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#### FOCUS: Waste

# The pandemic's impact on the waste industry



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# Tackling carpet recycling head on

by MAURA KELLER

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For the last several years, the issue of carpet recycling has been a much-discussed topic within the waste and recycling industry. As Erin Meezan, vice president and chief sustainability officer at Interface explained, carpet recycling has been under fire because there has not been a significant increase in recycling rates in over two decades. In 2002, the national recycling rate for post-consumer carpet was around 5 percent. The most recent data available indicates that this rate remains essentially the same.

Interface, a worldwide commercial flooring company, established its ReEntry recycling program in 1995, which reclaims carpet to ensure used flooring tiles do not end up in landfills. The company partners with yarn suppliers to develop recycled nylon and developed its first product with 100 percent recycled nylon with Aquafil in 2010. And since 1995, Interface has kept more than 300 million pounds of carpet and carpet waste out of landfills – including carpet from the company's competitors. Moreover, Interface recycled much of that back into new products. In the last three years alone, the company recycled or repurposed more than 20 million pounds of post-consumer carpet that was brought back from customers through the ReEntry programs worldwide.

According to Meezan, the lack of improvement within the carpet recycling industry can be traced to two significant points – the lack of policy and legislation to enable carpet recycling, which necessitates a response entirely driven by voluntary industry effort, and the challenging economics of carpet recycling.

"The lack of progress by the industry to increase recycling through its voluntary association led to the realization that voluntary efforts would not deliver significant carpet recycling rates, leading some states to pursue programs mandated by state policy," Meezan said.

The most successful carpet recycling effort is in California. In 2010, the state enacted mandatory carpet recycling legislation. This, coupled with Carpet America Recovery Effort's (CARE) state-level efforts at managing California's stewardship program, has yielded positive results.

As Meezan explained, a handful of other states, including New York, Minnesota and Illinois, are now considering action

"The example of California shows that, with a state policy effort, recycling



Carpet recyclers are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO BY AOLDMAN | DREAMSTIN

is possible and can improve over time," Meezan said. "California's law was passed a decade ago, and as of Q4 2019, the recycling rate of carpet in the state is 22 percent, almost 5 times the national average."

#### **Challenges Aplenty**

For many industries, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is top of mind. And this is certainly the case for carpet recyclers in California and elsewhere.

In an effort to help these recyclers affected by the pandemic, CARE is implementing 10 specific actions to help offset the effects of the pandemic on carpet recyclers in California. These actions include a one-time payment to recyclers, a temporary 90 day increased subsidy payment, accelerated payment schedule and relaxed reporting and proposed loan payment requirements.

As CARE executive director Bob Peoples explained, "Cash flow considerations for the recycling community were our primary concern in forming this action plan. The current crisis, precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the plunge in oil prices, has seriously interrupted the supply chain for new carpet sales and the flow of postconsumer carpet (PCC) materials into new products. Additionally, the automotive sector, a major user of post-consumer nylon carpet material, has been shut down. The depth and duration of the impact to our industry is currently unknown and cannot yet be quantified."

In addition to the steps taken by CARE, the organization has also requested that CalRecycle take the following actions:

•Designate recycling as essential infrastructure and essential businesses.

•Suspend all Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) loan payments (P&I) for six months. RMDZ loans are a major debt service requirement for many recyclers, including carpet. This would help with cash flow during the crisis.

•Support action to request that utilities not cut off service to any commercial enterprise for 90 days.

•Work with Governor Newsom's staff to stop any commercial enterprise eviction actions for 90 days.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the carpet recycling industry, there are ongoing economic challenges that these companies face.

For instance, the challenging economics of running a recycling program, with the changing value of carpet's raw materials, has also been an obstacle for carpet recycling. According to Meezan, when the price of petroleum is low, the value of virgin plastic raw materials is low, and this depresses the value of materials harvested from carpet.

"In this environment, the industry needs financial help to succeed – either from the manufacturing industry or from public policy – or both – and the

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## Continued recycling encouraged

Facial tissues, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes have been flying off store shelves, while families are spending more hours at home to stay healthy and safe during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Waste Management (WM) is calling on everyone to Recycle Right during this time when recyclables are needed more than ever. Recycling is vitally important to our environment, and it has come to play a critical role in certain manufacturing supply chains. Without recyclable materials collected, manufacturers who produce products such as tissue, toweling and packaging boxes would not have the raw materials that they need to manufacture these important items. Recycling is an essential service for manufacturing companies delivering these key products.

"Most recyclers don't think about the importance of placing their clean recyclable materials in their bins, but now it is more important than ever, as recyclable products are playing a critical role for key manufacturing businesses," said Brent Bell, Waste Management vice president of recycling. "Across North America, people are generating more household garbage and recyclable materials than usual, and manufacturers are in need of more clean recyclable materials to meet their demands for making basic goods and emergency supplies. We can all do our part by recycling right during these challenging times.'

#### **WM's Recycle Right Tips**

Recycle Only Clean, Dry And Loose:

- ·Cardboard (without inside packing
- ·Paper products including newspapers, junk mail, office/school paper
- ·Paperboard, such as cereal and cracker
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- ·Steel, tin and aluminum cans

#### **Throw Away:**

- ·Plastic, latex and cloth disposable gloves, disposable masks
- ·Liquid soap and hand sanitizer bottles that contain residue
- Disinfectant wipes
- ·Facial tissues, napkins and paper
- Disposable plates, cups and cutlery
- Takeout containers
- Leftover food and liquids
- •Plastic bags and plastic film wrap
- Hoses, cords, polystyrene foam and other packaging

Several leading industry organizations have weighed in calling for increased recycling to meet the needed demand during this time, including:

- •The American Forest and Paper Association
- •The Association of Plastic Recyclers
- •The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- •The Glass Packaging Institute
- The Recycling Partnership

# Volkswagen settlement now available to support NYC's Clean Truck Program

Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos disclosed that more than \$9.8 million is now available to replace older, dirtier diesel-powered trucks in New York City with newer, less polluting trucks, which will help improve air quality, reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and promote investment in cleaner fuel technologies, among other benefits. As part of the state's \$127.7 million allocation of the federal Volkswagen Settlement, the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC-DOT) will administer approximately \$9.8 million to fund medium and heavy duty replacement trucks with an emphasis on all-electric, zero tailpipe emission trucks. Funding will also be available for alternative fueled and low emission diesel trucks. The New York City Clean Truck Program will focus its truck replacement projects in certain New York City Industrial Business Zones located near communities that have historically been subject to a disproportionate amount of diesel exhaust emissions.

DEC Commissioner Seggos said, "Reducing emissions from the transportation sector is essential to our efforts to combat climate and this important funding will help remove the worst polluters from our roads, especially in communities already overburdened by pollution. I commend Governor Cuomo for his ongoing leadership to improve air quality, reduce emissions, and create a sustainable future for New York's transportation industry."

Funding is available to replace existing diesel powered medium and heavy duty trucks with model year 1992 to 2009 engines. Under the settlement, these trucks must be permanently removed from service and scrapped. Truck replacements are targeted for privately owned trucks that service New York City Industrial Business Zones located in or adjacent to Potential Environmental Justice Areas (PEJAs). DEC considers PEJAs to be communities of color or low income communities that experience a disproportionate share of environmental harms such as vehicle emissions and pollution.

Truck replacement funds will be administered through the NYCDOT's Clean Truck Program to provide pointof-sale rebates to reduce the cost for local goods movement businesses that

#### **CORRECTION**

In the April 2020 edition on page A1, the cover article referred to research conducted by DustEx in regard to waste and recycling facility fire incidents in North America. This research was actually produced and published by Ryan J. Fogelman VP of National Accounts for Fire Rover, LLC.

New York State Department of want to purchase new, clean electric, Authority (NYSERDA) New York alternative fueled trucks and clean diesel trucks. The rebate will reduce the incremental cost of lower polluting trucks and help increase the number of all-electric, alternate fueled and low emissions diesel trucks on New York's roadways while removing older, higher polluting diesel-powered trucks through a scrappage requirement.

> Truck owners that do not qualify for the New York City Clean Trucks Program because their trucks are not domiciled or operated in the city's Industrial Business Zones may still qualify for equivalent incentives provided through the New York State Energy Research and Development

Truck Voucher Incentive Program (NYTVIP).

At the Governor's direction, DEC, in concert with NYSERDA, NYPA, DOT, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and others, developed Clean Transportation NY - New York's plan to strategically invest the Volkswagen settlement resources for maximum benefit and to build on New York's national leadership on clean energy and climate change. The funds were secured to mitigate damages from the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal through the federal settlement with Volkswagen.



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# Carpet

**■**Continued from Page 1

carpet manufacturing industry has largely remained on the sidelines," Meezan said.

It is important to note that the success of a state's carpet recycling program can also depend on factors outside of any person's or entity's control. Even during good economic times, managing this type of program can be a challenge.

"However, when states face instances like today's coronavirus situation, the resulting uncertainty can have far-reaching implications," Meezan said. "As the economy slows down, it is possible that we could see disruptions to carpet recycling efforts – even among highly effective programs like California's."

On a more positive note, in the past five years, Meezan said the importance of carpet recyclability has become much more significant to both manufacturers and purchasers as they all look to address the carbon emissions from our companies, and buyers look to reduce the carbon impact of their purchased materials.

"Using recycled materials, particularly recycled nylon in carpets, is an important way to reduce the carbon footprint of the product," Meezan said. "Similarly, purchasers of carpet are increasingly interested in being able to buy products with lower carbon footprints to reduce their environmental impacts. As manufacturers and buyers look to lower carbon emissions, the ability to recycle products after

customer use is increasingly important to buyers."

#### Steps to Take

While carpet recycling continues to be problematic, there are some significant steps that need to be taken to offset these issues. Meezan said that the industry needs good state policies like the legislation in California and the proposed legislation in New York, Minnesota and Illinois.

"Ideally, we would have a federally mandated law or strong state-by-state programs that can enable carpet recycling in all states following California's lead," Meezan said. "Manufacturers have to be prepared to become more active in advocacy to push for circular economy policies. California and other states are doing their part in implementing laws that support a circular economy. Still, the carpet industry can further bolster these initiatives and the carpet recycling program, supporting a circular economy and making a difference."

What's more, the waste industry can better participate in the circular economy by recognizing that certain types of post-consumer carpet are indeed recyclable and by putting policies in place to help keep this material out of their landfills. This could include the banning of curbside pickup and/or increasing tipping fees for carpet in the landfills.

"More than anything else, there needs to be a shift away from the old model of 'use and dispose' to a model of 'use and recycle.' Everyone that touches a carpet – from its design, through its use, to its end-of-life – needs to be asking questions along the way."

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# Pandemic Response Action Plan for California Carpet Recyclers

The following six actions will be taken by CARE within the authority provided to it via statute and CARE's approved five year plan. CARE will:

- 1. Issue a one time payment to each qualified recycler, calculated as the average monthly subsidy received over last 12 months. CARE estimates the one time payment will total approximately \$1.13 million. This payment will not affect the cash reserve.
- 2. Pay 80 percent of earned subsidies after initial reporting by recyclers (as opposed to the usual 40 to 45 days). The situation will be reassessed after 90 days.
- 3. Monitor retail sales and PCC availability to aid recyclers in planning for dramatically reduced raw material flows.
- 4. Institute an additional temporary \$0.02 per lb. subsidy for PCC collection for 90 days, effective April 1 (total \$0.04 per lb.) This adjustment will be in place for 90 days, through the end of June. CARE is not increasing the current approved plan based collector sorter entrepreneur subsidy; it is providing a temporary collection incentive to address rapidly changing market conditions.
- 5. Coordinate and communicate with other Product Stewardship groups to identify the best ways to tackle shared challenges.
- 6. Suspend routine audits for 90 days. This applies to all recipients of California subsidy payments and does not suspend the requirement to comply with agreed upon procedures (AUP). The AUP suspension does not apply to mills. CARE will revisit the status in 90 days to determine if a further delay is warranted.



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# UGE signs three agreements, including largest U.S. project in company's history

UGE International Ltd., a leader in commercial and community solar energy solutions, has signed three agreements to develop, build and finance solar projects, including the company's largest U.S. project in its history.

First, UGE signed a 6.6MW project in Westchester, New York. The project will take advantage of New York's community solar program by feeding energy into the grid and providing energy credits to community solar subscribers at a discounted rate. The project is approximately 12 to 15 times the size of UGE's average project and, when completed, will produce power for an estimated 1,000 homes for the duration of the system's lifetime. UGE has also reserved the option with the utility to couple the solar system with battery storage, which would provide a further boost to project revenue and returns.

Second, UGE signed a nine site portfolio in New York City for a repeat client. The 1.7MW project portfolio will lease the rooftops of the buildings on which UGE will install solar systems. The projects will utilize the same community solar subscription program as described above, offering New York City residents an opportunity to save on their energy bills through solar energy.

Third, UGE signed an agreement to develop, build, and finance a community solar project in Maine. The project is expected to have a rated capacity of 1.1MW and will feed its energy directly into the grid as part of the state's solar net metering framework. In the past six months, Maine has become a top community solar market and UGE has affirmed itself as a leading market participant, with a pipeline of opportunities throughout the state.

The three solar projects have a total rated capacity of 9.4MW, with an estimated present value of almost \$20 million across the portfolios. The company expects to complete the projects through the end of 2021 with gross margins in line with its expectations for self-developed projects.

# **SWANA** records significant increase in collection fatalities since March 2020

cant increase in the number of fatal incidents involving solid waste collection vehicles and employees. Since March 14, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is aware of at least 16 incidents in the U.S. resulting in 18 fatalities, including 8 in which a solid waste employee has been killed.

SWANA recognizes that many workers may be concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic, and that increased residential volume and operational changes may be disrupting routines and impacting productivity. However, even during this challenging period, it is essential for solid waste collection workers to comply with applicable safety rules, including:

- Wearing a safety belt
- •Never be on the riding step when truck is
- •Don't use a cell phone when truck is moving
- •Always wearing personal protective equipment (PPE)

•Comply with speed limit and other traffic laws Some of the fatal incidents that have occurred over the past three weeks were due to not following these basic safety rules. These safety recommendations are part of SWANA's Five to Stay Alive initiative, which provides guidance to employees who work in collection, transfer stations, MRFs, landfills, composting, and waste-toenergy facilities.

"SWANA had observed a notable decrease in fatal incidents in the first two months of 2020 compared to the past two years, but starting in

Over the past month, there has been a signifi- mid-March, we have seen a rapid increase in the frequency of these tragic events. This coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although solid waste workers are legitimately concerned about their health and the health of their families, they need to be safety-focused on the route and in postcollection operations," stated David Biderman, SWANA executive director and chief executive

> "We remain diligent with all safety aspects of the job now with the added safety features of latex gloves and masks," said Sal Mastriani, director of risk management of Interstate Waste Services. "Our teams have responded impressively. Although we are troubled about an increase in fatal incidents nationally, we are fortunate that our incidents have decreased. In addition, I would urge everyone to keep an eye out for emotional stress and elevated anxiety among front line workers, which may have contributed to some of the recent collisions others have seen."

> Since March 14, 2020, fatal incidents involving solid waste collection vehicles and personnel have occurred in Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

> Though recent events have shown there is a real need for better safety training and implementation, many organizations have excellent programs worth emulating. That is why SWANA is proud to recognize these industry leaders through its 2020 SWANA Safety Awards, now accepting submissions through June 26.

For more WASTE news, see Page B1



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# Solid waste worker death rate high in 2019

At least 53 solid waste industry workers died on the job in 2019 in the U.S. and Canada, according to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). The most common cause of death was being struck by one's own waste vehicle, followed by single vehicle accidents involving only a waste vehicle. Over 40 percent of worker fatalities were a result of one of these two causes.

Solid waste and recycling collection continues to have the highest occurrence of fatalities, representing about 68 percent of worker deaths. Fatalities at landfills increased slightly from 8 in 2018 to 11 in 2019 and fatalities at MRFs increased from 3 to 4.

"The number of solid waste-related fatalities continued at unusually high levels in 2019," commented David Biderman, SWANA's executive director and chief executive officer. "Although there was a small decline from 2018, and that slight improvement has continued into 2020, we remain concerned about the solid waste industry's overall safety performance. We urge all employers and employees to take advantage of the growing number and variety of SWANA safety resources," he added.

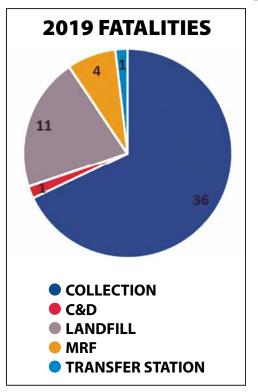
SWANA collects data on solid waste-related fatalities from a wide

number of industry and media sources in order to produce an annual picture of the state of safety. In addition to the workers killed on the job in 2019, at least 80 members of the public were killed in an incident involving the industry. Almost all of these were the result of a collision with a solid waste collection vehicle. Two-thirds of the victims were a driver or passenger at the time, and about 16 percent were pedestrians. Incidents involving motorcyclists represented 9 percent and bicyclists 7.5 percent of fatalities in 2019.

Forty-four of all fatalities recorded by SWANA in 2019 occurred in the U.S. and nine were in Canada. This represents an increase from 2018 when four fatalities were recorded in Canada and 2017 when there were six.

January was the deadliest month in 2019, with 22 total fatalities. It was also the month with the most fatalities in 2018 with 19. In 2019, June had the most worker fatalities with 8, followed by July with 7. January was also by far the deadliest month for members of the public with 15 fatalities, the only month to experience double digit fatalities for that group.

Texas had 13 fatalities for the year, making it the state with the most solid waste-related deaths in 2019.



This was followed by California with 11, New York with 9, and Pennsylvania with 8. The 10 states and provinces with the most fatal incidents in 2019 represented 57 percent of all fatalities in the U.S. and Canada as a whole. Counting only worker fatalities, New York had the most with eight deaths in 2019, followed by California and Texas with seven.

"Employers must look inward for causes and corrective actions," recommended Suzanne Sturgeon, SWANA safety committee chair and health & safety program manager for SCS Field Services. "Changing the culture of workers is essential to this effort. Training frequently in small and digestible doses is paramount to make this shift," Sturgeon added.

In order to provide training resources to those most in need, SWANA and other industry leaders hold Hauler Safety Outreach events at landfills, transfer stations, MRFs, WTE facilities – anywhere haulers can be found. Free safety resources are handed out at the gate or other convenient locations in order to get this important information into the hands of those who need it as part of SWANA's mission to improve industry safety.

SWANA urges everyone in the solid waste industry, whether a member or not, to take the SWANA Safety Pledge to show their commitment to protecting themselves and others from harm every day. Join more than 3,500 other professionals by pledging to consider worker, customer, and public safety in every decision that you make.

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# Aircraft Solutions USA aircraft recycling facility is underway

Aircraft Solutions USA, Inc., a provider of sustainable aircraft recycling solutions, is moving forward with its plan to build an aircraft recycling facility at North Carolina's Global TransPark in Kinston. The construction start has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the facility is still slated to be operational by the second quarter of 2021. It will consist of one of the world's largest hangars which will include dismantling, MRO and painting operations. "We are making some critical hires, including our interim chief executive officer and our head of innovations, and are looking to start construction this summer," said Sven Daniel Koechler, PhD, general manager of Aircraft Solutions USA. The company will initially create 475 jobs and will invest nearly \$100 million dollars in the new aircraft recycling center.

"Our state's aerospace industry is taking off with the Global TransPark as a hub in rural eastern North Carolina," said Governor Roy Cooper. "From first in flight to first in skilled workers, global companies like Aircraft Solutions USA will find North Carolina to be a great place to grow and thrive."

Once operational, Aircraft Solutions USA's Kinston facility will recycle decommissioned commercial and military aircraft deploying a proprietary new recycling technology. This will enable the company to recycle many more aircraft each year than conventional methods enable. "With our



Not all retired aircraft makes it to the recycling platform but with Aircraft Solutions USA facility opening, more than ever will get processed properly

proprietary recycling technology, we can recycle many more aircraft per year; for instance, up to 70 additional twin-engine narrow body airliners," said Koechler.

Aircraft parts such as engines, landing gear, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems can be refurbished and sold on the aircraft parts aftermarket. Aircraft Solutions USA's ultimate goal is to use every part of the airplane and up-cycle it to make a new product, for example a new pair of sneakers made from aircraft seating material. The long-term objective is to expand the recycling operation by establishing various production facilities that will create new products for diverse industries from up-cycled

The project will bring nearly \$958 million to North Carolina's economy. It is being partially facilitated by a Job Development Investment (JDIG) approved by the State's Economic Investment Committee. Wages will vary depending on job functions but will exceed Lenoir County's current average wage of \$36,766 and reach as high as \$47,069.

The company also plans to invest heavily in community and philanthropic projects. It will train its own workforce based on successful German workforce development programs and will offer generous benefits and housing to its employees.

Rooted in a zero waste philosophy, the company will be advising the Kinston municipality on how to optimize its recycling program.

#### Wastequip to acquire ConFab

Wastequip, a North American manufacturer of waste handling equipment, has signed a definitive agreeacquire Consolidated ment to Fabricators Corporation (ConFab), a West Coast waste container manufacturer. Founded in 1974 and based in Van Nuys, California, ConFab operates manufacturing, steel processing and equipment repair facilities in central and southern California, with additional California locations in Sun Valley, Fontana, Galt and Otay Mesa, and a manufacturing facility in Tijuana, Mexico.

Under the terms of the agreement, ConFab will continue to operate as its own entity, with the existing leadership team remaining in place and reporting directly to Wastequip chief executive officer Marty Bryant.

The acquisition of ConFab adds the most respected West Coast container manufacturer to Wastequip's portfolio of brands. A family-owned business started by Al Melideo and now under the leadership of son Mike Melideo, ConFab has established itself as a leading provider of custom waste containers and related equipment specifically designed to suit the unique needs of the California market. Existing Wastequip customers will benefit from access to a suite of products suited to their geographic market, along with additional production facilities to meet demand quickly. Customers will also benefit from container repair services in the Los Angeles area, as well as local parts fabrication.

#### German renewable energy law turns 20 years old

Renewable Energies Act (EEG) in April 2000 marked the start of the expansion of renewable energies in Germany. The law postulates two fundamental principles – first, in the grid, power from regenerative sources is given priority over conventional power. Second, the feed-in tariffs determined by the legislator for the supply of renewable energies establishes investment security.

The developments of the past 20 years confirm the success of the EEG: Since the law went into force, the share of renewable energies in the gross power consumption in Germany has continually increased, from 6.2 percent in 2000 to 42.1 percent in 2019. Accordingly, 244 billion kWh are generated from solar energy, wind, water and biomass. Bioenergy accounts for 11 percent of this figure. In the field of heat generation, renewable energies account for a share of 39 percent, some 34 percent of which are based on bioenergy.

"In Germany, regenerative energies are the number one power source, and the world has come to view the

The introduction of the German EEG as an effective instrument for the systematic, publicly approved expansion", said Jens Albartus, director of the German biogas plan manufacturer Weltec Biopower. "Moreover, the law and its adaptations to new market conditions have constantly brought about new technologies that have become an indispensable element of many profitable energy plants."

> Innovation, in particular, is the driver of the global expansion of renewable energies, in which German companies play a key role. Since it was founded back in 2001, Weltec advanced from a pioneer in the biogas industry to a key factor in the energy reform. With its sustainable technologies and basic values, the biogas specialist is successful around the globe and makes an important contribution to environmental protection. For instance, the company's success is evident from its exports, which are above the industry average: Over the years, the company has planned and set up more than 300 plants in 25 countries on five continents. WELTEC has invested more than €100 million in its own biogas plants throughout Germany.



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# The FMCSA extends emergency declaration in response to COVID-19

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced that it extended its emergency declaration first issued on March 13, 2020 and expanded on March 18, 2020.

The existing provisions of the March 13, 2020 emergency declaration and the expansion on March 18, 2020 remain in place until May 15, 2020. This includes those requirements under Parts 390-399 which include vehicle maintenance, inspection and driver qualifications are also waived for waste haulers.

The extension also includes certain reporting requirements that were not required previously. Most notably, is the requirement regarding crash report-

A motor carrier whose driver is involved in a crash while operating under this emergency declaration must report any recordable crash within 24 hours, by phone or in writing, to the FMCSA Division Office where the motor carrier is domiciled. The carrier must report the date, time, location, driver, vehicle identification and brief description of the crash.

"We thank the FMCSA for recognizing the challenges of working during the COVID-19 pandemic and extending their Expanded Emergency Declaration. NWRA remains committed to working with federal and state officials to ensure our members can properly and safely respond to this health crisis," said NWRA president

and chief executive officer Darrell motor carrier is domiciled. The carrier

By execution of this extension to Emergency Declaration 2020-002, motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to the nationwide emergency are not granted emergency relief from, and must continue to comply with, the following Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and condi-

•49 CFR § 392.2 related to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle in accordance with state laws and regulations, including compliance with applicable speed limits and other traffic restrictions.

•49 CFR § 392.3 related to operation of a commercial motor vehicle while a driver's ability or alertness is so impaired, or so likely to become impaired, through fatigue, illness, or any other cause, as to make it unsafe for him/her to begin or continue to operate the motor vehicle.

•Motor carriers shall not require or allow fatigued drivers to operate a commercial motor vehicle. A driver who informs a carrier that he/she needs immediate rest shall be given at least ten consecutive hours before the driver is required to return to service.

•A motor carrier whose driver is involved in a crash while operating under this emergency declaration must report any recordable crash within 24 hours, by phone or in writing, to the FMCSA Division Office where the must report the date, time, location, driver, vehicle identification, and brief description of the crash.

 Nothing in this Emergency Declaration shall be construed as an exemption from the controlled substance and alcohol uses and testing requirement (49 CFR Part 382), the commercial driver's license requirements (49 CFR Part 383), the financial responsibility (insurance) requirements (49 CFR Part 387), the hazardous material regulations (49 CFR Parts 100-180), applicable size and weight requirements, or any other portion of the regulations not specifically exempted under 49 CFR §

 Motor carriers or drivers currently subject to an out-of-service order are not eligible for the relief granted by this declaration until they have met the applicable conditions for its rescission and the order has been rescinded by FMCSA in writing.

 Direct assistance terminates when a driver or commercial motor vehicle is used in interstate commerce to transport cargo or provide services that are not in support of emergency relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks or when the motor carrier dispatches a driver or commercial motor vehicle to another location to begin operations in commerce. (49 CFR § 390.23(b)). Upon termination of direct assistance to emergency relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks, the motor carrier and driver are subject to the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 390 through 399, except that a driver may return empty to the motor carrier's terminal or the driver's normal work reporting location without complying with Parts 390 through 399. When a driver is moving from emergency relief efforts to normal operations a 10 hour break is required when the total time a driver operates conducting emergency relief efforts, or a combination of emergency relief and normal operations equals 14 hours.

# Vortex awarded for recycling

For the third time in six years, Vortex Global was recognized by Cope Plastics for its commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility and making the world a better place. The Gold Level Milestone award recognizes companies who have achieved a total of 200,000 pounds of recycled industrial plastics. For Vortex, this milestone was reached in just six years.

"Our awards are based on quantity of plastic that we have kept out of the landfills and brought back into the industry. Vortex's latest accomplishment of 200,000 pounds of recycled plastic is very significant," said Kip Slattery, recycling sales manager from Cope Plastics. "Cope's Topeka branch has several customers that utilize our recycling plan and Vortex is the first to reach the 200,000-pound mark. Cope Plastics has 16 branch locations with Topeka being the third highest in volume for recycling, due in large part to participation from Vortex."

The Milestone Awards are part of Cope's Solutions-Based Customer Recycling Award Program (SCRAP), which recognizes companies who are making a conscious effort to recycle surplus plastic materials. Vortex has participated in the SCRAP program for the past six years. In 2016, Vortex achieved SCRAP's Green Level Milestone Award for recycling a total of 50,000 pounds of industrial plastics and the Silver Level Milestone Award in 2018 for recycling a total of 100,000 pounds of plastics. Both of these achievements were also accomplished in two years.

Worldwide, Vortex employees are also taking part in personal recycling initiatives to improve the environments we live in. This includes Vortex's headquarters in Salina, Kansas, as well as its global offices in Darlington, United Kingdom; Querétaro City, Querétaro, México and Shanghai, China.



## Michigan's clean recycling campaign continues

Recycling efforts are more important than ever. Because of this, the erage deposit containers Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) encourages residents to join in the state's Know It Before You Throw It recycling initiative.

"Recycling remains an important issue for Michigan," said Jack Schinderle, director of the Materials Management Division at EGLE. "The materials collected from drop-offs and curbside collection programs are used in manufacturing new products, such as toilet paper and shipping containers."

If a community's recycling program is temporarily suspended, residents are encouraged to:

- •Store recyclables, including bev-
  - •Empty and rinse all containers
- •Store materials in a dry area, indoors if possible, in bins or boxes
- •Save plastic bags for reuse or recycling at a participating retailer
- •Remember to remove items from storage bags before recycling
  - •Flatten boxes to save space

"Front-line workers in the recycling industry keep the materials management system running," Schinderle said. "We are able to work together toward a cleaner, stronger Michigan through those who are getting up and going out there every day to do work on behalf of all of us."

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#### METALS

## United States Steel becomes proactive to preserve future

United States Steel Corporation announced a series of aggressive and meaningful actions to provide greater certainty on the company's response to impacts from the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the sudden, significant changes in global oil and gas markets. These actions strengthen the company's ability to serve customers, partner with suppliers, create long term value for investors and ensure a more secure future for employees and the communities where we work and live. By prioritizing cash and liquidity, the company will maintain strategic flexibility in order to be well prepared for when the global economy ultimately recovers from the current situation.

"In this unprecedented and rapidly changing situation, our first priority remains the safety and well-being of our employees. As an essential part of our critical infrastructure, our employees have embraced the special responsibility to continue making the steel society needs, including the packaging for our food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic response. To ensure a more secure future for all our stakeholders, the time has come for us to take aggressive actions to reposition the company," commented president and chief executive officer David B. Burritt.

The company announced the following to provide greater certainty that short-term actions enable their longerterm "best of both" strategy:

•North American Flat-Rolled Footprint Actions: The company has idled the #4 blast furnace at Gary Works for a planned outage. This outage was originally planned to begin in April and last for 48 days. The scope of the current outage has been reduced and the remainder of the Gary #4 blast furnace outage is being delayed. The company expects the Gary #4 blast furnace to remain idled until market conditions improve. In addition, the company will temporarily idle blast furnace "A" at Granite City Works, effective immediately. As previously communicated, the

company will also complete the indefinite idling of the iron and steelmaking facilities at Great Lakes Works. The company will continue to monitor the impacts of the coronavirus on its orderbook and will regularly assess the footprint required to support its customers' needs

•Tubular Footprint Actions: Beginning in late-May, the company plans to idle all or most of Lone Star Tubular Operations and Lorain Tubular Operations for an indefinite period of time in response to weak tubular market conditions, including continued high levels of imports and decreased demand driven by a sudden, significant drop in oil prices. The company has issued Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act notices to employees at both facilities.

•Revised Capital Spending for 2020: The company is aligning its strategic projects with today's market realities by reducing capital spending in 2020 by \$125 million. The company now expects 2020 capital spending to be approximately \$750 million. Impacts to strategic projects are as follows:

•Endless Casting and Rolling and Cogeneration Investments at Mon Valley: The company plans to delay construction of the endless casting and rolling line and cogeneration facility at its Mon Valley Works. On March 23, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced, after consultation with the company, that a temporary pause in the permitting process is appropriate given the challenges posed to the public comment process while COVID-19 public health orders are in effect in Allegheny County. The company agrees with a pause during this time of social distancing precautions implemented by the county. In addition to the regulatory delay, in order to preserve cash and liquidity, the company currently expects groundbreaking for this project to be delayed for an indeterminate period of more certain. The company now expects 2020 capital spending for the project to be approximately \$85 million. The company will continue to assess the project timeline and remaining budget.

•Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) at Tubular: The company currently expects to complete the EAF at Tubular as planned, with first arc anticipated in the second half of 2020. The expected 2020 capital spending budget for the EAF project is unchanged at \$150 million. The investment in the EAF has been prefunded with environmental revenue bonds issued in the fourth quarter of 2019.

•Gary Hot Strip Mill (HSM) Investments: The company currently has paused planned upgrades and will continue to evaluate the pace and timeline for completing the remaining investments in the HSM.

•Dynamo Line at USSE: The investment in a new non-grain oriented electrical steel line at USSE remains delayed.

•Revolving Credit Facility: As a precautionary measure, the company increased its borrowings under its Revolving Credit Facility by \$800 million in order to increase its cash position and preserve financial flexibility. This action safeguards the business, as well as the company's customers, suppliers, workforce and investors and ensures that the company will maintain

the cash and balance sheet strength required to navigate the current environment. The draw-down proceeds from the Revolving Credit Facility are being held as cash on the company's balance sheet and may be used for general corporate purposes.

The company does not expect the actions to meaningfully impact the first quarter adjusted EBITDA, adjusted net loss or adjusted diluted net loss per share included in our guidance that was provided last week. However, given the rapid pace of change in market dynamics in the current environment, the company is regularly monitoring and updating impacts to first quarter shipments. The company expects a meaningful reduction in demand for the full fiscal year, though an updated full-year estimate of third-party shipments for each of its operating segments cannot be determined at this time. The company is continuing to monitor the financial and operational impacts of the coronavirus on the business and plans to provide more information in its first quarter disclosures and on its first quarter earnings call.

Burritt concluded, "Our world-competitive, 'best of both' integrated and mini mill strategy is our future. The short-term actions announced are difficult but necessary. Our focus on cash and liquidity will ultimately position us to achieve our longer-term goals as a stronger organization."





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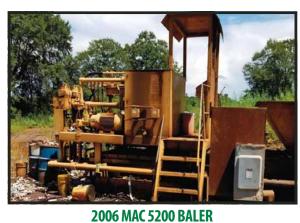
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#### METALS

# Steel imports down 21 percent through February

#### **U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS** BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (Thousands of Net Tons) 2020 YTD 2019 YTD % Change 2020 (2 months) Annual vs. 2019 (2 months) **SOUTH KOREA** 158 182 340 548 -20.7% 146 230 -29.6% **JAPAN** 69 76 **BRAZIL** 37 89 126 151 42.0% 73 51 124 101 126.4% **TURKEY GERMANY** 52 49 100 216 -42.3% -45.4% 33 43 76 173 **TAIWAN** 61 **SPAIN** 7 55 68 -17.3% 26 27 53 147 -51.7% **VIETNAM** 1,966 2,562 -11.9% 889 1,077 All Others 1,344 1,648 2,992 4,195 -14.7% **TOTAL**

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 1,505,000 net tons (NT) of steel in February 2020, including 1,344,000 NT of finished steel (down 52.2 percent and 18.4 percent, respectively, vs. January final data). Through the first two months of 2020, total and finished steel imports are 4,655,000 and 2,992,000 NT, down 21.3 percent and 28.7 percent, respectively, vs. the same period in 2019.

Key finished steel products with a significant import increase in February compared to January are heavy structural shapes (up 57 percent) and tin plate (up 15 percent). A product with a significant year-to-date (YTD) increase vs. the same period in 2019 was mechanical tubing (up 12 percent).

In February the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (158,000 NT, down 13 percent from January final), Turkey (73,000 NT, up 44 percent), Japan (69,000 NT, down 9 percent), Germany (52,000 NT, up 7 percent) and Brazil (37,000 NT, down 58 percent). For the first two months of 2020, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (340,000 NT, down 38 percent vs. the same period in 2019), Japan (146,000 NT, down 37 percent), Brazil (126,000 NT, down 16 percent), Turkey (124,000 NT, up 23 percent) and Germany (100,000 NT, down 54 percent).

The chart above is on estimated steel import market share in recent months and on finished steel imports from offshore by country.

# Novelis acquires Aleris

Novelis Inc., a leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, has completed its acquisition of Aleris Corporation, a global supplier of rolled aluminum products.

"The Aleris deal marks a major milestone for Novelis, on its path to global leadership. The closure of this deal amidst challenging market conditions, reflects our conviction in the Aleris business and its value to our metals portfolio. Periods of turmoil have historically seen the emergence of champions, powered by quality leadership and sound business fundamentals. This is a long- term strategic bet, much like Novelis was in 2007," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman Aditya Birla Group and Novelis Inc. "The Aleris deal crucially enables the further diversification of our metals portfolio into other premium market segments, most notably aerospace. Through the creation of an industry champion, we are reinforcing our commitment to our customers, employees and shareholders. At the same time, with this further expansion in our aluminum portfolio, we have taken a decisive step towards a more sustainable future.'

With the addition of Aleris' operational assets and workforce, Novelis is poised to more efficiently serve the growing Asia market by integrating complementary assets in the region including recycling, casting, rolling and finishing capabilities.

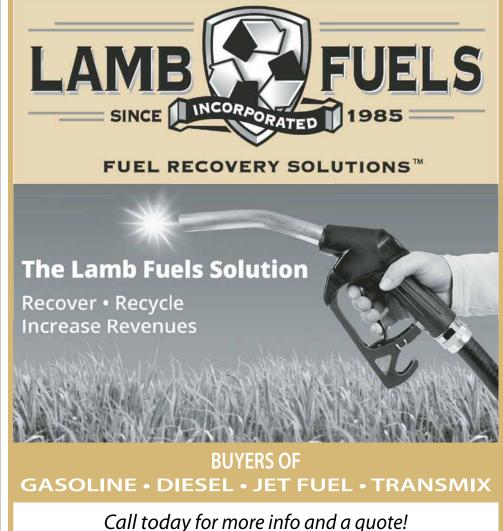
Beyond its many strategic benefits, the acquisition will generate approximately \$150 million in synergies and creates a strong financial profile. In addition, combined net debt to adjusted EBITDA of approximately 3.3x is within the recently updated guidance of below 3.5x and well below the initial outlook of below 4x when the transaction was announced.

The closing purchase price of \$2.8 billion consists of \$775 million for the equity value, as well as approximately \$2.0 billion for the assumption or extinguishment of Aleris' current outstanding debt and a \$50 million earnout payment. Legacy Aleris debt levels have increased since the initial acquisition announcement due to rise in working capital to support the ramp up of operations, while the earn-out is related to stronger than expected performance by Aleris' U.S. business. On a trailing 12 month basis ending December 31, 2019, standalone Aleris Adjusted EBITDA stood at \$388 million, higher than that estimated at the time of deal announcement. Despite increased legacy debt, the implied enterprise value multiple of 7.2x, is in line with the acquisition case, on account of better EBITDA performance.

Novelis will acquire Aleris' 13 plants across North America, Europe and Asia; however, to satisfy regulatory conditions, the company is required to divest Aleris' plants in Lewisport, Kentucky.



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#### **METALS**

#### Arconic Corp separates into two entities

Arconic Corporation launched as a leader in advanced aluminum sheet, plate, extruded and architectural products that primarily advance the ground transportation, aerospace, industrial, packaging, and commercial building markets. The company's common stock began trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker "ARNC" on April 1, 2020.

The separation of Arconic Inc. into two standalone companies, Arconic Corporation and Howmet Aerospace Inc. (the new name for Arconic Inc.), took effect through a pro rata distribution by Arconic Inc. of 100 percent of the outstanding shares of the newly formed Arconic Corporation. Arconic Inc. stockholders received one share of Arconic Corporation common stock for every four shares of Arconic Inc. common stock held as of the March 19, 2020 record date. Arconic Inc. shares have become Howmet Aerospace Inc. shares as a result of the name change.

Arconic Corporation will be led by chief executive officer Tim Myers, who was previously the executive vice president and group president of the business segments that now comprise the new standalone company. In conjunction with the launch of Arconic Corporation, its independently endowed charitable arm, Arconic Foundation, will continue to support the preparation of 21st century engineering and manufacturing.

## Schnitzer reports performance improvement

reported results for its fiscal second quarter ended February 29, 2020.

The company reported earnings per share from continuing operations for the quarter of \$0.14 and adjusted earnings per share of \$0.31, a strong sequential improvement from the first quarter reported and adjusted loss per share of \$0.26 and \$0.17, respectively. Prior year second quarter reported and adjusted earnings per share from continuing operations were \$0.46 and \$0.50, respectively.

Auto and Metals Recycling (AMR) achieved operating income in the second quarter of \$19 million, or \$23 per ferrous ton, a significant improvement from an operating loss of \$2 million in the first quarter. Cascade Steel and Scrap (CSS) achieved operating income in the second quarter of \$4 million, in-line sequentially.

"Our strong second quarter results reflect the resiliency of our operations and the ability of our team to navigate well during an improving but still volatile quarter," said Tamara Lundgren, chairman and chief executive officer. "Both divisions achieved higher sales volumes and benefited from strong execution of the productivity initiatives we implemented during the quarter. In addition, our strong focus on working capital management enabled us to deliver positive operating cash flow notwithstanding higher prices for raw materials."

"During the COVID-19 national emergency, our facilities have continued operating, reflecting our inclusion

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. in the critical infrastructure sector, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We have implemented additional steps to protect our employees and visitors to our sites and, where possible, our employees are working remotely. While near-term market conditions, including commodity prices and customer demand, remain subject to significant uncertainty and volatility, we have a strong balance sheet with low net leverage and significant cash on hand to weather declines in demand," she added.

The company also announced that it will transition from its multi-divisional organizational structure to a functionally-based, integrated operating model. The company will consolidate its operations, sales, services and other functional capabilities at an enterprise level. This new structure will result in a more agile organization and solidify the productivity improvement cost reduction initiatives announced at the start of this fiscal year that have been substantially implemented. The company expects to transition to the new operating model during the remainder of fiscal 2020 and to report its financial results in a single segment commencing with the first quarter of fiscal 2021.

AMR achieved operating income in the second quarter of \$19 million, or \$23 per ferrous ton, a significant improvement from an operating loss of \$2 million in the first quarter. After reaching multi-year lows in October,

ferrous selling prices rose significantly through mid-January, before softening in February. On a sequential basis, average ferrous net selling prices at AMR were 14 percent higher, outpacing the rise in purchase costs for raw materials and lifting operating results by expanding metal spreads. In the higher price environment, supply flows improved despite the adverse impact of winter seasonality, leading to a 2 percent sequential increase in ferrous sales volumes. Nonferrous sales volumes were down 14 percent sequentially due primarily to the timing of shipments.

AMR's sequential performance reflected benefits from increases in the price of platinum group metals (PGM) products, as well as benefits from productivity initiatives implemented during FY20 which led to a reduction in selling, general and administrative expense. Second quarter operating results also included a benefit from average inventory accounting of approximately \$4 million compared to an adverse impact of \$4 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2020 and an adverse impact of \$1 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2019.

Export customers accounted for 68 percent of total ferrous sales volumes for the quarter. Ferrous and nonferrous products were shipped to 20 countries in the second quarter, with Bangladesh, Turkey and Thailand representing the top export destinations for ferrous shipments.



Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$264.00	249.00	255.00	265.00	275.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	255.00	238.00	237.00	254.00	281.00
Plate and Structural	per gross ton	249.00	229.00	235.00	242.00	274.00
#1 & 2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	178.00	212.00	219.00	218.00	259.00
Shredder Bundles (tin)	per gross ton	120.00	125.00	152.00	134.00	132.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	120.00	125.00	152.00	134.00	132.00
Steel Turnings	per gross ton	77.00	78.00	84.00	128.00	131.00
#1 Copper	per pound	2.04	2.01	2.22	2.23	2.25
#2 Copper	per pound	1.92	1.91	2.10	2.13	2.09
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.49	.48	.49	.49	.50
Auto Radiators	per pound	1.31	1.18	1.32	1.48	1.40
Aluminum Core Radiators	per pound	.50	.43	.38	.42	.41
Heater Cores	per pound	.98	.97	.99	.94	.98
Stainless Steel	per pound	.51	.49	.42	.44	.50

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

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#### **METALS**

# Steel import permit applications increase

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 March totaled 2,323,000 net tons (NT). This was a 24.0 percent increase from the 1,873,000 permit tons recorded in February and a 53.9 percent increase from the February final imports total of 1,510,000. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in March was 1,544,000, up 14.6 percent from the final

imports total of 1,348,000 in February. For the first three months of 2020 (including March SIMA permits and February final imports), total and finished steel imports were 6,983,000 NT and 4,540,000 NT, down 14.7 percent and 25.0 percent, respectively, from the same period in 2019. The estimated finished steel import market share in March was 17 percent and is 17 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Finished steel imports with large increases in March permits vs. the Febru-

ary final imports included oil country goods (up 101 percent), line pipe (up 66 percent), structural pipe and tubing (up 57 percent), tin free steel (up 47 percent), cold rolled sheets (up 34 percent), hot rolled bars (up 34 percent), cut lengths plates (up 28 percent), wire rods (up 21 percent), sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (up 14 percent), standard pipe (up 14 percent) and wire drawn (up 14 percent). Products with significant yearto date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2019 include tin free steel (up 35 percent) and mechanical tubing (up 17 percent).

In March, the largest finished steel import permit applications for offshore countries were for South Korea (231,000 NT, up 46 percent from February final), Taiwan (65,000 NT, up 99 percent), Germany (61,000 NT, up 17 percent), Turkey (60,000 NT, down 18 percent) and Japan (57,000 NT, down 18 percent). Through the first three months of 2020, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (572,000 NT, down 21 percent from the same period last year) and Japan (203,000 NT, down 39 percent).

#### February steel shipments up from February 2019 levels

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that for the month of February 2020, U.S. steel mills shipped 7,771,656 net tons, a 9.0 percent decrease from the 8,535,755 net tons shipped in the previous month, January 2020, and a 0.4 percent increase from the 7,744,304 net tons shipped in February 2019. Shipments year-to-date in 2020 are 16,307,411 net tons, a 3.1 percent increase vs. 2019 shipments of 15,824,061 for two months.

A comparison of February shipments to the previous month of January shows the following changes: hot dipped galvanized sheet and strip, down 4 percent, hot rolled sheet, down 5 percent and cold rolled sheets, down 6 percent.

# Salvaging Millions

by Ron Sturgeon
Autosalvageconsultant.com

#### Coronavirus – How to weather the storm

I know many of you are reeling from the current crisis caused by Coronavirus. I hope that you have taken these two steps:

•Applied for your Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan through your bank — This is quite easy, though the program got off to a slow start for a few days because the forms changed, but it is working now. I have spoken to many operators who have already received checks.

•Applied for your SBA Disaster Assistance loan – This one is peskier but applying should not take more than a few hours if you have good financial records. I don't know anyone who has collected a payment here yet, but I believe they will come. Don't forget, at the end of this application, there is a box to tick to get \$10,000 in quick assistance, within days. Remember, this program is generally used for disasters like floods and tornadoes, and generally serves people who need money to get a hotel room, because they may have lost everything. Make sure you mark the box.

I've talked to lots of business folks who were already not as profitable as they should be. I have 11 salvage yard tenants, and in the last 20 years, there has been almost no turnover. In the last six months, three have closed. They were still relying on retail and the phone calls, and missed the turn on several occasions to change their business, put people on pay for performance, computerize or learn how to use their computers better. Many of these folks are going to say Coronavirus did them in, but I believe they were already on the edge.

Some of you that I've talked with have made deep cuts, which are likely well thought out but poorly executed. My old friend Greg Winfield, who is a corporate restructuring guy, said, "Cuts are needed, but don't cut into the bone." I talked to a yard owner who had laid off or cut the wages of almost every employee. Because he needed to pause buying cars, he laid off his buyer. Never forget how many years it took you to find and train key employees. Your competitors would love to have those folks. Also, since buying is a core competency, which likely affects close to 50 percent of every dollar we bring in, losing that person and having to retool to buy cars is more key than say, training a new dismantler.

With the PPP program, keeping every employee working at full salary or paying them to go work at home positions, you to be one of the first to spring back and be at full speed with your top folks. The government forgives the loan if you do that. Losing people is just short sighted and unnecessary.

Be thoughtful. Don't panic and make quick decisions that seem necessary, but that, in the end, are flawed strategically and will hurt the long term prospects for your business.

If you are one of the weak ones, hunker down, weather the storm, but promise yourself that you will make significant changes in how you operate when this is over. Follow through and become a change agent or find someone who can fill that role. Maybe it is really time to put your son or daughter in charge!

#### 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.

#### BlueScope to delay expansion

BlueScope announced it is taking pre-emptive steps to bolster its financial strength in a period of global economic uncertainty caused by the spread of COVID-19

BlueScope managing director and chief executive officer, Mark Vassella said, "We are drawing on all our resources, experience and expertise to keep our employees, customers and communities safe and to look after their health and wellbeing. We are also taking direct action to maintain the financial strength of our business.

#### **Operational update**

"In most countries in which we operate, to date steelmaking, including its supply chain, has been viewed as an essential service and allowed to continue to operate safely. In line with advice from medical experts, we have implemented comprehensive hygiene measures at all operating sites, removal of all non-essential personnel, strict distancing protocols and regular health checks. BlueScope's sites have low employee density, with a high degree of automation enabling sites to be operated with minimum employees in attendance. However, in certain jurisdictions our operations have temporarily closed in line with government shutdowns."

Operations in Malaysia and India have temporarily closed. Operations at the New Zealand Steel have shut down for four weeks, adhering to government orders. Key equipment is being maintained to ensure longevity and safety.

"Elsewhere in Asia, as flagged three weeks ago, our China operations are ramping up in line with the progressive resumption of business activity across the country.

#### Direct action to position BlueScope to navigate COVID-19

"Financially, we remain in a strong position to withstand these uncertain times. Unaudited Group performance in the March quarter was in line with our expectations. However, no one yet knows the depth and duration of the impact of COVID-19, so BlueScope is adopting a prudent approach to the operational and financial settings that we can control," Vassella said.

The company is driving four direct interventions. Effective immediately, BlueScope has:

•Rescheduled the North Star expansion project. Construction and installation programs are being rescheduled for the next six months to minimize cash spend while preserving flexibility to resume the full scope of project activities when conditions improve. 2H FY2020 project spending is expected to be approximately \$90 to 100 million. For 1H FY2021 spending is anticipated to be approximately \$180 million which is at the low end of the previously advised annualized range.

•Reduced all non-essential capital expenditure.

•Ceased non-essential operational spending.

•Cancelled the on-market share buy-back program. BlueScope has bought \$34.4 million of shares since February as part of the extension to the buy-back of up to \$100 million during 2H FY2020. BlueScope has now cancelled the program and is unlikely to initiate further buy-backs until there is a demonstrable improvement in business conditions across its key markets.

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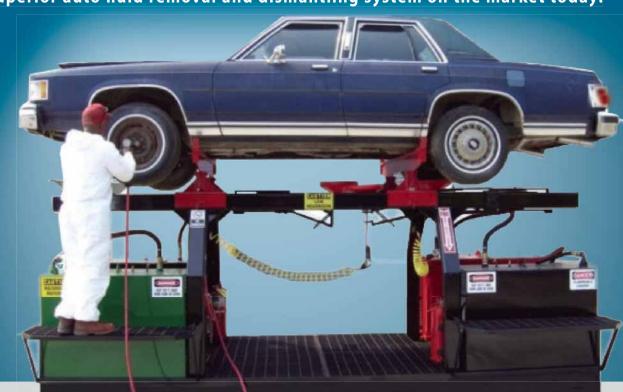
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#### **AUTOMOTIVE**

# EPA proposes updates to existing gasoline, diesel, other fuels regulations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed an action intended to streamline and modernize EPA's existing fuels regulations by eliminating costly and unnecessary duplication. Fuel standards will remain just as stringent, but the action will update EPA's existing gasoline, diesel, and other fuels regulations to help reduce compliance costs, while improving overall compliance assurance and removing approximately 800 pages of redundant regulatory text.

This action does not propose to change the stringency of the existing fuel quality standards nor does it propose to remove any statutory requirement for fuels specified by the Clean Air Act. Rather, it will help ensure consistency in how parties comply with EPA's regulatory requirements and report information to the Agency.

"Ensuring compliant fuel that protects air quality and public health is

among the highest priorities for the EPA," said EPA principal deputy administrator for the office of air and radiation Anne Idsal. "Under the Trump Administration, we are focused on reducing unnecessary and duplicative regulations that increase costs to the American people. Our goal is to start the 2021 compliance period with a set of streamlined fuel regulations that save industry, government, and the U.S. economy millions of dollars annually without sacrificing any environmental protection."

In this action, EPA proposes to streamline existing fuels regulations by deleting expired provisions, eliminating redundant compliance provisions, and removing unnecessary and out-of-date requirements. The proposal will replace them with a single set of provisions and definitions that will apply across all gasoline, diesel, and other fuels programs.

EPA estimates \$32.9 million annually in administrative cost savings to industry. These savings would largely arise from the reduction of the administrative costs on both regulated parties and EPA in complying with and implementing the existing fuel quality standards. Other potentially significant savings are expected to occur by improving the ability to efficiently deliver compliant fuel through the system and by providing greater flexibility for fuel production and distribution.

EPA is proposing the regulations would replace the existing regulations on January 1, 2021. The agency believes having an implementation date at the beginning of a new compliance period will provide for a smooth transition to new regulatory requirements.

Once published in the Federal Register, there will be a 60 day public comment period.

#### **PAPER**

# AF&PA releases paper reports

The American Forest & Paper Association released its March 2020 U.S. paper reports.

#### Containerboard

Total containerboard production in March increased 10 percent compared to March 2019. It was up eight percent when compared to the same three months of 2019.

•March 2020 production of containerboard for export increased 39 percent compared to the same month last year; it was up 44 percent year-to-date

•The containerboard operating rate was 93.3 percent, up 7.3 points from March 2019 and up 4.5 points year-to-

#### **Printing-Writing Paper Report**

According to the report, total printing-writing paper shipments decreased four percent in March compared to March 2019. U.S. purchases of total printing-writing papers decreased seven percent in March compared to the same month last year. Total printing-writing paper inventory levels decreased four percent when compared to February 2020.

•Uncoated free sheet (UFS) paper shipments decreased five percent compared to March 2019 while the inventory level decreased seven percent compared to February 2020. UFS imports decreased 19 percent while exports increased 13 percent in February 2020.

•U.S. purchases of coated free sheet (CFS) papers in March decreased nine percent compared to last March while the inventory level increased two percent compared to February 2020. CFS imports decreased five percent while exports increased 12 percent in February 2020.

•Coated mechanical (CM) paper shipments decreased three percent compared to March 2019 while the inventory level decreased three percent compared to February 2020. CM imports decreased 35 percent while exports increased 19 percent in February 2020.

•U.S. purchases of uncoated mechanical (UM) papers in March decreased seven percent compared to last March while the inventory level decreased three percent compared to February 2020. UM imports and exports both decreased compared to February 2019, down 21 percent and 17 percent respectively.

#### U.S. Packaging Papers & Specialty Packaging

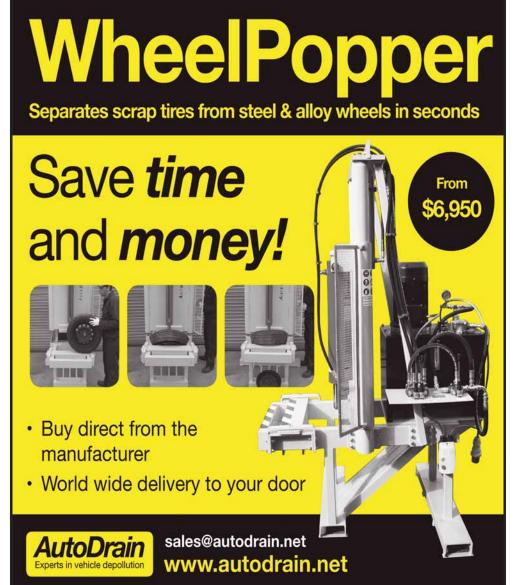
Total packaging papers and specialty packaging shipments in March increased three percent compared to March 2019. They were up one percent when compared to the same three months of 2019.

•The operating rate was 92.6 percent, up 2.3 points from March 2019 and down 0.5 points year-to-date.

## KAR Global changes to simulcast-only sales

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, KAR Global is making sure our teams, marketplaces, services and technology remain safe, operational and ready to serve our customers. In accordance with national, regional and local health agencies across North America and Europe, and

to help minimize the risk of exposure, KAR Global is immediately transitioning to Simulcast-only sales at all U.S. and Canada Adesa auction locations until further notice. Additionally, KAR Global is waiving all Simulcast Success Fees for sellers and buyers through April 3, 2020.



While all sales will run at their regularly scheduled times, vehicles will not run through the lanes and dealers will not be allowed on the premises. Bids can be placed online via Simulcast on adesa.com, adesa.ca or the Adesa Marketplace app. Bidders will need valid adesa.com or adesa.ca login credentials (user name and password) and buy permissions enabled for their adesa.com/adesa.ca account. More information can be found on adesa.com/Simulcast.

Unless otherwise noted, our offices, branches and auction locations will remain open for normal business operations — including vehicle previews and title and payment processing — outside of scheduled sales.

On sale days, the auctions will open for regular business including title and payment processing outside of sale hours. Dealers may preview vehicles onsite up to and including on sale day but will not be permitted inside Adesa locations during sale hours. Also, AFC branches within Adesa auction locations will remain open for business as scheduled, except during sale hours.

We are prepared to provide solutions to meet our customers' remarketing needs including our digital marketplaces – always safe, convenient and effective alternatives to inperson sales.

My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, "Well, Becky? Do you think you'll be next?"

I managed to stop this line of questioning quickly now that I've started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

May 2020, Page A17 **American Recycler** 

#### **PLASTICS**

#### Recycling demand program launched

NERC and the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) have formally announced their new partnership to grow a groundbreaking campaign that expands market demand for recycled resins and improves plastic recycling in North America. The Government Recycling Demand Champions, a companion to APR's well established Recycling Demand Champions Campaign, will be tailored to state, regional and local governments around the U.S. It will be hosted by NERC, working in close collaboration with APR.

"The recycling community has long been interested in supporting increased purchasing of products made with postconsumer resin (PCR) by government entities. NERC adopted a policy to encourage such actions early this year. The Government Recycling Demand Champions is an exciting opportunity to engage directly with government at all levels to support their interest and grow this important activity," said Lynn Rubinstein, NERC executive director, and Government Recycling Demand Champion program manager.

Among the products with postconsumer recycled content (PCR) that government entities will be encouraged to purchase will be plastic:

- •Infrastructure drainage pipes
- Trash bags
- Roll-out carts
- •Recycling and garbage containers
- Benches
- Outdoor furniture
- •Plastic lumber, piers, decking
- •Other PCR containing products

"This program has the potential to dramatically increase demand for recycled resin in a wide variety of products, including new applications such as recycled content in recycling carts, government procurement and infraprojects," explained structure Stephanie Baker, director of procurement at KW Plastics. "By combining efforts with the states through a partnership with NERC, we hope to drive even greater demand in the government marketplace, and include the concept of utilizing recycled content as a key component of state procurement programs."

Q. What did one blade of grass say to another about the tack of rain?

## Brightmark narrows search for next advanced plastic recycling plant locations

Brightmark, a global waste solutions provider, is prioritizing its search for locations for its next advanced plastic recycling plants to key regions in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Texas. The company plans to make its final site selection decisions by the third quarter of 2020 and plans to have at least two sites shovel-ready by 2021.

This announcement represents Brighmark's move into the second phase of its nationwide site search for U.S. locations suitable for its next set of plastics renewal facilities. The company's plastics renewal technology takes single stream, post-use plastics and converts them into ultra-low sulfur diesel, naphtha and wax, at a scale never achieved before. The process is also capable of creating the building blocks for new plastics, thus enabling a circular economy in the plastics industry.

"The U.S. is facing a major plastics recycling shortfall. We've got a proven, unique, market ready solution, which we are scaling up nationally to meet this demand," explained chief executive officer Bob Powell. "Communities are struggling with a deluge of contaminated plastics, and we have been overwhelmed with the level of interest in our solution from communities across the states. With recent events affecting all of our communities, we are excited to be investing in jobs and economic activity in our partner communities. I have spoken with multiple community leaders who have been enthusiastic to partner with Brightmark as we expand our plastics renewal locations."

Brightmark expects to make investments of approximately \$500 million to \$1B at each site location, directly creating hundreds of new jobs in each host community selected through this process, with significant additional indirect economic activity anticipated to occur in each chosen community as a result of the projects. Each plant will process hundreds of thousands of tons of plastics each year.

During the first phase of Brightmark's site search process, more than 100 communities nationwide participated in an open "indication of A. I guess we'll just have to make dew. interest" process. CBRE partnered with

Brightmark to research these locations, as well as other localities nationwide.

The next phase of Brightmark's selection process will include a deeper dive into potential key regions and specific site locations in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Texas. Ideal locations are those able to offer strong local, regional, and state support for project development through incentives and improved plastic recycling programs; access to at least 200,000 tons per year of co-mingled plastic waste (types one to seven); access to 30 to 100 acres of suitable land with excellent access to rail and highways; and natural gas and electric utility support for such a

Brightmark is currently completing construction of a \$260 million plastics renewal facility in Northeast Indiana, which will accept 100,000 tons of plastics each year for conversion into new products - significantly more than any other facility of its kind. The plant is expected to begin producing fuels and wax later this year and will be operating at full capacity in early 2021. The feedstock for the Ashley, Indiana plastics renewal facility will be sourced from Indiana, Ohio and the Chicago metro area.

#### New York DEC delays plastic bag ban

The New York Department of Conservation posted a notice on its website announcing a delay in enforcement of their plastic bag ban from April 1 to May 15.

The bag ban enforcement was delayed due to a suit brought on by a plastic bag manufacturer and New York businesses who said they had little time to prepare. The plaintiffs' lawsuit also challenges the regulations as "arbitrary and capricious".

The suit is on hold as the courts prioritize cases amid the coronavirus

Industry groups called the move a blessing for retailers as well as customers who are worried about using reusable bags at a time when contamination is a key concern.

"This comes as welcome news for retailers and consumers alike as we work together through unprecedented challenges," Matt Seaholm. the executive director of the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance said in a statement. "There is ample scientific research concluding reusable bags can contribute to the spread of bacteria and viruses, and now more than ever we need to take every step possible to ensure that New Yorkers are safe and healthy."



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Page A18, May 2020 American Recycler

#### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### Komatsu rebrands owned North American distributors

To better support customers and leverage the power of their wholly-owned network, Komatsu has created a new structure in North America to strengthen the growth of company-owned distributor branches. A new corporate unit within Komatsu has been created and effective immediately, all company-owned distributor locations will be branded simply "Komatsu" to reflect their inclusion in the company's global footprint.

The change supports Komatsu's plans to grow and strengthen its distribution channels. With the alignment of these larger groups of distributors, customers will have access to additional equipment and parts inventory, as well as greater service and support resources. Trade territory for the renamed branches remains the same, as do all equipment lines sold and services provided.

Grant Adams, former president of Komatsu Southwest, has been appointed to lead the new unit as vice president and general manager of company-owned distribution. His responsibilities will include defining strategy, managing profitability and continuing to develop strength in regional leadership teams.

The rebrand affects the branches along the eastern seaboard formerly named: Pine Bush Equipment, Midlantic Machinery, Komatsu Northeast and Edward Ehrbar; those in New Mexico and Texas under the name Komatsu Southwest; and sites in Nevada, Montana, Utah and Wyoming under the Komatsu Equipment Company banner.

# Covanta declares regular quarterly cash dividend

Covanta Holding Corporation announced that the board of directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.25 per share, payable to stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 27, 2020.

## US Ecology forms responsibility committee

US Ecology, Inc. announced that the company's board of directors has formed a Corporate Responsibility and Risk Committee to oversee and monitor the company's enterprise-wide approach to risk management and provide guidance to management with respect to social and environmental initiatives, among other matters. The committee will be comprised of board members Melanie Steiner, Glenn A. Eisenberg, Daniel Fox, and John T. Sahlberg, with Melanie Steiner as its chair.

#### Talbert names dealer award winners

Talbert Manufacturing, a North American leader in specialized heavy-haul solutions, named Hale Trailer Brake & Wheel, headquartered in Voorhees, New Jersey, as its top dealer for 2019. This award recognizes outstanding performance in trailer sales, service and parts on behalf of Talbert Manufacturing. This is the 12th year in a row Hale has outperformed other Talbert dealers to take the top spot. The dealership was also recognized as the top parts seller for the year.

Hale is a full service trailer dealership with 12 locations from Maine to Florida. The dealership sells new and used trailers and related equipment. The dealership also rents trailers, sells commercial trailer parts and accessories, and provides general trailer service and repairs.

Talbert also named Alamo City Trailer Sales LLC, serving central Texas and beyond, as the most improved dealer of 2019 and one of the top 10 dealers overall.

Alamo City Trailer Sales has been a leader in new and used trailer sales for over a decade. The chain of full-service dealerships has three locations — San Antonio, Luling and Austin, Texas — offers rentals, parts, service and financing in addition to new and used sales.

#### BluMetric chooses director, chair, stock option grants

BluMetric Environmental Inc. announced that Jane Pagel, Geoff Simonett, Jeffrey W. Talley, Scott MacFabe and Ian Macdonald were elected to BluMetric's board of directors at its annual general meeting of shareholders held in March. Ian Macdonald is a new director and is subject to TSX Venture approval.

Ian Macdonald, M.Sc., P.Geo., EP (CEA) is a professional geoscientist and certified environmental auditor. He has been with BluMetric and its affiliates for more than 34 years working in the earth science and auditing fields. Macdonald manages projects in multiple sites and multiple jurisdictions across Canada in the areas of contaminant hydrogeology and remediation, source water protection, waste management and management systems. Macdonald is a past president of the PGO (Professional Geoscientists Ontario), has been a member of numerous municipal and institutional advisory committees, and has a wide understanding of consulting services.

BluMetric also announced the appointment of Geoff Simonett as chair of its board of directors. He has been an independent director since March 2016. During this time, he has served as chair of the human resources and compensation committee as well as chair of the audit committee.

## Veolia North America recognized for technology

Helping businesses reduce energy consumption is a key driver for Veolia North America, which is why the company was recently presented with a 2019 SEAL Environmental Initiative Award for its innovative Hubgrade smart monitoring system, which helps buildings better manage their energy use.

The SEAL Environmental Initiative Award is part of the annual SEAL Business Sustainability Awards recognizing firms throughout the U.S. for promoting a more environmentally sustainable business model.

Veolia North America is included among a list of impressive companies, including Adidas, Disneyland and Coca-Cola, to be recognized with the Environmental Initiative Award for identifying and implementing specific programs designed to create a more sustainable business environment. An additional 50 companies received the SEAL Organizational Impact Award for overall sustainability performance in 2019.

A man's bragging about his promotion to vice president got so out of hand even his wife was annoyed. "Look, being a vice president isn't that special," she said. "They even have a vice president of peas at the supermarket!" Not believing her for one second, the man called the supermarket and demanded, "Get me the vice president of peas!" The clerk replied, "Fresh, canned or frozen?"

# Novelis leaders elected to aluminum initiative positions

The Aluminum Stewardship Initiative (ASI) elected Nick Madden to the board of directors and Jessica Sanderson to the standards committee. ASI is a global, non profit standards setting and certification organization bringing together producers, users and stakeholders to maximize the contribution of aluminum to a sustainable society.

An expert in aluminum metal markets and a 42 year industry veteran, Madden joins the board as part of its production and transformation membership class. Madden has held senior leadership roles at Novelis, including leading procurement for many years. He recently stepped down and is undertaking strategic projects for the company's chief executive officer.

Sanderson, who serves as Novelis' director of sustainability, will support the committee's focus on standards development and revision, the ASI assurance model, and monitoring and evaluation of impacts.

Recently, two Novelis plants in Europe received ASI certifications. The company's Ohle, Germany plant was recently awarded the Performance Standard and Chain of Custody Certification. In addition, the Ohle plant also earned the Chain of Custody Certification for the Novelis' Alunorf joint venture. The certifications mean Novelis can supply independently certified, responsibly sourced and sustainably manufactured aluminum products to global customers.

#### Cleveland-Cliffs suspends construction of project

Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc., following guidelines from the office of the Governor of Ohio regarding COVID-19 virus concerns, the company is temporarily shutting down construction activities at its hot-briquetted iron (HBI) project site in Toledo, Ohio.

Cleveland-Cliffs will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will re-start construction of the HBI plant as soon as feasible. All other Cleveland-Cliffs iron ore mining and steelmaking facilities will remain in operation.

#### Schnitzer names new chairman of the board

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. announced that its board of directors has unanimously elected Tamara L. Lundgren to succeed John D. Carter as chairman of the board.

Lundgren will continue to serve as Schnitzer's president and chief executive officer, a role she has held since December 2008. Carter will continue to serve as a member of the board and will serve as chairman emeritus until the January 2021 annual meeting. Wayland R. Hicks will continue in his role as lead independent director.



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May 2020, Page A19 **American Recycler** 



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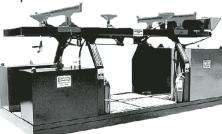
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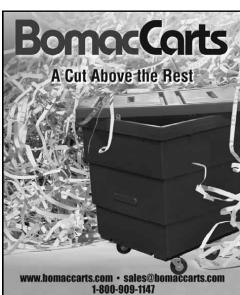
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#### **Miscellaneous**

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SECTION B www.AMERICANRECYCLER.com MAY 2020

# The pandemic's impact on the waste industry

by MAURA KELLER

mkeller@americanrecycler.com

As the world continues to grapple with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, waste and recycling industry players are asking, "What's next?" and "How is this pandemic going to permanently alter our industry?"

As Arnold Bowers, business solutions director at ENGIE Impact explained, the waste and recycling industry is facing the same challenges as most other essential industries that will continue to operate over the next few months.

"To start, businesses must prioritize their employees' health and safety as they work their pickup routes and interact with customers or other passerbys," Bowers said. "In the long term, the industry will need healthy employees to drive trucks, pick up the waste and recycle materials, operate dispatch and support maintaining equipment, which ranges from trucks to trash compactors."

In Bowers' opinion, with the majority of businesses remaining closed over the next few months, COVID-19 will have a large economic impact on the waste and recycling industry from an operations perspective. These extended closures will result in smaller and lighter loads being collected, which causes fewer tons being delivered to company-owned and operated landfills.

"I spoke with a waste truck driver last week, who told me that his schedule had been adjusted to minimize hours and costs for the company, which in turn, reduces the company's revenue," Bow-



There's no denying that COVID-19's impact on the waste industry will be seen in both the short and long term, and will come in multiple waves.

ers said. "While this is just a specific example, it highlights how operating adjustments affect everyone from internal stakeholders like employees to external stakeholders of waste companies' stock."

John Osborne, district manager at GZA, a firm providing geotechnical, environmental, ecological, water and construction management service, said, "At this time, it is very difficult to determine how the market will react to COVID-19. The value of materials could change wildly for the next couple of weeks, but I anticipate prices will become less volatile over time as the pandemic becomes a more 'normalized' part of our daily lives."

Osborne pointed to industries such as automotive manufacturing shutting down facilities for extended periods, which will result in markets losing thousands of tons of higher-value recyclable materials such as scrap metal, corrugated cardboard, and wood pallets.

"More people working from home digitally will also mean less well-sorted paper and cardboard coming from office environments as well," Osborne said. "I do not expect increases in residential recycling attributable to people staying home and practicing social distancing and self-quarantining will come anywhere close to replacing the missing volumes from industrial and

office facilities. The economics will be extremely challenging for recycling companies to justify the labor-intensive practice of extracting enough usable recyclables from residential streams to make up for what they've been sourcing from better sorted, higher value industrial and commercial streams that are now drying up."

When Bowers attended the Global Waste Management Symposium in 2016, a member of the waste industry discussed Ebola's effect on waste generation protocols.

"I believe that the strategies adopted during that time should be revisited to help reduce the industry's potential impact on virus spread," Bowers said. "These protocols include altering the way waste loads are managed throughout their full lifecycle, from initial pickup to disposal at the incineration facility. Additionally, companies should supply employees who handle waste and recycling materials with personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate spread."

Keeping an open line of communication with employees will also go a long way. This includes safety update meetings, driver huddles and management talks with front line employees who risk coming into contact with COVID-19 during their daily routes of picking up, sorting, and disposing of solid waste and recycling today.

#### **A Positive Outcome**

What, if any, positive impact will the coronavirus crisis have on the industry? As Bowers pointed out, the prolonged isolation caused by COVID-19 has created less pollution in cities across the globe. For the waste industry specifically, fewer waste and recycling trucks on the road is reducing the levels of CO2 being generated, and the usual wear and tear to the physical infrastructure of our highways and roads is reduced.

"However, it's hard to focus on these positive impacts when they're associated with lower employment levels and economic downturns," Bower said. "Regardless of the positive impacts we're seeing in terms of reduced waste and emissions as a result of COVID-19, we must remember that these are short-term benefits. We will be much better served in the long term by

See PANDEMIC, Page B2

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# Container First Services awards notable employees

Container First Services (CFS), a whollyowned subsidiary of Meridian Waste, an integrated, non-hazardous solid waste services company, named the 2019 CFS Outstanding Employees who serve the greater Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia areas.

CFS held their annual employee appreciation dinner honoring their outstanding employees who went above and beyond in their respective roles.

"We had some very tough decisions to make in deciding who earned these top honors," said CFS area president Rob Guidry. "We have an outstanding team who continually garner positive feedback from customers and from coworkers."

The Employee of the Year and Residential Driver of the Year awards went to Eugene Miles. In addition to his name being added to the office plaque with the past distinguished Employees of the Year, Miles received a jacket embroidered with his name and the company logo.

"With over four years servicing residential homes in the Tri-City area and Ashland, Miles is a great asset to this company. He is always the one to step up and ensure the job is done in a professional and timely manner," said Guidry. "There have been several occasions when the supervisor has gone to help at other locations, and without hesitation, Miles has always stepped in to help lead his team. He is truly a valued employee here at CFS."



Photo, from left to right: Jeff Kraus (vice president hauling operations), Larry Smith (frontload driver of the year), Roynel Pegram (roll-off driver of the year), William Vaughan (service/frontload manager), Eugene Miles (residential driver of the year & employee of the year), Rob Guidry (area president), Cory Cleaton (landfill employee of the year), Manuel Servellon (support services of the year), and Mike Vess (safety manager).

The awards and recognition dinner was open to all employees with 80 in attendance. Every award has its plaque to which each of the recipients' names is added.

Criteria for the honors included the following categories: 1) Attitude and Commitment, 2) Interpersonal Skills, 3) Work Performance, and 4) Personal Traits. The nominees must be full-time employees and nominated by management prior to review by leadership. Safety remains one of the highest elements of performance.

# NWRA Georgia Chapter participates in salute to sanitation workers

The National Waste & Recycling Association's (NWRA) Georgia Chapter is participating with its customers in a "Salute to Sanitation Workers" campaign in their communities. Many communities around the country have already implemented similar efforts to recognize the important work of waste collection workers during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Department of Homeland Security designated the solid waste industry as part of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.

"We thank our customers and the communities we serve in Georgia for organizing this campaign. During this national emergency, NWRA Georgia Chapter members will continue providing waste and recycling services in order to protect the public's health and safety. The employees of member companies are on the front lines making sure that the waste that is generated during this health crisis is disposed of properly," said NWRA Georgia chapter chair and GFL regional vice president and Jason Zepp.

On April 7, Zepp and his GFL colleagues participated in a sendoff parade for their employees as part of a "Salute to Sanitation Workers" campaign in the community. They were joined by Merlin Knight from the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce and Union City Mayor Vince Williams.

"Where would we be without them? Could you imagine during this pandemic what additional tragedy we would have if our sanitation workers were not able to pick up each and every week as they do so dutifully?" asked Mayor Williams.

Other NWRA Georgia chapter members such as Republic, Advanced Disposal, and Waste Management have participated in similar activities throughout the state.

# New Jersey senate passes food waste recycling bill

The New Jersey Senate passed a food waste recycling bill that would expand the definition of Class I renewables to include electricity generated from methane produced through food waste processing. The bill was released from the Senate by a vote of 22 to 17 and has been sent to Governor Phil Murphy.

The legislation, A2371, would require large food waste generators to source separate food waste from other solid waste and send that material to an authorized food waste recycling facility rather than to a landfill.

The requirement would pertain to food waste generators that produced 52 tons or more of food waste annually and are within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facil-

ity. These large food waste generators would also be able to perform enclosed on-site composting or anaerobic or aerobic digestion of source separated food waste or recycle food waste using alternative authorized food waste recycle methods.

Large food waste generators would be able to petition the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for a waiver of the recycling requirement if the cost of transporting the food waste plus the fee charged by an food waste recycling facility is at least 10 percent more than the cost of disposing of the material using a properly licensed transfer station, sanitary landfill, incinerator or resource recovery facility also located within 25 miles of the large food waste generator.

# **Pandemic**

continuing to invest in natural gas, alternative fuels and electric vehicles in order to maintain positive change in the future."

The positive impact for almost every business during times of stress like this is that it gives businesses time to assess the holes in their company and work toward plugging those holes, said Josh Allen, chief executive officer of Global Disposal Inc., a waste and recycling consulting company that works with municipalities, home owners associations and commercial properties throughout California.

"We want to make sure that everything we are doing is efficient and effective, and during these times we get the opportunity to test the stability and strength of our businesses," Allen said. "I think this disaster has given people working in the waste and recycling industry a feeling of safety because this industry is truly necessary work. It's always good to know that your job is necessary."

#### **Long lasting Impact**

There's no denying that COVID-19's impact on the waste industry will be seen in both the short and long term, and will come in multiple waves.

According to Osborne, the magnitude of the impact will largely be dependent on the recycling industry's ability to pivot from their typical material sources and recycled products customers to focus on those that remain strong during this unique pandemic-dictated economy. Considering the overwhelming national demand for

#### ■Continued from Page B1

paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper, demand from producers of such products for recycled paper may provide a seam of growth for the recyclable materials industry.

Allen also stressed that the industry will see a focus towards increased efficiency, more automation and less driver activity at the container. "I do think that any interruption in the waste industry services will be short-lived, and the waste industry will be operating at full swing quickly," Allen said. "We should not see any long term impact on the strength of this market."

However Bowers pointed out that the drastic closures of shopping malls, movie theaters, restaurants and entertainment venues also have already impacted the daily service routes of the waste hauler trucks and drivers on our roads today, undoubtedly impacting company revenue in the short term. In addition, companies who were already struggling prior to COVID-19 may be pushed to bankruptcy, creating permanent loss to the industry.

"The length of shutdowns and how fast the economy can recover post-COVID-19 will most certainly be the leading indicators to how fast the waste and recycling industry can recover," Bowers said. "I also believe there will be lessons learned from the prolonged closures that will influence how waste and recycling companies refocus their resources to better provide safe and efficient service methods in the future."

# A EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

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#### **UPCOMING TOPICS**

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#### SWANA asks FEMA to reimburse service workers

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sent a letter urging FEMA to establish a system to compensate the public and private sector solid waste and recycling industry for providing essential collection and disposal services that may otherwise go unfunded through this COVID-19 pandemic. Solid waste management was identified as an essential critical infrastructure workforce in the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) memo, and has been listed as essential in every emergency order issued at the state level in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SWANA's letter expands on a previous request to cover both municipal providers and the private sector. With residential collection frequently provided by municipal providers, and residential volumes increasing, this request is particularly timely. SWANA represents individuals employed at both municipal sanitation departments and private companies throughout the United States.

"The SWANA letter asks FEMA to protect both municipal and private sector organizations that provide essential services," said Executive director and chief executive officer David Biderman. "Since both the public and private sectors collect and manage solid waste and recyclables, SWANA's letter asserts that all sanitation departments, haulers, and postcollection companies providing services during the COVID-19 pandemic without being paid for them should be eligible for reimbursement."

SWANA's letter requests that "FEMA ensure funding is made available across the country to municipalities and their private sector partners to cover all of the costs incurred to provide these essential services during this national emergency. It is imperative that solid waste management continue uninterrupted at this critical time. FEMA can help protect public health and safety by committing to cover the costs of essential services provided that aren't paid by the service recipients (e.g., customer bad debts)."

# Chemical Recycling Europe calls for collaboration with the waste industry to increase recycling

the private waste management and resource industry, published the results of its analysis of chemical recycling. Chemical Recycling Europe supports constructive dialogues with regard to chemical recycling and would like to clarify some observations issued in the FEAD's analysis:

•Chemical Recycling Europe (ChemRecEurope) would emphasize that chemical recycling complements other recycling processes and it's one of the solutions to tackle the plastic waste issue. When mechanical recycling is unable to treat the polymer waste (or not in an economically viable manner), chemical recycling provides a unique opportunity to recycle those difficult-to-recycle waste streams and convert them to high-quality secondary raw materials. Unlike mechanical recycling, chemical recycling provides different technologies for the recycling of different polymer types which makes it necessary to build a common understanding of the chemical recycling concept – including its definition – across the plastic value chain. ChemRecEurope supports any initiative to reach this common under-

•ChemRecEurope welcomed the FEAD's conclusion on the definition of recycling in the Waste Framework Directive which confirms that the current technology neutral definition appropriately addresses "chemical recycling". In line with the definition, use of the output as fuels automatically falls under the energy recovery level in the waste hierarchy.

•As an industry, we are committed to provide, as soon as the development of the industry enables us, an independent Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to ensure that chemical recycling creates a value for the environment. ChemRecEurope highlighted two main

1. CO2 footprint is not enough to assess the full impact of chemical

FEAD, the representative body of recycling. They would therefore run a ners, which would not have associated more holistic LCA looking at a broader range of indicators, as well as understanding the quality and value of the recyclate produced (by mechanical and chemical recycling).

> 2. The comparison with mechanical recycling is often complicated given that it is a different feedstock in and a different (higher-quality) product out, generally used for food-grade or other than plastic production applications. Chemical recycling is tackling issues such as contamination, removal of chemical and mineral additives, colors, multilayered (ML) or mixed plastics that mechanical recycling cannot address without additional cleaning/washing steps and a thorough separation by polymer types which is often not possible or too costly. Their LCA are not directly comparable as they address different problem waste streams (input) and different demands (output), that are very much complementary.

> •ChemRecEurope regrets the use of unjustified statements regarding the impact of chemical recycling and its feasibility at industrial scale. Regarding economic feasibility of chemical recycling, many large industrial plants have been announced and are in the pipeline in Europe with global part

their names nor put chemical recycling as key to their strategic direction if they did not believe in the feasibility at industrial scale.

•Protecting consumer health and the environment is a key strategic goal. To ensure this, they believe that secondary raw materials leaving the recycling plant should be in compliance with the relevant legal provisions such as REACH or waste legislations. It is worth mentioning that chemical recycling is more tolerant towards contaminants and thus can treat low quality feedstocks and produce high-quality secondary raw materials to be used even at food contact applications. However, there is lack of alignment between waste and product legislations that needs to be clarified.

The growing demand for chemical recycling output from the global brands and the chemical industry in order to reach the ambitious recycling targets for plastics set by the EU, will require a strong collaboration with the whole plastic value chain to make it a reality. The waste management sector has a key role to play in this chain and we therefore call for a constructive collaboration to enable the development of new solutions, such as chemical recycling, to reach these goals.



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# EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

# Containers

#### by MARY M. THORNTON

maryt@americanrecycler.com

Waste container manufacturers continue to adapt to market conditions and demand as practices continue to evolve with the way in which waste is handled and ultimately dispatched, whether to a landfill or some other source that may repurpose the waste.

"For over 50 years, Meese has pioneered the design and development of innovative plastic products. We deliver superior, rugged, ergonomically-designed, bulk containers for storage and transport of any type of waste or other material. Meese customers get the best quality containers, made using the most sophisticated plastic molding system in the world," Dan Rodriguez, sales and marketing vice president, stated.

Rodriguez continued, "The P291 and the P333 (taller than the P291) are durable bulk containers made of rotationally molded, waterproof, chemical resistant HDPE (high density polyethylene) with standard features that contribute to easy lifting and storing. These bulk forklift containers handle products of all kinds. They stack when covered, nest when empty and are built with two way fork access to make lifting easier and safer. As they are nestable, they offer optimum shipping, handling and storage when empty. Both product types feature standard, durable, removable and rotomolded lids. This allows for easy stacking when full and their smooth poly interior ensures complete emptying every time."

T.M. FITZGERALD & ASSOCIATES



Molok

Meese also offers the P291UN/DOT, as rugged and durable a bulk container as the P291 but with certification for secure storage and transport of regulated and unregulated materials. Contents are guaranteed to stay inside and intact when flipped over and the product is fitted with four, military-grade, side release buckles and durable, waterproof, poly nylon straps. An optional, hinged panel provides quick inspection without removing the lid of the P333 and P433 models. The P433 UN/DOT offers certification for secure storage and transport of regulated and unregulated materials. Optional casters allow for manual handling when empty and optional fork safety tubes help secure the load.

Molok® provides outdoor waste containment systems for trash, recycling, organics and used cooking oil. Mark Hillis, president and chief executive officer, said, "Once in use, all of our containers are two-thirds underground, which offers benefits relative to odor control, hygienic handling, pest control and greater capacity. This is all due to basic laws of nature that involve coolness of the earth and gravity. New waste always caps older waste, compacting the older material and minimizing odors. Because of our product's secure containment design, pests cannot obtain access to the waste. Containers are used wherever waste is generated, including parks and other open spaces - as well as industrial, commercial, institutional and residential settings. Product size ranges from 0.4 cubic yards up to 6.5 cubic yards. Due to the Molok vertical product design and small surface area, the waste material contained compacts to 1.5 to 2 times the volume of the container, by weight.

The container vertical capacity is also related to the minimal product service and space requirements. With a capacity of 1 cubic yard and a safe working load of 880 pounds, our containers are among the largest and most secure for organics available, and easily accessible by persons of all ages and abilities."

See CONTAINERS, Page B5

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**Continued on Page B5** 



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#### Republic Services added to ethical company list

Republic Services, Inc. has been recognized for the fourth consecutive year as one of the 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies® by Ethisphere, a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business

The 2020 list recognizes 132 companies in 21 countries and 51 industries. These corporations illustrate how companies can be the driving force for improving communities, building capable and empowered workforces, and fostering corporate cultures focused on ethics and a strong sense of

# Washington governor signs law mandating "do not flush" labeling on disposable wipes

Washington Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D-34) joined the Association of Washington Cities and INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, in applauding Governor Inslee's signing of HB 2565, a law intended to address the labeling of certain disposable wipes.

The law, spearheaded by Rep. Fitzgibbon, chairman of the Washington House Environment and Energy Committee, represents a months-long cooperative effort between a coalition of Washington wastewater and municipal sector stakeholders led by the Association of Washington Cities and INDA, the trade association representcame together to tackle the problem of consumers flushing baby wipes, surface cleaning wipes and other "nonflushable" wipes that are not designed to be disposed of in sewer systems. The law requires packages of these wipes to carry prominent "Do Not Flush" labeling to help guide consumers to dispose of them appropriately in the trash.

"I introduced this legislation in response to concerns voiced by Washington sewer system operators that consumers are flushing certain categories of wipes that are not intended to be," said Representative Fitzgibbon. "I was pleased to sponsor legislation that

ing the wipes industry. The groups brought together municipalities and industry to find a common sense solution to this problem and am proud that Washington is the first state in the nation to tackle this issue in a meaningful way."

> "Improperly flushed wipes can be a contributing cause to sewer clogs and wastewater spills," said Peter King, chief executive officer of the Association of Washington Cities. "This bill was a collaborative effort between government and industry, which will provide consumers with clear disposal direction and protect the public's sewer and wastewater systems."

# Containers

**■**Continued from Page B4

Emptied by an articulated crane, the benefits are two fold - added versatility in container location and enhanced waste control. Containers can be installed in places most convenient for users of all ages and abilities – and relative to optimal design within the intended environment. Also, because contents are lifted out, there is never any moving or tipping of the container. This means less dripping, escaped litter and pest attraction.

In 1991, Molok was established in Finland and the firm rapidly expanded across Europe. The company started their North American division in 1999, and in 2012, built a facility to provide full manufacturing and distribution for that market. Containers are now installed in over 40 countries and there are original containers still in use.

Deborah Bergen, general manager, noted that TMF Corporation "has delivered quality products and responsive customer service since 1988. Our product line and expertise in plastics continues to grow." The firm manufactures and distributes plastic containers and products to the solid waste and commercial food industries and government at all levels. The firm's main customer base is municipal, county and state government entities, which use the containers for community wide curbside collection. TMF's TripleRCan® containers and lids are used across the nation for yard and solid waste as well as recycling needs of clients in various settings: private, educational, business, even ski resorts.

TipleRCans are used for the collection of beverage bottles and cans that may have otherwise been landfilled. On beaches, military bases and in offices, the containers remind folks to recycle. "Our durable, time tested containers are available in an array of bright colors and can include custom logos as well. Our lid options include solid configuration or not, so that items such as plastic or glass beverage containers can be easily deposited. We have the products to meet your needs, whether custom or not. We thoroughly understand the var-



TMF Corporation

ious industries we serve and as a whole, we have always kept our word. That practice has earned us a very loyal, satisfied customer base," commented Bergen.

She said TMF offers a range of custom options that are seldom found anywhere else and they stock a large supply of standard products. Additionally, the company stocks the Protech Pallet in both standard and fire retardant material.

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#### SWANA urges people to dispose of gloves and masks properly

A substantial increase in improperly discarded gloves and masks causes concern for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). As the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) grows to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the amount of litter and trash has increased.

SWANA urges Americans to dispose of these materials properly and recycle right during this pandemic, stating it is even more crucial now than ever before.

"No one should be leaving used plastic gloves or masks on the ground in a parking lot or tossing them into the bushes," said David Biderman, SWANA executive director and chief executive officer. "Discarded contaminated PPE on the ground increases the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and has negative impacts on the environment."

SWANA reminds the public to use fresh PPE to avoid cross contamination. When you are no longer using your PPE, be sure to find a trash can to dispose of them. Everyone can do their part to slow the spread of the coronavirus by practicing sanitary behavior, properly discarding all masks, gloves, and wipes, and following social distancing orders.



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The 35 ton trailer is rated at 70,000 lbs. concentrated in 20' and features hydraulic ramps for safe, efficient loading and unloading in confined spaces.

The trailer's fixed neck provides an economic alternative to removable gooseneck designs for operators that don't require a front unload option. The 35FG-BVTL has an 84" swing radius and 18" kingpin setting for increased maneuverability and versatility.

# NYC Sanitation launches two new initiatives for better waste management

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) announced two new initiatives to better manage the tons of waste created by city residents and businesses. New York City is denser than any other American city and lacks alleyways common in other locations. Because of this, New Yorkers for more than a century have placed their waste out for collection on the city sidewalks. These initiatives seek to promote alternative strategies for setting out and managing waste for collection, opening up sidewalks for other uses.

First, DSNY published a proposed rule in the City Record that would require all new apartment buildings with 300 or more units to utilize containerized collection for their waste and submit a waste management plan to be approved by the Department of Sanitation. Many residential building developers do not adequately plan for the volumes of waste their future residents will generate. This results in large piles of bags left curbside on narrow sidewalks and accessible to critters looking for a meal. Containerization requires waste to be kept in large containers, which are collected by specialized Sanitation trucks, not put in bags on the sidewalk awaiting collection by hand. Covered buildings that do not comply with this requirement will not be eligible to sanitation collection services. The rule will also cover any commercial-to-residential conversion with more than 300 units.

"City pedestrians navigate around piles of trash and recycling that take up significant sidewalk space," said sanitation commissioner Kathryn Garcia. "It is time to make smarter, more efficient choices when it comes to the way New Yorkers set out refuse and recycling for collection in the public right of way. Today's announcement is the first step in that direction."

The proposed rule also requires residential buildings with 150 or more units to submit a waste management plan that outlines:

•Storage plans for trash, recyclables and organics that ensure 150 percent of generated waste can be stored inside the building between regularly scheduled collections.

•Estimates of waste generation.

•Plans for proper recycling separation and proper setout.

•Details regarding containerization if relevant or required

In another effort to make garbage and recycling set-outs cleaner and more efficient, the Department of Sanitation and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are collaborating in the "Clean Curbs" pilot program for commercial waste. Through the pilot program, private entities, such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can apply for the opportunity to have sealed, on-street containers for their trash and recycling storage, which will reduce their need to set out bags of recyclables and garbage for collection on city sidewalks.

The Clean Curbs pilot program was developed after reviewing responses to DSNY's and DOT's Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) on containerized waste, including designs from Center for Zero Waste Design and from Marvel Architects with Recycle Track Systems, in partnership with Sam Schwartz Engineering and HR&A Advisors. The RFEI, released last year, sought creative solutions that would reduce the volume of refuse and recycling set-outs on city sidewalks, increase waste diversion, reduce truck traffic and greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste collection and improve the cleanliness of city streets and sidewalks.

Containerization helps keep the city clean, reduces problems associated with pests and rodents, and allows for more efficient collections. While final designs of the Clean Curbs containers will be based on an applicant's location and specific waste management needs, the entity will be required to sign a maintenance agreement with DSNY to ensure the area is kept clean and de-iced for snow. The containers must meet strict requirements and specifications, such as being fully enclosed, rodent proof, and be compatible with carter operations and commercial regulations.

Applications for the Clean Curbs pilot program will be accepted beginning this spring and must be approved by the DSNY and DOT.

A woman in the midst of hard labor suddenly shouted, "Shouldn't! Wouldn't! Couldn't! Can't!"

"Don't worry," said the doctor. "Those are just contractions."

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# Study reveals 76 percent of landfilled waste can be recycled or composted

Ohio (SWACO) has released a study documenting that up to 76 percent of the material currently being sent to the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill could be recycled or composted. The study also found that of those discarded materials, the items presenting the biggest opportunities for increasing diversion were food scraps and corrugated cardboard.

The study, known as a waste characterization, was completed last year and conducted over the course of four seasons by Cascadia Consulting Group and MSW Consultants. During the study period, 180 commercial and residential trash samples, weighing 39,000 pounds in total, were collected and analyzed. The materials were sorted into 64 categories and evaluated based on their weight, material type, and recyclability to determine what's being thrown away and how much of it has the potential to be diverted from the landfill.

The top 10 items most commonly found in Franklin County's waste

- •Food scraps 15 percent
- •Corrugated cardboard 10 percent
- •Other compostable items & fiber –
- •Magazines, newspaper, office and other paper – 8 percent
- •Bulky and durable goods 7 percent
- •Construction & demolition 4 percent
- •Plastic containers 4 percent
- •Wood pallets 4 percent
- •Textiles 4 percent
- •Yard waste 3 percent

Combined, these items make up 68 percent or 772,234 tons of the material being landfilled.

The three most prevalent items in Franklin County's waste stream are food scraps, corrugated cardboard and compostable items and fiber. All of these items can either be recovered through currently offered programs or have the potential to be captured and diverted if new programs and services were established.

"While we weren't surprised to learn that so much food was coming to the landfill, we remain committed to decreasing landfill disposal of all types of materials, and we're already at work helping to support rescuing edible food and redirecting it to families and individuals in need. We're also working to increase opportunities for composting of inedible food and encouraging waste reduction practices to avoid the creation of waste in the first place," said Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO's director of innovation and programs.

In fact, when evaluating Franklin County's potential to increase diversion based on the waste stream, the

The Solid Waste Authority of study found that of the 76 percent of the material currently being sent to the landfill which could be recycled or composted, 41 percent could be diverted today through existing programs and an additional 35 percent has the potential to be diverted with new programs and infrastructure.

> In November 2019, SWACO reported that Franklin County had reached a 50 percent diversion rate which is one of the highest rates in the Midwest and exceeds the national average yet, the county still landfills over a million tons of waste every year. SWACO has set a goal to help residents and businesses in Franklin County divert 75 percent of their waste from the landfill.

> In order for the community to reach those goals, SWACO is using the data from the waste characterization study to make informed decisions regarding the creation of new programs aimed at increasing the diversion of a wide range of materials. In the last year alone, SWACO introduced new programs to help thousands of residents recycle more of the materials generated at home, facilitate reducing food waste occurring in school cafeterias and to promote the composting of food scraps at home and at area businesses. Those programs include the Recycle Right, Make a Difference campaign, Residential Recycling Cart Initiative, SWACO's Community Consortium Program and Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative.

> The study also assessed the value of the materials being landfilled and which are currently accepted for recycling through Franklin County's curbside, drop-off, and other recycling programs (which include: paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles, metal cans). Those materials are estimated to have a market value of approximately 23 million dollars.

> "It's easy to connect how reducing our waste and increasing our recycling is good for the environment, but what isn't always immediately obvious is the economic benefit of recycling too," stated O'Keefe. "When we throw away items that have the potential to be recycled, we miss the opportunity to create the jobs needed to turn those materials into new products as well as the millions of dollars that could be reinvested right here in the central Ohio region."

> Later this year, SWACO will launch new educational programs for capturing and recovering food waste, including funding drop-off composting sites in a number of Franklin County cities, and will unveil new resources to assist area businesses start up and expand recycling programs.

# **NWRA** urges FEMA to cover waste industry

In a letter sent to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Peter Gaynor, the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) requested that FEMA establish a system to compensate the waste and recycling industry for providing services to protect public health and safety that would otherwise go unpaid. NWRA also shared copies of the letter with Vice President Mike Pence, who is leading the nation's COVID-19 response task force, and the House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, which has oversight of FEMA.

"Providing these essential services to those unable to pay as a result of economic hardships caused by COVID-19 while continuing to employ the workforce needed to support such an effort will require assistance," wrote NWRA president and chief executive officer Darrell Smith.

Smith continued, "NWRA requests that FEMA establish a vehicle under disaster debris management plans or by other alternative direct compensation means as selected by FEMA to compensate the waste and recycling industry for providing non-compensated services to protect public health and safety during this time of national emergency. NWRA asks specifically for funding to cover services provided across the country related to customer bad debt and other non-compensated costs incurred for services being provided to the public during this national emergency."

The Department of Homeland Security designated the solid waste sector as part of the "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce" while the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration included waste and recycling in its emergency declaration. Both agencies took these actions in direct response to requests made by NWRA.



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