot of companies that generate waste are balancing the financial aspects of paying to send the waste to the landfill versus turning the waste into a fuel product and profit center. The public’s aversion to new landfills also drives this growing market,” said Wright.

Lindner America has engineered and manufactured size reduction equipment since 1948 and claims to specialize in shredders and two step shredding systems for alternative fuel from municipal, industrial and commercial waste. “We were awarded the Global Fuels Award by the cement industry in 2009 and again this year. We provide development, construction, production, distribution and comprehensive customer service from one source,” said Andreas Schwarz, president.

“In the late 1990s, we developed the revolutionary Komet shredder for secondary shredding for refuse derived fuel (RDF) production. The unique cutting rotor, super duty construction and infinite precision adjustment of the counter knives give this shredder a giant leap over the competition. With over 10 metric tons per hour output at an output size of less than 1”, Lindner has doubled the output of a typical shredder and has answered our customers’ requests for more output,” Schwarz noted.



Vecoplan, LLC

He said the Komet not only offers double the output compared to most other shredders, it also lowers operating costs while producing more consistent and smaller fractions. Schwarz continued, “Since innovation is how Lindner thinks every day, we have since improved the machine several times. Some of the highlights are the maintenance door that opens the shredder for easy access to blade change, and the internal ram that keeps all material inside the shredder so that the area around the shredder stays cleaner. The latest upgrade to the Komet is a radically improved rotor that provides the shredder with 50 percent more output. One single Lindner Komet can produce up to 30 tons per hour of 2” minus RDF.”

The Jupiter pre-shredder made by Lindner offers 50 tons per hour capacity, and it is sold as a mate to the Komet. Schwarz explained that clients in Europe typically ask for 1” minus RDF so that it can be used in the main burner of a cement kiln. American clients typically ask for 2” minus product, which makes it suitable for a calciner. The Komet HP, HP for High Performance, is larger than the Komet and provides 50 percent more output as well. A Jupiter in conjunction with devices that remove

See SPOTLIGHT, Page 5



Lindner America

Manufacturer List

- CH4 Biogas, LLC**
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www.ch4biogas.com
- Clean Burn LLC**
Tina Phillips
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www.cleanburn.com
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.**
Kaytee Moran
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www.cmrecyclingequipment.com
- CP Group**
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Greg Wright
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TMEIC wins Intersolar award for innovation in solar tech

Every year, Intersolar Europe, the world's largest exhibition for the solar industry and its partners, pays tribute to the most innovative developments in solar technology.

This year, TMEIC's Solar Ware® Samurai PV Central Inverter was among the 3 winners selected from more than 200 companies, in 21 countries worldwide, to receive an award in the Photovoltaics category. The Solar Ware Samurai is an outdoor PCS with a stand-alone capacity of 1,667kW. Its highly advanced cooling system offers

fanless operation up to 50 percent of the output power rating, and maintains high reliability while reducing energy costs.

The inverter also boasts the ability to operate efficiently under the harshest of environments, such as deserts where large-scale mega solar facilities are frequently installed.

Since the inverter's introduction in 2013, TMEIC has installed over 60 units, and anticipates orders of more than 400 units in North America in 2014.

Spotlight

Continued from Page 4

undesirable materials such as metal, stones, batteries or other inert material and a Komet HP allows a client to make RDF that meets and exceeds industry standards at the lowest possible operating cost, at an output of up to 30 tons per hour.

With over 200 Jupiters and over 400 Komets now sold, Lindner shredders and two step shredding systems produce over 25 million tons of RDF every year.

"Waste-to-fuel equipment is quite a broad category. There's commercial, industrial and post-consumer. And there are many types of fuel. There's boiler fuel, pelletized fuel, syngas, cellulosic ethanol and even other, second-generation liquid transportation fuels. Vecoplan has experience in all of the above," said Kim James, Vecoplan marketing/communications director.

James said the company delivers turnkey systems that process waste as a feedstock for the production of alternative fuels and energy. As an example of processing volume, Vecoplan's alternative fuel feedstock preparation system at the City of Edmonton is capable of producing 100,000 dry metric tons of RDF per year.

Equipment included in their systems is determined by the composition of the waste feeding into the system and the specifications required on the materi-

al that feeds out. Machinery and technologies available for waste-to-fuel prep systems include receiving stations, primary size reduction, screening, air classification, metals separation, optical sorting, secondary shredding, storage, testing, metered feeding, conveying between workstations and integrated controls for the entire system.

"Most systems employ some, but not all of these. Knowing which to specify and how to incorporate the best technologies to get the job done is the key to success. Vecoplan is experienced in the design, engineering and construction of machinery and systems for commercial, industrial and municipal waste-to-fuel plants. Our systems operate in municipal facilities for the production of liquid transportation fuels from municipal solid waste residuals. We also offer equipment that is used in factories that process paper and plastics waste to produce alternative fuel pellets. Our machinery is incorporated into plants that convert agricultural wastes, such as corn stover, into cellulosic ethanol. Cement plants use Vecoplan RDF systems to produce fuel for their kilns. Some of the world's largest wood pellet factories have Vecoplan machines, also.

"Bottom line – no matter what type of waste you're talking about or what kind of fuel you're making, no other company can provide the depth of experience that you get with Vecoplan," James concluded.

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A Closer Look

by Donna Currie

Fortistar

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Fortistar is an independent energy company that got its start in the 1970s as a financial company, but has since become an operational company with 250 to 300 employees and plants in at least 15 states and Canada, according to the company's chief information officer, David Comora. It operates three distinct types of power plants – those fueled by biomass, by landfill gas and by the more typical natural gas.



—Fortistar's Concord Facility

Fortistar has six operating biomass facilities, with three in the U.S. and three in Canada. Besides operating the energy facilities, Fortistar also owns and operates the recycling facilities that feed the power plants.

For the U.S. power plants, Fortistar has a tire shredding facility which includes picking up tires for processing. For the Canadian plants, they own and operate a facility that processes construction waste to reclaim the wood for use as fuel.

The largest number of power plants that Fortistar owns are the ones that reclaim gas from landfills, with 35 plants in operation all across the country. Comora said that those plants produce fewer megawatts per plant than other types, but they operate very locally, supplying power to their local communities.

The landfill plants use a well-and-vacuum system that collects the methane from the landfills. The methane is then pumped to Fortistar's facility where they "clean it up and run turbines to generate electricity," according to Comora.

He said that running a methane collection business is a good way to tell "the difference between well-managed garbage and not." Many of the landfills that Fortistar is affiliated with are operated with a public/private partnership where the county owns the landfill, which is separate from the utility company that provides the electricity to the community.

Comora said that the landfills and energy companies are integral parts of their communities – the electricity is generated from community trash, and the energy is returned to those same communities. He also said that Fortistar's energy businesses form relationships within those communities, including funding renewable energy scholarships for high school students.

"We work with some of the largest landfill services and some small operations," Comora said. Many of the natural gas businesses are also very small, but "they still have the same checklist of stuff you have to do."

Comora said that by operating all of these small plants with the same technology, they can key in on information sent to a central hub where they can look for exceptions and operate at a lower cost than someone "who has to do this with pen and paper."

In recent years, Comora said that the price of natural gas has gone down, which lowered the price of electricity, and that has made it a challenge to build and expand facilities to generate electricity. But the company looks at the long term. "We're not day-trading," Comora said.

Fortistar recently branched out into compressed natural gas, which is used as an alternative to diesel fuel. "The U.S. has an abundance of natural gas," Comora said, and using compressed gas as automotive fuel lessens the need for foreign oil. It helps provide "energy security by using local resources," he said. The compressed gas costs customers about half as much as diesel fuel, but in order to use it, the companies need to convert their trucks to run on compressed gas.

He said that one of the largest customers for the compressed gas fuel is landfills and trash collection companies because "the trucks come home to sleep" and can fuel up at the end of the day. "Compressed natural gas, we think is a home run," he said.

Although the company's real business is energy, Comora said that until recently, they were also in the tomato business. It wasn't much of a moneymaker, but one of the energy plants had a 13-acre greenhouse attached to it. The plant generated both electricity and steam, and the steam was used to heat the greenhouse, which grew the tomatoes.

The tomatoes are no longer part of the company's portfolio, but Fortistar strives to focus on clean and renewable energy sources. "We're not interested in coal-, oil- or petroleum-based energy," Comora said. "We're committed to being a part of the energy solutions for the country."

Comora's own history with the company started when he was working in the technology sector for a company that didn't quite need him full time, so he started spending some of his time with Fortistar, which gave him an opportunity to "sink his teeth in," particularly with the technology infrastructure. Since then, he's witnessed the growth of the company and the development of that infrastructure. "It's better to be part of a growing company than a shrinking company," he said.

Maine's two largest utilities to develop transmission projects

Maine's two largest utilities have agreed to jointly develop electric transmission projects to enhance the strength and capacity of the state's bulk power grid and improve access for new generation resources.

Emera Maine and Central Maine Power recently signed a memorandum of understanding for joint project development which identified a number of potential projects that could be developed together. The projects would improve links between southern New England and northern Maine, where more than 2,100 MW of wind power development have been proposed. The agreement between the utilities comes in response to a call by the six New England governors for investments in the region's energy infrastructure to diversify the energy portfolio and gain access to new renewable energy resources.

As the state's two largest utilities, Central Maine Power and Emera Maine serve more than 95 percent of Maine's homes and businesses. The utilities have significant expertise with transmission projects, including the MEPCO transmission line that extends from central Maine to New Brunswick, Canada.

The companies have outlined two initial phases of work. Phase One will analyze the feasibility of each project, including technical feasibility, public policy, regulatory considerations and outreach to other potential parties to the project. Phase Two will include all development activities from design, engineering, siting, through construction bidding.

Central Maine Power is the state's largest utility serving 605,000 homes and businesses in the southern third of the state. The company is nearing completion of the Maine Power Reliability Program, a \$1.4 billion investment in new transmission lines and substations to reinforce its 345,000 volt bulk power grid.

Emera Maine, which includes the former Bangor Hydro Electric and Maine Public Service, serves approximately 154,000 homes and businesses in eastern and northern Maine. Significant transmission projects completed by Emera Maine include the 43 mile, 115,000 volt Downeast Reliability Project, and the 85 mile, 345,000 volt Northeast Reliability Interconnect in 2007.

Scrap energy

■Continued from Page 1

return on investment in as little as three to five years, depending on location and cost of energy in local markets.

Another factor encouraging waste-to-energy is the spread of laws requiring generators of food waste to stop sending their materials to landfills. A number of states, including Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts, as well as cities including San Francisco, Seattle and Portland have banned commercial food waste from landfills.

Pending legislation in California will similarly restrict large generators from sending food scrap to landfills, Levin said. And that should motivate additional interest in waste-to-energy. "For food processors, the larger ones are going to be regulated," she said. "They're going to have to do something with food waste if they're large producers of food waste."

Processors that turn scrap into energy save on landfill tipping fees and can potentially generate additional revenue from sales of energy, "It can go from a net cost to a net revenue generator," Levin said.

For now, most large food waste-to-energy installations in the United States are municipal facilities that mix food scraps with sewage and other organic waste. A few pioneers in food processing are continuing to push the envelope, however. Gills, for instance, recently installed a battery array to store electricity created from its waste-to-energy process.

In the not too distant future, many more food processors are likely to join the waste-to-energy movement, driven by rising energy costs and the opportunity to turn a by-product into a cash source. "They also understand they're not going to be able to keep putting organic waste into landfills that much longer," Levin said. "So they're taking steps to get ahead of the curve."

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Sungevity utilizes instant solar installation quoting tech

Sungevity, Inc. has released technology capable of generating residential solar installation quotes instantly based on nothing more than a street address. The company's new Instant Solar Quote (Instant iQuote) tool is being piloted at select Lowe's stores in California.

Both Instant iQuote and Sungevity's earlier generation iQuote technology eliminate the need for time consuming and capital intensive home visits to design and price residential solar installations. The new instant quote ability speeds the process of closing individual solar sales by providing an immediate proposal without the previous 24 hour wait. It can also be used to rapidly assess the solar potential of entire cities, counties and countries for retailers, utilities and other partners.

The new quoting platform utilizes proprietary technology that combines LIDAR, aerial imagery and real estate parcel data to produce a 3D model of the property at a given address. Hundreds of design variations may be generated for

that address, based on factors such as roof pitch and shading. Instant iQuote immediately provides the consumer with the most optimal solar configurations, installation cost, and estimated savings. Results can be modified on the spot based on customers' design preferences, actual energy usage and other variables.

"When a homeowner starts to consider solar, the same questions always arise: How much will I save? How much will it cost? How much will it produce? What will it look like? Due to vast differences in roof shape and size, utility, shading and electricity usage, it has always been next to impossible to provide immediate answers to any of these questions," said Andrew Birch, Sungevity's chief executive officer. "By overcoming those hurdles, Instant iQuote can expedite solar adoption."

The technology currently covers more than 1.5 million homes in California, will expand to 4 states by the end of the summer and will eventually be utilized internationally.

Astronergy gives PV to children's hospital

Astronergy donated 150kW PV panels to a solar system installed on a parking lot of a children's hospital, Hospital de las Californias, located in Tijuana, Baja California.

The PV system will cover 80 percent of the electricity needs of the medical facility, which will represent a savings of approximately 400,000 pesos per year (equivalent to US\$31,133) over the 25 year useful life of the solar installation.

The North American Development Bank and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission will provide technical assistance funding to the Government of the State of Baja California for installation of solar energy equipment for the children's hospital.

The Hospital Infantil de las Californias is a private charitable organization that has been providing pediatric health care services since 1994.

TruStar Energy opens public CNG station for MSD fleet

TruStar Energy, a designer and builder of compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling infrastructure, and the Muncie Sanitary District (MSD), have opened their first large public fast-fill CNG station.

The public station will serve to fuel ten MSD vehicles, comprised of seven garbage trucks and three grapple trucks. In addition, the public will also be encouraged to fuel their CNG vehicles at the station, which houses two fueling dispensers, similar to what a consumer would see at a gasoline fueling station.

Muncie's decision to begin migrating away from diesel is yet another example of the growing importance of a domestic fuel source – and a way to extend municipal budgets.

With more CNG fueling infrastructure being built throughout the country,

more municipalities are finding the benefits of CNG hard to ignore – even with other forms of alternative fuel available.

TruStar Energy is seeing a growing trend in the private/public station design concept – which provides additional validation for those considering the migration to domestic CNG.

TruStar Energy began building private "behind the fence" fueling stations in 2008, but has expanded their product offerings to include public/private station builds along with fuel supply contracts and TruStar Energy-owned stations for those customers that are not interested in station ownership, but want access to low-cost CNG fuel.

Comora said TruStar Energy has the capability of building 40 CNG stations per year and expects to double that capacity over the next few years.

Inaccess to monitor Panama's first utility-scale solar power plant

Inaccess, a global provider of solar monitoring and control systems, has successfully commissioned its solar power plant optimization solution, insolar, at a 2.4 MW solar power plant in Sarigua, a desert region in Panama's Herrera province. Sarigua is the country's first grid-scale solar array and is owned by La Empresa de Generacion Electricita, Panama's primary grid operator.

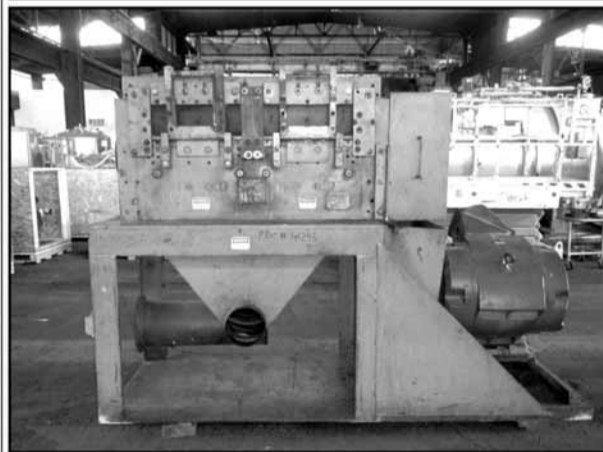
The system will monitor performance of the plant's hardware including panels, strings, inverters and fuses. Panama, which is set to open its expanded Panama Canal

next year, is a quickly growing market for solar taking its place as the world's value-added logistics hub.

Located nine miles from the city of Chitre, Sarigua was connected to the grid in March 2014. The utility-scale plant is now providing 30 percent of the surrounding area's electricity demand – equivalent to the power used by 2,600 local homes. Greenwood Biosar, a joint venture between Greenwood Energy and Biosar, provided engineering, procurement and construction services for Sarigua, originally a project of Enel Green Power Panama.

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