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E-waste: An ever evolving issue

by MAURA KELLER

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The e-waste stream in the U.S. and throughout the world is becoming larger each year. The good news is, more businesses and consumers are participating and beginning to understand the importance of responsibly recycling e-waste. According to Kristina Picciotti, chief executive officer of Global Electronic Recycling (GER). At GER, they mainly provided e-waste recycling services to large corporations that had a robust sustainability plan in place. But now, more than ever before, they're seeing small businesses and consumers participate in the voluntary recycling of their end-of-life electronics.

"Despite the growing efforts of corporations and consumers, there are still many challenges the e-waste industry faces globally. For example, the vast need for better plastic recycling, or more importantly, the reduction of the use of plastics altogether," Picciotti said. Most electronics are housed in plastic, and although e-waste recyclers do everything they can to ensure that plastics are properly recycled by a reputable and reliable plastic downstream recycler, ultimately, there is more plastic manufactured than can feasibly be recycled in the world today.

Eoin Pigott is a business development associate at Wisetek, an IT asset disposition and e-waste recycling company that operates a zero percent landfill policy, meaning all of the devices that pass through Wisetek's hands are responsibly recycled or repurposed. Wisetek works with a number of blue chip companies like Google, Facebook, FitBit and more.

"Generally speaking, the current status of the e-waste stream both in the U.S. and globally is not great. It's estimated that there will be about 57.4 million tons of e-waste generated this year globally, with the U.S. contributing around 7 to 8 million tons of this alone," Pigott said.

The COVID Effect

COVID has hugely impacted the e-waste stream, mainly because the sales of electronic devices and equipment dropped dramatically during the first three quarters of 2020 for obvious reasons. According to Pigott, it's estimated that 5 million tons of e-waste was not produced during this time. However this was only a temporary slowing of the waste production as lockdowns eased and global economies restarted, the e-waste production drove on once again.

Picciotti said in 2020, COVID presented some unique challenges and opportunities for the e-waste recycling industry. With mandated quarantines throughout the U.S. in 2020, as well as illnesses from the virus, many e-waste recyclers were forced to close temporarily and for some,



Hard drives are often shredded for further processing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS

it meant permanent closure.

"Eventually, in 2020, the e-waste recycling industry was deemed an essential operation, and allowed to reopen. However, the supply of e-waste from corporations slowed down temporarily, due to the impact on the closures of those businesses," Picciotti said. "Additionally, many large corporations furloughed and terminated positions in order to keep their profits high while the quarantines were in place."

For Global Electronic Recycling Company, this meant building relationships with new people at the companies in order to keep inbound e-waste streams alive at the company's plant.

"We also had to educate people in those corporations on what the recycling program entailed and the importance of continuing their recycling programs," Picciotti said. "That effort meant we had to place more emphasis on education and business development, which ultimately was very positive overall."

Global Electronic Recycling also saw an increase in demand for re-useable electronics that they can refurbish and remarket to consumers – things like laptops, processor chips, memory and various other electronics that have been difficult for consumers to purchase brand new because of the supply chain crisis and chip shortages.

"These items have become a bit more profitable for e-waste recyclers and for corporations that are recycling those items, since the beginning of the COVID pandemic," Picciotti said.

Mark Kasper, chief operations officer at Clean Earth, said that as building leases come due, Clean Earth has seen more closeouts and decommission projects for offices as companies are opting for a more remote approach.

"A few of our top customers are moving out of offices and data centers and having employees work at home perma-

nently," Kasper said. "Our team is helping these customers transition by cleaning out the electronics in their buildings and offices and processing the electronic waste for proper recycling, reuse or data destruction."

Residential drop-offs of household hazardous waste (HHW) were also lessened because of COVID-19. As Kasper pointed out, with certain counties easing restrictions now, we are seeing double to triple the volume in e-waste drop-offs at our collection events that Clean Earth co-hosts in communities with the local city or county.

"At our electronics facility in Allentown, Pennsylvania, we complete monthly HHW collection events. Hundreds of cars line up at 8 a.m.," Kasper said. "People want to do the right thing and know they should not throw electronics in the regular trash. And during the pandemic, as e-waste piled up in their homes, residents had more time to research and educate themselves on its proper disposal. We have also noticed that, with cancellation of previous collection events, municipalities are doing a stronger job of marketing collection events that are being held again."

A Concerted Effort

Across the U.S. there are efforts being made to rightly encourage e-waste recycling. Throughout the U.S., various states have adopted requirements for consumers, businesses and/or manufacturers to recycle their electronics, rather than sending them to landfills.

"There are 25 states currently in the U.S. that have e-waste laws in place, all of these are slightly different but most use an extended producer responsibility model, which basically means the manufacturers of everyday electronics in said state actually fund the devices' recycling," Pigott said. "Most of these states handle e-waste in terms of weight, so many are seeing a

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EPA releases bold national strategy to transform recycling

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the 2021 National Recycling Strategy to tackle major recycling challenges facing the nation and to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost effective municipal solid waste recycling system. The 2021 strategy is also the first time EPA's recycling strategy will address the climate impacts of producing, using and disposing of materials and focus on the human health and environmental impacts of waste and waste related facilities in overburdened communities.

"Our nation's recycling system is in need of critical improvements to better serve the American people. EPA's National Recycling Strategy provides a roadmap to address system challenges and pave the way for the future of recycling," said EPA administrator Michael S. Regan. Together with the historic investments in recycling from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, the strategy will help transform recycling and solid waste management across the country while creating jobs and strengthening our economy."

The U.S. recycling system faces many challenges, including reduced markets for recycled materials, recycling infrastructure that has not kept pace with today's diverse and changing waste stream, confusion about what materials can be recycled, and varying methodologies to measure recycling system performance. The 2021 National Recycling Strategy identifies actions to address these challenges that build on the collaborative efforts by stakeholders from across the recycling system that began

under the 2019 National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System.

The National Recycling Strategy includes five strategic objectives with specific actions to strengthen the U.S. recycling system:

1. Improve markets for recycled commodities through market development, analysis, manufacturing and research.

2. Increase collection of recyclable materials and improve infrastructure through analysis, funding, product design, and processing efficiencies.

3. Reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream through outreach and education to the public on the value of proper recycling.

4. Enhance policies and programs to support recyclability and recycling through strengthened federal and international coordination, analysis, research on product pricing and sharing of best practices.

5. Standardize measurement and increase data collection through coordinated recycling definitions, measures, targets and performance indicators.

In addition, the Strategy focuses on how the agency will move forward in the following areas:

•Increasing Equitable Access for Overburdened Communities: EPA recognizes the burden that living near waste and waste related facilities has on communities when waste is not properly managed, which can lead to higher levels of chronic health issues. The 2021 Strategy will increase equitable access to recycling services, reduce environmental impacts in communities, stimu-


late economic development, and ensure overburdened communities meaningfully participate during the strategy's implementation.

•Reducing Climate Impacts of Materials Management: The 2021 Strategy includes a commitment by EPA to create a new national goal to reduce the climate impacts from the production, consumption, use and disposal of materials, which make up approximately 50 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's International Resource Panel.

•Managing Materials for a Circular Economy: While this initial 2021 Strategy focuses on the recycling of municipal solid waste, additional work is necessary to create a "circular economy" where materials (e.g., plastics,

food waste, electronics, and industrial materials) are sustainably managed throughout their lifecycle. The EPA, in coordination with other federal agencies and interested stakeholders, intends to release subsequent strategies that will encompass other activities beyond the recycling of MSW, reflecting the need for sustainable product design, reducing waste generation and materials reuse activities critical to realizing circularity.

During the next few months, EPA will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a plan to implement the 2021 Strategy. EPA will collaborate with communities, local, state, federal and Tribal partners, and with public and private stakeholders to achieve the strategy's ambitious goals.



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ISRI awarded Commerce Department grant

In recognition of the pivotal role of its specifications in the global recycling industry marketplace, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) is pleased to announce that it was awarded a total grant of \$46,000 by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The grant was awarded to ISRI specifically for the advancement of ISRI's Specifications and the association's work promoting U.S. exports of recycled materials.

"The ISRI Specifications are recognized across the world as the global stan-

dard for buying and selling a variety of processed recycled commodities," said ISRI chief economist and director of commodities Joe Pickard. "This grant will allow us to not only expand our reach, but to also highlight the recycling industry's role in positively impacting global trade, U.S. job creation, and so much more. We are excited for this award and the work to follow."

The funding, awarded by the Market Development Cooperator Program, will be used to create an interactive, online scrap

specification resource and support educational outreach to inform stakeholders about industry standards and best practices. Published in the ISRI Scrap Specifications Circular, the Specifications serve both as broad guidelines and as a starting point in discussions between buyers and sellers domestically and globally.

ISRI is undertaking a wholesale review of the ISRI Specifications in order to reflect today's recycled commodity markets and to improve its accessibility by governments and industry.

Carpet Differential Assessment Plan to take effect

Differential assessments will be charged on all carpet sold in California starting April 1, 2022, in accordance with new legislation (California AB 729). The law requires Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), as the carpet stewardship organization for the state, to implement a differential assessment on each square yard of carpet sold that reflects its cost burden to recycle.

CARE's proposed differential assessment plan, which CalRecycle has conditionally approved, is based on two factors – carpet materials, as in broadloom vs. tile, and percent of post-consumer (PC) content, as in greater than or equal to 10 percent post-consumer content, and less than 10 percent post-consumer content. The new assessments (see below) replace the current assessment of 35 cents per square yard for all carpet types.

•Broadloom vs. tile. All broadloom carpet (residential and commercial) will

retain the \$.35 per square yard assessment and all tile carpet – also known as carpet squares – (residential and commercial) will be assessed at \$.50 per square yard.

•Post-Consumer Content. The assessment is reduced by \$.02/square yard for any product, broadloom or tile, that has 10 percent or more PC content.

The assessment is higher for carpet tile because the cost to recycle carpet tile is much higher than broadloom, due to the processes required, along with the transportation costs to tile recycling facilities located in the eastern U.S.. CARE estimates that less than five percent of carpet tile in California is currently being recycled or reused.

Carpet retailers in the state are advised to begin planning immediately for the point of purchase changes that will be needed to correctly assign the assessments and collect the assessment from customers. Carpet mills will be responsible for advising retailers on which prod-

ucts qualify in terms of post-consumer content. CARE will supply point of purchase material as well as training support materials for sales staff. Retailers are encouraged to visit the CARE website for the latest developments.

"This assessment change undoubtedly is a burden for the approximately 2,000 California retailers and 79 carpet mills with operations in the state," noted CARE executive director Bob Peoples. "CARE is working with retailers, mills, distributors and software companies to clarify and ease the transition. The good news is that the assessment is not increasing for broadloom carpet and will even go down slightly for broadloom containing more than 10 percent post-consumer content."

The California carpet stewardship legislation (AB 2398, 1159 and 729) is designed to find ways to incentivize the growth of carpet reclamation and recycling and still allow the market to work. The law (AB 2398) generates funding to meet its stated goals through the assessment on all carpet sold in California. California consumers pay the assessment when they buy carpet. Those monies then support CARE's efforts, including subsidies paid to recyclers, grants to expand capacity and collection, technical assistance and outreach, to increase carpet recycling in California.

CARE will establish a process and schedule to reevaluate the amounts and factors for differential assessment as part of its next five year plan.

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Electronics

■Continued from Page 1

drop in the amount of e-waste that is recycled, but this is more so down to devices becoming smaller and lighter.”

For example, nearly everyone has a lightweight, flat screen TV now as opposed to a chunky tube TV. Some states are changing their e-waste laws, like Illinois, where they recently shifted from a weight-based collection target model in favor of “convenience-based” model. This requires manufacturers to fund collection sites according to the overall population density of an area.

“This is done in order to provide more overall access to recycling and not to worry about the volume of e-waste that is being received,” Pigott said.

As Picciotti explained, the requirements may include hefty fines and penalties for businesses that are not in compliance.

“The recycling requirements are different in each state, which, in my opinion makes it more difficult and more costly for businesses to manage. I believe the U.S. and the world needs better incentives for businesses to recycle their e-waste,” Picciotti said.

Many municipalities have educational literature and instructions on their websites for consumers to understand how to recycle, as well as the importance of e-waste recycling. But, in many states, it’s mainly up to consumers to take it upon themselves to take their electronics to a drop-off facility to recycle e-waste.

Overall, Picciotti feels it’s not a winning model. “Most Americans are so busy, they don’t take the time to collect their electronics and drive them to a facility.

There’s little to no incentive nor personal consequence to the consumer to make the effort,” Picciotti said. “There are good citizens who recognize the importance of e-waste recycling, and those people are usually the ones who have been educated on the impact of landfilling electronics.”

If it were as easy as sorting paper from plastic in a household recycling bin, Picciotti thinks more people would gladly participate. “America can do better with the right resources, programs and education for the public as well as a unified system for commercial e-waste recycling throughout the country,” she said.

In addition, as technology continues to grow and evolve, consumers replace their electronic devices for the “latest and greatest,” which definitely presents a real opportunity for e-waste recyclers, but not as much as one might think.

As Picciotti explained, one problem with the “latest and greatest” technology is that the electronics are rapidly evolving into devices that contain less and less precious metals, high-end components, base metals and resale value. An e-waste recycler typically operates and profits from these four main revenue streams:

•**Resale** – Electronics that still have a useful life in secondary markets such as eBay, Amazon Marketplace etc., after refurbishment. One person’s trash becomes another person’s treasure.

•**Precious Metal Recovery** – Circuit boards and other components contain tiny amounts of gold, silver, platinum and palladium. These precious metals, although small on a single device, add up over multiple devices and help drive revenues to e-waste recyclers for operations.

•**Base Metal Recovery** – Copper, lead, nickel, tin, aluminum and zinc. These base metals are recycled and then

used to make new electronics or other goods for the world.

•**Service Fees** – When the electronic device has little or no value from the above revenue streams, it must charge the consumer or corporation for the recycling process.

“This means that businesses and consumers are less likely to want to participate in e-waste recycling,” Picciotti said. “Electronics that are being produced with low precious metal content, high amounts of plastics and cheap base metals pose a big problem for the e-waste industry as a whole. That said, there is still plenty of opportunity to be successful in the e-waste recycling industry for now. The best way for an e-recycler to remain profitable is to continually improve upon its processes to find every ounce of value within the electronic device.”

Changing Direction

Obviously e-waste is going to keep growing as we all use more devices in our daily lives, but it is the way we recycle these devices is what is important. “It is simply not acceptable to just throw a device away, it must be responsibly recycled and reused,” Pigott said.

Picciotti believes e-waste will evolve from a mostly voluntary program to a necessary and possibly mandatory system. “Although it would be best for people to embrace e-waste recycling as much as they embrace their latest tech, rather than being forced to recycle through more regulations on the public,” Picciotti said.

“The challenge the world faces in the future is that people need to truly understand how much of the earth is destroyed, how many workers and citizens in developing nations are harmed and how long it takes the earth to regenerate after mining for the required resources like gold, that it

takes to pump out more and more electronics to the world,” Picciotti said. “I believe it begins with manufacturers producing higher quality, longer lasting and upgradable electronic devices. It may sound bad for the e-waste industry, but it’s not. At my company, Global Electronic Recycling, I would happily recycle a lesser volume of electronic devices that are of higher quality than to recycle larger amounts of cheap electronics.”

Kasper pointed to a new report from United Nations University, published together with UN Environment, that highlights future e-waste scenarios. Under a baseline scenario, the amount of e-waste will more than double by 2050, to reach roughly 111 million tons per year. The report shares that these quantities alone do not tell the whole story, saying: “It is really about how industries, policies and consumers react to the situation. While there is an opportunity to create sustainable production and consumption systems for electronics, this cannot be achieved by continuing the way we do business. In order to meet the growing demand, while also addressing the unexpected nature of technological evolution, a drastic change is needed in the electronics sector.”

“Moving forward, it’s clear that the collection of unwanted electronics needs to improve to ensure protection for our environment and that these materials end up in the right hands for data destruction,” Kasper said. “Old tube TVs have not been manufactured for a number of years, yet are still appearing in the waste stream. E-waste will continue to be around and grow as we remain hungry for new technology. As recyclers, we are going to have to stay on our game and be educated about the latest technology. Our world, and recycling, is commodity and technology driven.”

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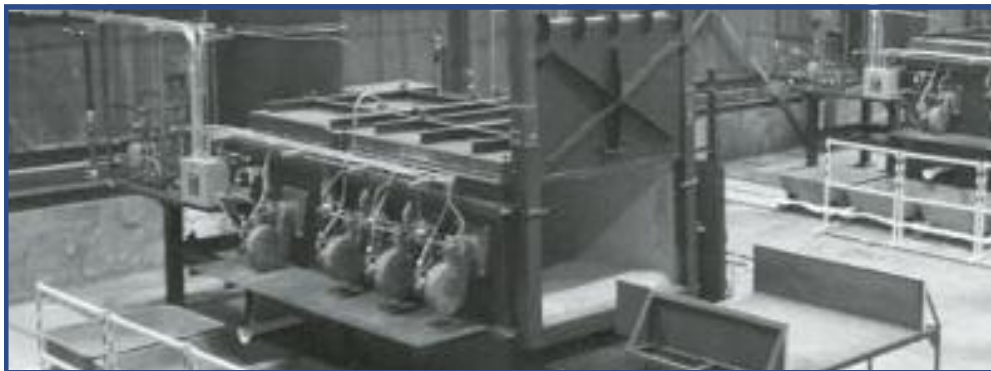
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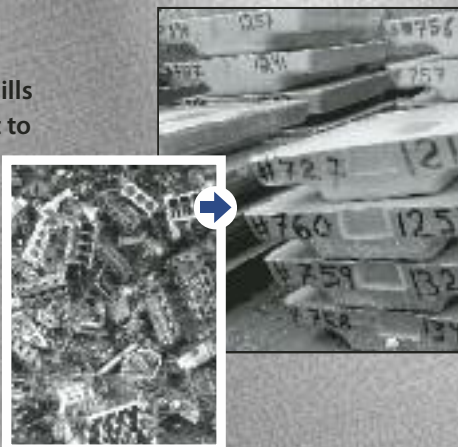
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METALS

Finished steel import market share estimated at 21 percent in October

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 October totaled 2,396,000 net tons (NT). This was an 18.8 percent decrease from the 2,950,000 permit tons recorded in September and a 26.0 percent decrease from the September preliminary imports total of 3,237,000. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in October was 1,998,000, down 19.1 percent from the preliminary imports total of 2,469,000 in September. For the first ten months of 2021 (including October SIMA permits and September preliminary imports), total and finished steel imports were 26,202,000 NT and 18,682,000 NT, up 36.8 percent and 37.2 percent, respectively, from the same period in 2020. The estimated finished steel import market share in October was 21 percent and is 21 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Finished steel imports with large increases in October permits vs. the September preliminary imports include black plate (up 30 percent), structural pipe and tubing (up 29 percent), stainless pipe and tubing (up 15 percent) and

cold finished bars (up 13 percent). Products with significant year-to date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2020 include hot rolled sheets (up 111 percent), plates in coils (up 88 percent), wire rods (up 62 percent), cut lengths plates (up 58 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coatings (up 57 percent), oil country goods (up 42 percent), cold rolled sheets (up 32 percent), heavy structural shapes (up 26 percent), hot rolled bars (up 26 percent), wire drawn (up 22 percent), sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (up 21 percent), reinforcing bars (up 16 percent) and tin plate (up 16 percent).

In October, the largest finished steel import permit applications for offshore countries were for South Korea (205,000 NT, down 31 percent from September preliminary), Turkey (125,000 NT, up 6 percent), Vietnam (100,000 NT, up 29 percent), Taiwan (79,000 NT, down 16 percent) and Japan (86,000 NT, up 5 percent). Through the first ten months of 2021, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (2,300,000 NT, up 38 percent from the same period last year), Japan (835,000 NT, up 26 percent) and Turkey (800,000 NT, up 62 percent).

■ For more METALS news, see Page B1



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Scrap Metals MarketWatch



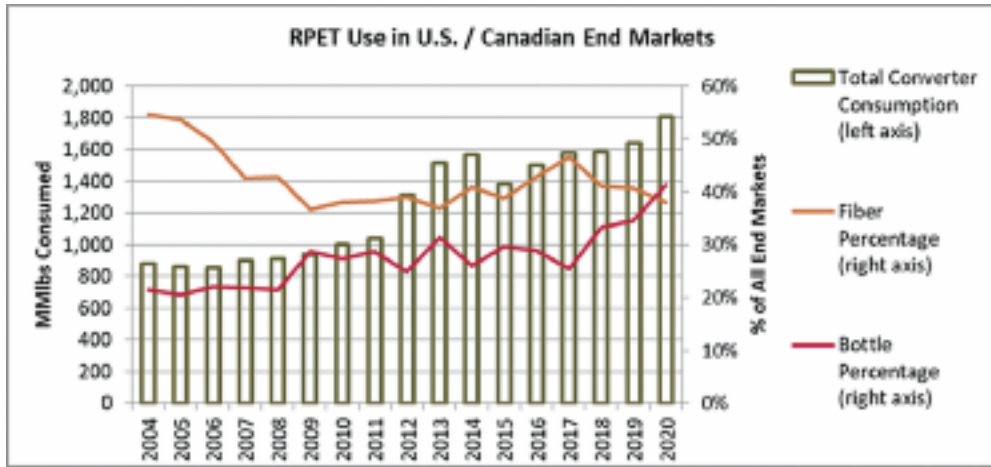
Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$369.00	374.00	379.00	458.00	589.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	368.00	365.00	365.00	442.00	585.00
Plate and Structural	per gross ton	352.00	354.00	382.00	431.00	476.00
#1 & 2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	345.00	349.00	379.00	419.00	449.00
Shredder Bundles (tin)	per gross ton	203.00	209.00	270.00	275.00	303.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	203.00	209.00	270.00	275.00	303.00
Steel Turnings	per gross ton	125.00	126.00	181.00	208.00	298.00
#1 Copper	per pound	3.91	4.05	4.15	4.13	4.05
#2 Copper	per pound	3.70	3.71	3.85	3.84	3.76
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.76	.74	.79	.82	.79
Auto Radiators	per pound	1.92	1.79	2.29	2.33	2.34
Aluminum Core Radiators	per pound	.78	.71	.74	.74	.70
Heater Cores	per pound	1.52	1.51	1.61	1.43	1.85
Stainless Steel	per pound	.79	.75	.81	.85	.91

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

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PLASTICS

NAPCOR's 2020 PET Recycling Report is reveals some surprises



The National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) has released its 2020 PET Recycling Report. The 26th annual report reveals a 10 percent increase in end use consumption of recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) in the U.S. and Canada. This increase signals strong support of postconsumer content in brand packaging and demonstrates the resiliency of polyethylene's (PET) value – even during a pandemic.

Examining the use of RPET in specific end markets, the report positions the industry at a pivotal point where food/beverage and non-food/beverage bottle categories grew by 32 percent in total, surpassing fiber for the first time as the largest end market user of postconsumer PET bottles.

In addition, over the past decade, there has been a cumulative increase in

RPET consumption in U.S. and Canadian markets, climbing from 1 billion lbs. in 2010 to 1.8 billion lbs. in 2020.

NAPCOR's analysis shows the higher market demand outpaced collection, which drove PET reclaimers to rely more heavily on imports, after depleting their existing inventory.

While demand was strong, collection of PET bottles decreased by approximately 2.3 percent in the U.S., which resulted in a 26.6 percent recycling rate for PET plastic bottles, a decrease from the 2019 rate of 27.9 percent. The decline in recycling rate is not surprising, given the challenges faced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 North American PET recycling rate is 33.9 percent, which incorporates statistics from Mexico and Canada, in addition to the U.S. This is a slight drop from the 35 percent reported in 2019.

Joint venture to focus on plastics chemical recycling

Neste and Ravago will establish a joint venture to build an industrial facility for chemical recycling in North Sea Port in Vlissingen, the Netherlands. The facility is intended to be the starting point of joint global chemical recycling activities, built upon the advancement of the thermochemical liquefaction technology of U.S.-based Alterra Energy, an innovative chemical recycling technology company. With this, Neste and Ravago plan to demonstrate and advance the commercialization of chemical recycling. The transaction is awaiting and subject to regulatory approval.

Combining expertise along the value chain

This partnership combines Ravago's expertise in the mechanical preparation of plastic waste, Alterra Energy's proprietary liquefaction technology, and Neste's expertise in the processing of hydrocarbons. Neste and Ravago are aiming for a first industrial chemical recycling site in North Sea Port in Vlissingen with an annual processing capacity of 55,000 tons of mixed plastic waste, corresponding to the plastic packaging waste generated by some 1.7 million average EU citizens per year. The long term goal is to significantly increase the processing capacity on a global scale and continuously develop the joint venture into a global leader for chemical recycling of mixed plastic waste.

"Chemical recycling has been a promising technology to accelerate the creation of a circular economy for quite a while," says Mercedes Alonso, executive vice president, Renewable Polymers and Chemicals at Neste. "Now, it is time to take it to the next level and turn the promise into an industrial solution. By combining the expertise of Ravago and Neste, we have the means to rapidly implement the technology to start production at commercial scale. With joint and dedicated efforts, we can bring together the know-how along the entire value chain to turn waste into valuable resources. Our ambition is clear: to be a global leader in renewable and circular solutions."

Logical next step in cooperation between Ravago and Neste

This targeted investment is the consistent continuation of the fast-paced progress in the cooperation between the partners. In 2019, Neste and Ravago set a joint target to reach the capacity to process over 200,000 tons of mixed waste plastic per year by 2030. Ever since, the companies have evaluated technologies, the raw material market, and built joint business cases to develop chemical recycling capacities. Already in 2020, Neste also successfully conducted the first of several industrial trial runs with liquefied waste plastic at its oil refinery in Finland.

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AUTOMOTIVE

U.S. EPA fines auto parts company over \$152,000 for selling 'defeat' devices

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached a settlement with K 2 Motor Corp., doing business as Spec-D Tuning, over Clean Air Act violations. K 2 Motor Corp, based out of the City of Industry, offered for sale and sold aftermarket auto parts that bypass

or disable required emissions control systems, otherwise known as defeat devices. The company will pay \$152,160 in penalties. This settlement is part of EPA's National Compliance Initiative, which focuses on stopping the manufacture, sale and installation of

defeat devices on vehicles and engines. The enforcement action was taken in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In addition to the EPA's case, CARB also settled with K 2 Motor Corp. for emissions violations related to the sale of non-exempt aftermarket vehicle parts in California and collected a penalty of \$88,696. The penalty will be used to fund air quality education for students in the San Diego area as well as

EPA issued an information request to K 2 Motor Corp. regarding hardware and software the company had been selling since 2017. The company's response to this information request indicated that it had sold almost 4,000 exhaust emission control delete hardware, including devices sometimes referred to as "straight" or "delete" pipes, used to bypass vehicle emission control systems.

Earlier this year, EPA also had two settlements with other automotive parts distributors in Southern California for violations of the Clean Air Act. Walnut, California-based Black Horse Racing Corp. and SLH Trading Corp., as well as Torrance, California-based Eurocode Tuning, Inc., sold aftermarket auto parts that bypass or disable required emissions control systems in motor vehicles. The companies agreed to pay \$24,457 in combined penalties.

Chevrolet Bolt EV battery production resumes

General Motors outlined a comprehensive action plan to ensure that customers can safely and confidently drive, charge and park the Chevy Bolt EV and EUV. The action plan includes both hardware and software remedies, some of which are already in place.

New Battery Production

LG battery plants in Holland and Hazel Park, Michigan, have resumed production. In addition, LG is adding capacity to provide more cells to GM. The root cause of the rare circumstances that could cause a battery fire is two manufacturing defects known as a torn anode and a folded separator, both of which need to be present in the same battery cell. LG has implemented new manufacturing processes and has worked with GM to review and enhance its quality assurance programs.

Prioritized Battery Replacement

GM will continue to prioritize Chevy Bolt EV and EUV customers whose batteries were manufactured during specific build timeframes where GM believes battery defects appear to be clustered. The company established a notification process to inform affected customers when their replacements are available. They will include an extended 8-year/100,000-mile limited warranty.

SALVAGING Millions

by Ron Sturgeon
Autosalvageconsultant.com

Be your own advocate – Get help from others

Rely on peers and other professionals, including consultants, to help you. Be prudent about the costs of outside consulting, however. Much of my success in auto salvage came from ideas that I got from other operators who belonged to a peer-mentoring group I joined in 1988.

The participants in that group grew to have the largest and most successful auto salvage operations in the U.S. and all sold out for big money when public companies came looking. It was not luck or coincidence.

The members of that group had been sharing metrics and discussing the way the person with the best metric was achieving above-average success in that area twice a year for a long time when the buyout offers came. We were geographically remote from one another and had confidentially agreements, so we had no problem sharing the strategies, and tactics that we knew worked. We creamed the local competitors who were not learning from their peers at nearly as fast a rate.

You don't know what you don't know, but you can learn it from others in the same business. I currently facilitate peer-mentoring groups for auto salvage operators. I want to expand that practice to other industries because I know first-hand how well it works to explode the growth of the business owners who participate.

There are many ways to make your business better without spending much. Start by taking advantage of the opportunities to network within industry groups. Go to the state and national conventions and take the training classes. Socialize with other operators. I have learned a lot about the business by talking with peers at the happy hours after the presentations end.

Even today, I insist that ALL my employees attend seminars and I pay for them. Investing in your people makes them feel good about themselves and the company, and they always learn something that makes them more productive and valuable.

Think broadly about training. You have employees right now who could benefit from a course in Excel or in delegating more effectively or in setting priorities. Most employees are eager to learn new skills or improve old ones. The ones who don't want training are not ones that have the right level of personal ambition for a growing firm. They likely will leave on their own or move naturally into positions of lesser importance because they lack the skills that training would have given them.

If you are an employee and your boss sends you to seminars, don't forget to thank him or her. If you are not being sent to seminars, take the initiative to find one or two you would like to go to and ask. Local seminars are generally not expensive, typically about \$100 or a little more, so the cost should not be an obstacle. If your company will not support such growth, you may be working at the wrong place. Also, be sure to keep copies of the certificates you have earned and to update your resume and LinkedIn profile.

One last way to get inexpensive help – share what you know. Speak at your industry's local meeting or convention. By sharing what you know, you will become part of a circle that will cause others to want to help you reach a higher level of success.

Let me reiterate one of my favorite sayings: "You don't know what you don't know". Fortunately, the world gives the ambitious lots of ways to learn by seeking help from others.

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.

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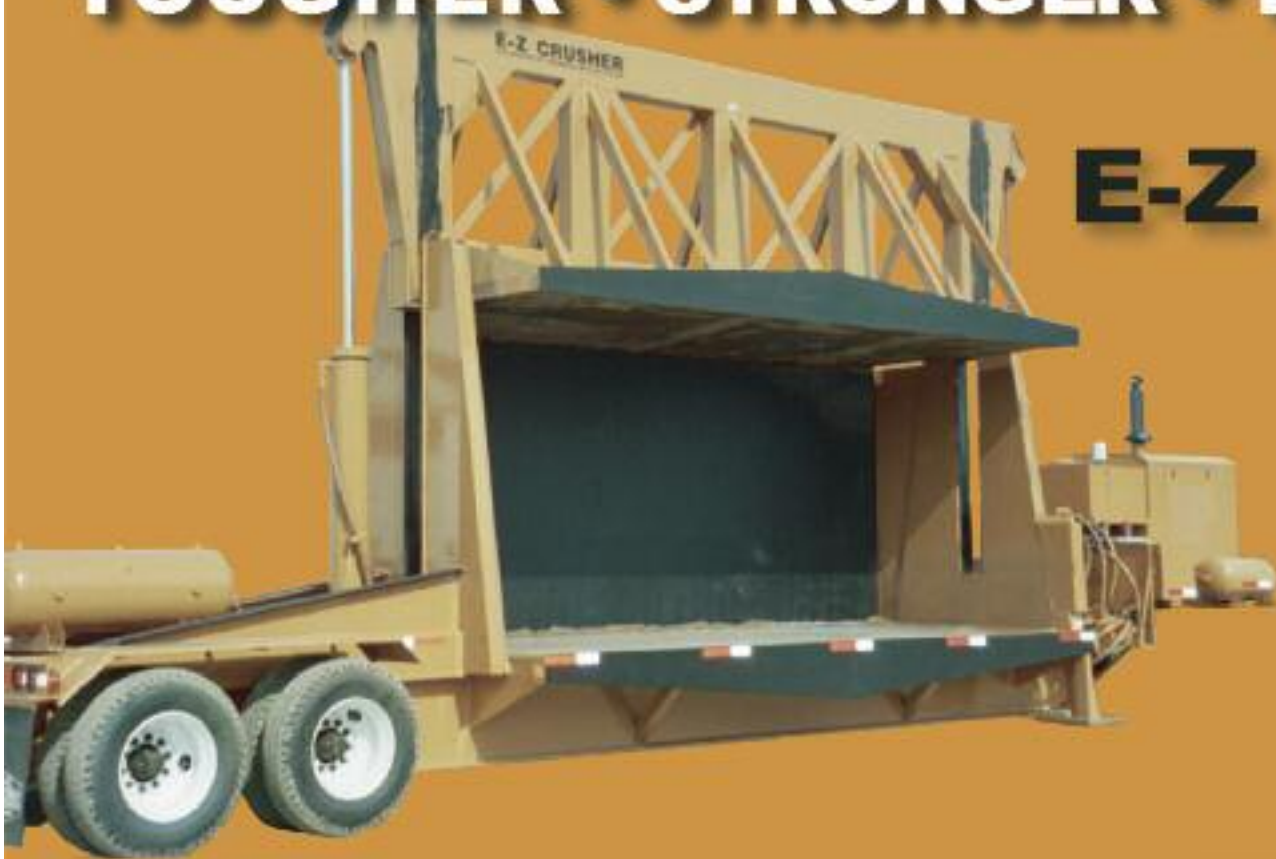
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

AISI names Piggott as new director to the board

■ The American Iron and Steel Institute's (AISI) board of directors named Cleveland-Cliffs chairman, president and chief executive officer Lourenco Goncalves as a vice chairman of AISI; and elected Phil Piggott, vice president of sales and marketing at Carmeuse, as a new member of the board of directors. Piggott chairs the AISI Associate Member Committee and will represent AISI's Associate Members on the AISI Board.

The announcement took place at the board of directors meeting in conjunction with AISI's 2021 General Meeting, held jointly with the Steel Manufacturers Association, in Washington, DC.

ASV Holdings adds several new dealers to network

■ ASV Holdings Inc., a manufacturer of all-purpose and all-season compact track loaders and skid steers, grows its dealer network with four new dealers and 16 new dealer locations.

Joining as new dealer partners are Mid Country Machinery with one location in Syracuse, New York; Woburn, Massachusetts-based Woodco Machinery with three locations in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island; Livonia, Michigan based Alta Equipment Company with six locations in Michigan and three in south Florida; and Quality Equipment and Parts with one location in Lake City, Florida. Existing dealer partner ROMCO Equipment Co. also added one new location in Texas.

KAR Global completes acquisition of CARWAVE

■ KAR Auction Services, Inc., d/b/a/ KAR Global, has completed the acquisition of CARWAVE Holdings LLC for \$450 million in cash. The acquisition builds on KAR's fast growth in the dealer-to-dealer segment, accelerates profitability, positions the company to achieve its long-term goals and enhances the company's differentiated combination of digital marketplaces and physical network.

CARWAVE was founded in 2009 in California and serves a broad network of dealers across California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Texas. The online platform enables dealers to conveniently wholesale trade-ins and aged frontline units directly from their lot and quickly source new inventory from anywhere.

Key CARWAVE leadership, including co-founders John Lauer and Bill Lauer, will remain with the company. Though the companies have started actively integrating, there are no immediate planned changes to either company's product offerings, pricing or customer agreements.

One day, a police officer pulled a car over and saw penguins in the back seat. The officer told the driver, "You can't be doing this, you need to take these penguins to the zoo!"

The next day, the police officer pulled over the same car and said, "Hey! I told you to take these penguins to the zoo!"

The driver replied, "I did, and today I'm taking them to the movies!"

Vision RNG partners with Meridian for gas projects

■ Vision RNG has partnered with Meridian Waste Acquisitions, LLC to complete projects at multiple Meridian Waste owned landfills across Missouri and Virginia that will capture landfill gasses (LFG) for conversion into sustainable renewable natural gas (RNG) for end users. Construction is already underway on the gas collection and control systems at the sites, and both companies anticipate these projects to be flowing clean, renewable gas by late 2022 or early 2023.

Vision RNG's leadership team reflect decades of experience in the construction, energy and waste management fields, and recently obtained a commitment of \$100 million in capital from Vision Ridge Partners, an investor in sustainable real assets at the forefront of the energy transition.

URT names Ray Zielke as VP of sales & marketing

■ Universal Recycling Technologies (URT), a provider of full service electronic and universal recycling waste and IT assets disposition solutions, has appointed Ray Zielke as the new vice president of sales and marketing.

Zielke brings almost 20 years of management experience to his new role. He comes to URT from Jabil, Inc. where he oversaw sale strategies and co-lead large ITAD/recycling projects that far exceeded the company's revenue goals.

Bunting completes acquisition of MagDev


■ Bunting has acquired MagDev Ltd, a UK-based magnet and magnetic assembly manufacturer. This acquisition will expand the range of magnetic solutions and technical expertise Bunting is able to offer as a global magnetics group. Bunting's extended product portfolio and additional magnet engineering knowledge confirms Bunting's premier position in the global magnetics sector.

MagDev's Swindon, UK based facility boasts extensive testing and in-house machining facilities in addition to over 12,000 sq.ft. of warehouse space. MagDev is a manufacturer of custom and industrial magnets, specializing in supplying permanent magnets, magnetic assemblies and soft magnetic solutions with magnetic properties tailored to suit specific applications.

The origins of MagDev date back to 1973, with the company becoming part of the MMG group of companies in 1986. In August 2003, the merger of MMG GB Ltd and Magnet Developments Ltd in Swindon, UK resulted in the formation of MMG MagDev Ltd. In June 2010, MMG MagDev Ltd was acquired by Delta Magnets Ltd.

Now that Bunting has acquired MagDev, magnetic applications engineers from MagDev will be joining those at Bunting-Berkhamsted. This will further expand Bunting's engineering and design capabilities. As one engineering entity, the scope of magnet design and specification extends across a wide range of applications and sectors.



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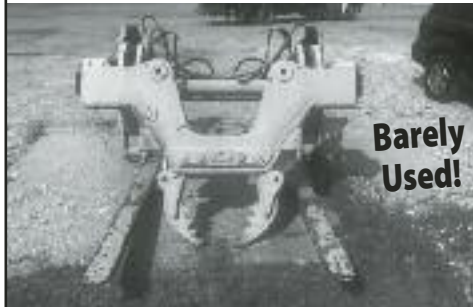
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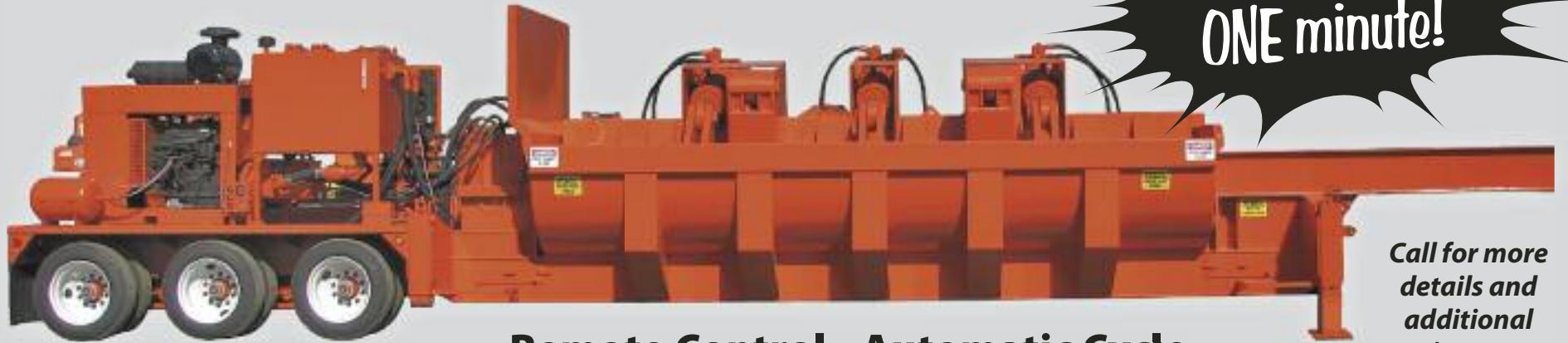
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Scrap metal market strong & steady

by MAURA KELLER

mkeller@americanrecycler.com

The metals scrap market has shown steady recovery from the pandemic as manufacturing in North America has experienced a steady Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) according to the Institute for Supply Management (ISM).

“For the past 16 months, the PMI has been over 60 percent, which indicates an expansion in manufacturing,” said Michael Petruski, managing director – metals & mining with B. Riley Advisory Services. “Currently, there are a number of issues affecting the metals scrap market including the reduction in automobile manufacturing (due to semiconductor chip shortage), which has reduced the amount of #1 busheling scrap. The historically high market price of hot-rolled steel and the raw steel production exceeding 85 percent have supported ferrous scrap market prices.”

Rick Perez, founder & chief executive officer of Avangard Innovative, a waste and recycling optimization company based in Houston, Texas, said the shortage of scrap and demand for consumer and construction goods increased demand for ferrous and nonferrous metals domestically and internationally on a large scale.

“In a global view, there were countries that banned the export of scrap mainly from realizing the value of their own scrap and how it could be utilized in finished goods within their countries,” Perez said. Some countries that had strict import recycling regulations even changed their import laws to be able to accept recycled metals.

Perez said the biggest issues impacting the scrap metal markets lately is the flow of scrap from manufacturing plants being shuttered, transportation and supply chain disruptions to handle the scrap, and labor shortages.

“With various countries placing restrictions on import scrap, there is now a strong demand for scrap in domestic and export sectors along with healthy ferrous and nonferrous markets,” Perez said. “The metal markets are trending toward more demand than supply and will for some time to come, as global markets recover and build out infrastructure plans.”

Perez said electric arc furnace (EAF) mills are being discussed and being built throughout all regions in the U.S. This is driving the demand for scrap yard acquisitions and consumers, both domestic and international.

“Many of these projects are being built while adjusting to climate policies and regulations to manufacture goods and to further adjust green initiatives,” Perez said. “The U.S. market continues to



The industry is building more mills, driving demand to a higher level across the U.S.

rapidly advance and lead the way in metal recycling.”

ISRI chief economist and director of commodities Joe Pickard said that as with other sectors of the manufacturing supply chain, metal recyclers are enjoying significantly improved market conditions this year amid rising volumes and prices.

“Investments in recycling technology and gains in operational efficiency have also been conducive to improved profitability,” Pickard said. “At the same time, supply chain bottlenecks, difficulty hiring and retaining new employees, and extremely challenging transportation conditions across the truck, rail, barge and container markets continue to pose significant challenges.”

For U.S. metal recyclers, domestic consumers continue to be their largest customers, with around 70 percent of all recycled metals processed in the U.S. sold to domestic consumers. However, as Pickard explained, export markets remain an important outlet for U.S. recyclers and for most recycled commodities, the U.S. is the largest single exporter in the world.

“Overseas demand has improved this year for both ferrous and nonferrous metals,” Pickard said. “Key growth markets this year include our North

American trading partners in Canada and Mexico, in Southeast Asia (including Malaysia and Vietnam) and South Asia (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh). As we’ve seen in recent years, potential trade restrictions on recycled commodity imports and exports continue to be a source of concern.”

Industry Merger & Acquisitions Activity

Within the last year, there have been many M&A deals across the U.S. where consumers are looking to control and secure more scrap for their outputs and production control costs.

According to Pickard, the recycling industry continues to see significant M&A activity in terms of both vertical integration, with large steel mills and other producers acquiring scrap operations, and horizontal integration where larger scrap companies are acquiring other companies and facilities.

“The M&A activity continues to contribute to the heightened competition for material that has been a key feature of metal markets in recent years,” Pickard said.

As Perez explained, mergers and acquisitions across the U.S. are starting to change the dynamics in the scrap business in many ways for consumers and mills to control more scrap within their networks.

See METALS, Page B7



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Restricting scrap trading “leads to less recycling”

“The post-COVID comeback for our industry has been strong when you look at overall trade volume,” acknowledged Dhawal Shah of India-based Metco Marketing in his first webinar as president of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) Nonferrous Metals Division. But he also told those watching the broadcast on November 2 that “unpredictability and hyper-volatility” are keeping nonferrous metals recyclers “on the edge of our seats”.

Describing the current “chaos” as “completely unprecedented”, he listed the following challenges facing the sector – metals prices “at almost historical highs with intra-day volatility of up to 5 percent”; supply disruption owing to “high freights and container logjams”; “skyrocketing” prices for alloying inputs such as silicon, magnesium and manganese; semiconductor and energy shortages impacting industrial output; bond default worries; and high inflation.

As for regulatory concerns, Shah drew attention to an imminent European

Commission proposal to revise EU waste shipment regulations in a way which could severely impact scrap flows. On this subject, Murat Bayram of European Metal Recycling pointed out that the use of raw materials from recycling in production processes saves on resources, energy and CO2 emissions, while international trade ensures these materials “arrive where they are needed”. To which he added “Don’t other countries outside the EU have a right to sustainable production?”

Bayram concluded with this impassioned plea: “The trade in raw materials from recycling must be promoted much more strongly to enable sustainable production everywhere in the world. In short, less trade leads to less recycling, more trade leads to more recycling.”

On this issue of restricting scrap flows, Eric Tan of the Malaysia Nonferrous Metals Association warned that, in their current form, new guidelines for importing scrap would “cause more harm than good to the whole nonferrous metals industry in Malaysia”. The key points of

concern on which the country’s metals industry is continuing to lobby its government include thresholds of 0 percent for hazardous/e-waste and 94.75 percent for metallurgical content which, the speaker warned, would affect 80 to 90 percent of Malaysia’s scrap imports. Furthermore, said Tan, the proposed pre- and post-shipment inspection regime would damage Malaysia’s competitiveness in terms of scrap procurement.

Also as part of discussions moderated by Natallia Zholud of TMR Group in Belarus and José-Martin Neumann of TSR Recycling GmbH & Co. KG in Germany, Shah spoke of the Indian government’s proposed introduction of scrap classifications or standards in a bid to obtain cleaner, higher-quality raw materials. To be implemented possibly within the next six to nine months, he said, these could include limits for metallic and non-metallic impurities.

Reviewing developments in China, Shen Dong of OmniSource Corporation in the U.S. pointed to recent power con-

sumption restrictions leading to the temporary idling of some industrial facilities, including smelters.

The impact of the energy crisis was also addressed in a guest presentation from Franco Dalpiaz, director Raw Material Purchasing at major Italy-based recycled aluminum alloys producer Raffmetal SPA. Power rationing in China had “drastically” reduced magnesium deliveries to Europe where stocks of the alloying metal are expected to run out by the end of November, he said. This could lead to production stoppages in the aluminum value chain affecting, for example, the automotive and packaging sectors.

Dalpiaz also highlighted the need to find solutions for the zero emission use of the internal combustion engine with renewable fuels. Failure to do so would result in large volumes of end-of-life vehicle scrap coming forward in 10 to 15 years from now “with issues in finding buyers”.

Algoma Steel and Triple M establish joint venture for metals sourcing

Algoma Steel Group Inc., a Canadian producer of hot and cold rolled steel sheet and plate products, has entered into a joint venture with Triple M Metal LP, one of North America’s largest privately owned ferrous and nonferrous metal recycling companies, establishing a jointly owned company known as ATM Metals Inc.

The new entity will source prime scrap metal and other iron units to meet Algoma’s business needs, including in

connection with its potential transformation to electric arc steelmaking.

“Algoma and Triple M have a long history of working together, so this joint venture was a natural fit for both organizations,” added Chris Galifi, chief operating officer of Giampaolo Group Inc., which is the parent company to Triple M. “We are both engaged in the steel economy, including sourcing, processing, manufacturing and the recycling of metals.”

Joint U.S.-EU statement on trade in steel and aluminum

The U.S. and the EU have taken joint steps to re-establish historical transatlantic trade flows in steel and aluminum and to strengthen their partnership and address shared challenges in the steel and aluminum sector. As a part of that partnership, they intend to negotiate for the first time, a global arrangement to address carbon intensity and global overcapacity.

The European Union and the U.S. have a shared commitment to joint action and deepened cooperation in these sectors and are taking joint steps to defend workers, industries and communities from global overcapacity and climate change, including through a new arrangement to discourage trade in high-carbon steel and aluminum that contributes to global excess capacity from other countries and ensure that domestic policies support lowering the carbon intensity of these industries.

In a demonstration of renewed trust, and reflecting long-standing

security and supply chain ties, the U.S. will not apply section 232 duties and will allow duty free importation steel and aluminum from the EU at a historical based volume and the EU will suspend related tariffs on U.S. products.

As a first step, the U.S. and the EU will create a technical working group charged with sharing relevant data and developing a common methodology for assessing the embedded emissions of traded steel and aluminum.

The global arrangement reflects a joint commitment to use trade policy to confront the threats of climate change and global market distortions, putting their workers and communities at the center of the trade agenda. The global arrangement will be open to any interested country that shares the commitment to achieve the goals of restoring market orientation and reducing trade in carbon intensive steel and aluminum products.

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Worldsteel predicts rise in steel demand

The World Steel Association (worldsteel) released an update of its Short Range Outlook (SRO) for 2021 and 2022. Worldsteel forecasts that steel demand will grow by 4.5 percent in 2021 and reach 1,855.4 Mt after 0.1 percent growth in 2020. In 2022, steel demand will see a further increase of 2.2 percent to 1,896.4 Mt. The current forecast assumes that, with the progress of vaccinations across the world, the spread of variants of the COVID virus will be less damaging and disruptive than seen in previous waves.

Commenting on the outlook, Al Remeithi, chairman of the worldsteel economics committee, said, "2021 has seen a stronger than expected recovery in steel demand, leading to upward revisions in our forecast across the board except for China. Due to this vigorous recovery, global steel demand outside China is expected to return earlier than expected to its pre-pandemic level this year.

Strong manufacturing activity bolstered by pent-up demand is the main contributor. The developed economies have outperformed our earlier expectations by a larger margin than the developing economies, reflecting the positive benefit of higher vaccination rates and government support measures. In the emerging economies, especially in Asia, the recovery momentum was interrupted by the resurgence of infections.

While the manufacturing sector's recovery remained more resilient to the new waves of infection than expected, supply-side constraints led to a levelling off of the recovery in the second half of the year and are preventing a stronger recovery in 2021. But with high backlog orders combined with a rebuilding of inventories and further progress in vaccinations in developing countries, we expect steel demand will continue to recover in 2022.

Persistent rising inflation, continued slow vaccination progress in developing countries and further growth deceleration in China all pose risks to this forecast.

China

The Chinese economy sustained its strong recovery momentum from 2020 into the early part of 2021. However, it has slowed since June. There have been marked signs of deceleration in the steel using sector's activity since July, leading to a steel demand contraction of -13.3 percent in July and then -18.3 percent in August. The sharp deceleration is partly attributable to occasional factors such as the recent adverse weather and small waves of infections through this summer, however more substantive causes include the slowing momentum in the real estate sector and the government cap on steel production. Real estate activity has weakened due to tough government measures on developers' financing introduced in 2020. At the same time, infrastructure investment has not picked up in 2021 due to a depletion of investment opportunities and limited local government financing ability. Furthermore, the strong manufacturing recovery across the world has reduced the export market.

From a high base last year and with a continued negative trend in the real estate

sector, Chinese steel demand will have negative growth for the rest of 2021. As a result, while the January to August apparent steel use still stands at a positive 2.7 percent, overall steel demand is expected to decline by -1.0 percent in 2021.

No growth in steel demand is expected in 2022, with the real estate sector remaining depressed in line with the government policy stance on rebalancing and environmental protection. Some restocking activities might support apparent steel use. Recent government action to push for a transition away from the real estate-dependent growth model is likely to continue.

Developed economies

More targeted and localized lockdowns helped to minimize the impact of the latest infection waves on economic activities in 2021. However, supply chain bottlenecks and the services sector still lagging behind are preventing a more robust recovery.

A reduction in supply chain bottlenecks, continued pent-up demand and rising business and consumer confidence, will strengthen the recovery momentum in 2022.

After falling by -12.7 percent in 2020, steel demand will increase by 12.2 percent in 2021 and 4.3 percent in 2022, reaching its pre-pandemic level.

In the U.S., the economy continues its robust recovery, driven by pent-up demand and a vigorous policy response. The level of real GDP exceeded its previous high in the second quarter of this year.

Steel demand was aided by the strong performance of the automotive and durable goods sectors, but shortage of some components is undermining this recovery. The momentum in the construction sector is weakening with the end of a residential construction boom and sluggish non-residential sector activities. The recovery in oil prices is supporting a recovery in energy sector investment.

There could be more upside potential if President Biden's infrastructure stimulus program is enacted, but this would not feed through until late 2022.

In the EU, the recovery in steel demand that started in the second half of 2020 is gathering pace, with all steel-using sectors exhibiting a positive recovery despite continuing waves of infection.

Germany's steel demand recovery is supported by exports, which underlie its strong manufacturing performance. However, supply bottlenecks, particularly in the automotive sector, are causing a loss of momentum. Steel demand in 2022 will benefit from a high order backlog in the manufacturing sector while the construction sector is expected to continue to grow after showing relatively high growth performance throughout the pandemic.

Italy, one of the hardest hit by the pandemic in the EU, is recovering faster than other EU countries, with strong recovery in construction. Several steel using sectors, including construction and domestic appliances, are expected to recover to a pre-COVID level in 2021.

In developed Asia, the COVID situation worsened in 2021, exacerbated by slower vaccination progress, but steel

demand recovery was not interrupted and the forecast has been revised up, helped by the strong rebound in global trade and government infrastructure programs.

In Japan, steel demand is recovering gradually with increasing exports, investment and consumption. Manufacturing, especially automotive and machinery, is leading the recovery. Civil construction continues to underpin steel demand, while private construction remains subdued, with the exception of warehouses and distribution centers. In 2022, recoveries in consumption and investment are expected to support positive growth in all steel using sectors.

South Korea is expected to see its steel demand recovering to the 2019 level in 2021, supported by improving exports and investment in manufacturing facilities. The construction sector will be supported by public civil engineering programs and residential construction recovery, switching to positive growth in 2021/22. South Korea saw a jump in new shipping orders in 2021, which will boost Korea's steel demand for the coming years.

Developing economies excluding China

Steel demand in the developing economies excluding China continued to recover in 2021, aided by the recovery in commodity prices and international trade. However, new COVID waves combined with low vaccination levels and a slow recovery in international tourism restrained developing economies. In 2022, as vaccinations progress, conditions in the developing economies are expected to improve, but the pandemic will leave a


lasting impact on these economies through weakened financial positions and accumulated structural challenges.

While on track to a healthy recovery from the strict lockdown in 2020, India's economy got another shock from a more severe second wave in April-June, 2021, which caused output across all sectors to fall. However, the economic impact of the second wave was much less severe compared with the first wave, due to more localized lockdowns. Since July, a healthy recovery has resumed for all sectors. As a result, India's steel demand suffered only a minor downward revision and will show a strong recovery in 2021. India's steel demand will reclaim the 100 million tonnes mark this year.

In the ASEAN region, Vietnam, which had successfully escaped the serious economic impact of the pandemic in 2020, is looking at a scaled-down outlook for 2021 due to surging infections. On the other hand, the Philippines have managed to implement construction projects despite the COVID restrictions. With delayed infrastructure projects and restricted labour mobility, the ASEAN region's recovery is expected to be only moderate.

Steel demand in Latin America, except Brazil, was severely hit by the pandemic in 2020. But in 2021 a surprisingly strong recovery has been taking place, due to the construction and automotive sectors and inventory rebuilding.

To read more in depth on the Automotive and Construction Industries, view this article on www.AmericanRecycler.com.




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EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Eddy Current Separators

by MARY M. THORNTON

maryt@americanrecycler.com

Culling the maximum amount of metal value from a scrap recycling operation can take many forms. One process that can be helpful is the use of an eddy current machine.

Bunting's High Frequency Eddy Current Separator (HF ECS) is used in the auto recycling, plastic PET and film and ICW wire recovery industries. "It provides significantly improved separation of small metallic particles from plastics and other non-metallic particulate.

The HF ECS is designed both magnetically and structurally to produce some of the highest throwing and separation forces in the industry. It is ideal for separating and throwing smaller, conductive, nonferrous materials such as aluminum, copper and brass," said Don Suderman, recycling industry product manager at Bunting. Suderman cited the difficulty of separating and recovering smaller and smaller particles of valuable metals from waste streams. Very small particles of metals such as copper and aluminum are being sent to landfills simply because conventional eddy current separators cannot recover the smallest particles of value. Similarly, other technologies such as conduction separation and robotic removal are also unable to effectively remove very small metal particles.

"The Bunting HF ECS, however, excels at removing exceptionally small particles of valuable metals, including high-demand copper and aluminum – and we've seen recent price increases for those very metals. As the payback for those two materials increases, eddy current separators are in much higher demand and recyclers realize they should recover as much of these met-

als as possible. Otherwise, recyclers will be hauling valuable materials to a landfill and instead of seeing profits from the sale of recovered metals, recyclers will lose money while paying greater landfill fees," Suderman stated.

He described how the goal at Bunting is to help customers recover as much product as possible. At the company's Customer Experience Center, staff members run test samples of material sent in by potential customers, who then receive real, comprehensive

results, showing how those materials can be processed, using Bunting products. This allows the company to pursue continued design excellence while building trust with their customers.

Industrial Magnetics, Inc. supplies eddy current and magnetic stainless steel separators for removal, recovery and separation of ferrous metals, nonferrous metals, and certain grades of stainless steel. Equipment is available in a range of sizes to fit customer footprint and capacity requirements. Custom sizes and other features are available to customers upon request. "In the scrap industry, customers use our drum magnets, magnetic pulleys, and suspended magnets to remove ferrous metal, eddy current separators for recovering and separating nonferrous metals, and our magnetic stainless steel conveyor (MSSC) separators for removal, recovery, and separation of lightly ferritic stainless steel, Dan Allore, director of engineering, noted.

A manufacturer of magnetic products since 1961, acquiring Javelin Manufacturing and Walker Magnetics has broadened the scope and scale of separation products manu-

factured by the firm. Industrial Magnetics offers products for the following markets: scrap metal and recycling, MRF recycling, MSW, e-scrap, food processing, waste to energy and associated industries.

Allore explained how "processing volume for their customers varies based on the application, but a typical customer processing base is between 5 to 20 tons per hour. During sales and engineering phases for our equipment, we strive to gather as much information about each application as possi-



Industrial Magnetics, Inc.

ble, to prevent and eliminate issues during installation and setup of the equipment. By testing customer material in our lab, we have the opportunity to learn how our equipment will perform in a simulated customer environment. Increasingly, our customers strive to recover and refine more of the metals that are typically either sent to a landfill or classified as a mixed metal package. For example, we developed our MSSC magnetic separators specifically for stainless steel recovery and separation, as those metals were typically sold for a lower price in a mixed metal package. As the industry and technologies continue to evolve, our equipment provides the opportunity for both higher recovery and purity rates, allowing customers to increase revenue."

"The recovery of nonferrous metals – those that contain aluminum, copper, zinc or brass – is the economic basis of countless recycling systems and Steinert's eddy current separators, with an eccentric pole system, provide optimal recovery of nonferrous metals.



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It is no coincidence that more than 4,000 of them are in use worldwide, thanks to the high extraction volumes and at the same time, the durability they offer," commented Robert Broughton, vice president.

"Eddy current separators (ECS) recover nonferrous metals from post-consumer scrap like end-of-life vehicles, e-waste, incineration bottom ash and other waste related applications. Steinert achieves extraordinary separation results through the use of

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Eddy current separators ■Continued from Page B4

neodymium-iron-boron magnets, a thin conveyor belt and an electrically non-conducting drum shell made of composite fiber materials. These ensure maximum field strengths and thus precise, efficient sorting – a technology that plays an important role in preserving resources. Our products help keep increasingly scarce resources in



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circulation. Day after day, our customers fight to ensure that the world won't run out of resources. We all work together on the future of the circular economy," he added.

In the treatment of secondary and primary raw materials, the company operates in both the resource recovery and mining sectors. The metal recycling division supplies sorting systems for the separation of auto shredder residue or aluminum recycling. The Steinert nonferrous separator produces a mixture of nonferrous metals, derived from different sorting materials. As the market favors pure metal fractions, for most customers, additional sorting steps are required to extract, for example, pure aluminum from a nonferrous metal mix. A Steinert XSS® T EVO 5.0 (x-ray sorting system) helps to solve this sorting task.

Based in Cologne, Germany for more than 130 years, with around 340 employees worldwide, Steinert provides a global network that supports customers with local contacts and expertise.

United States Steel reports record earnings

United States Steel Corporation reported third quarter 2021 net earnings of \$2.002 billion, or \$6.97 per diluted share. Adjusted net earnings were \$1.543 billion, or \$5.36 per diluted share. This compares to third quarter 2020 net loss of \$234 million, or \$1.06 per diluted share. Adjusted net loss for third quarter 2020 was \$268 million, or \$1.21 per diluted share.

"We continue setting records, including record net earnings, record EBITDA, record EBITDA margin, record liquidity, record safety, and record quality and reliability," said U. S. Steel president and chief executive officer David B. Burritt. "Our balance sheet has been transformed and the cash flow generation of the business has us highly confident in our ability to pre-fund organic growth investments that will expand our existing competitive advantages. We are getting to our Best for All future faster."

Commenting on the company's strategy, Burritt continued, "It's not either investing in our business or returning capital directly to stockholders, it's both. Our future now includes a \$300 million stock repurchase program and \$0.05/share quarterly dividend to begin directly rewarding stockholders for the progress we have made so far. We are confident in the long term value our new, highly capable mini mill will create as it further expands our competitive advantage to produce sustainable and differentiated steel. We are getting better, not bigger, by building on our Mini Mill segment's industry-leading performance to create a business model that will continue to reward stockholders into the future."



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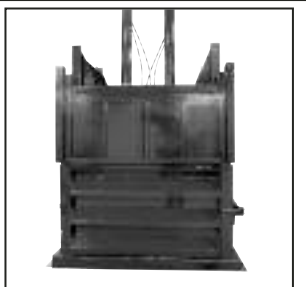


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The U.S. and European Union negotiate world's first carbon-based sectoral arrangement on steel and aluminum trade

The U.S. and the European Union announced their commitment to negotiate the world's first carbon-based sectoral arrangement on steel and aluminum trade by 2024. This announcement delivers a major win in the fight to address the climate crisis while protecting our workers and industry, and enabling them to compete in the global marketplace.

The U.S. and the European Union also used the strength of their partnership to come to an interim arrangement for trade in the steel and aluminum sectors that modifies tariffs on European Union steel and aluminum providers, addresses global overcapacity, and toughens enforcement mechanisms to prevent leakage of Chinese steel and aluminum into the U.S. market. As a result of the arrangement, the Europe Union will remove its tariffs on a wide range of products, protecting American jobs, reducing costs for middle-class families, and maintaining U.S. export competitiveness.

Together, the U.S. and European Union will work to restrict access to their markets for dirty steel and limit access to countries that dump steel in our markets, contributing to worldwide over-supply. This arrangement will be open to any interested country that wishes to join and meets criteria for restoring market orientation and reducing trade in high-carbon steel and aluminum products.

This arrangement will:

- Be a global first in the fight against climate change and countering

distortive economic practices that harm our interests. Never have two global partners aligned their trade policies to confront the threats of climate change and global market distortions, ensuring that trade works to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

- Protect American jobs and industry and provide them with an advantage. American-made steel and aluminum is produced with far fewer emissions than dirtier alternatives made in the PRC and elsewhere. To date, American steel companies and workers have received no benefit for their low-carbon production. Low-carbon steel across all production types – and the workers who make it – will be incentivized and rewarded going forward.

- Results in lower prices for American consumers and families by providing relief for American manufacturers who rely on readily accessible, affordable steel and aluminum to make their products. Steel and aluminum are essential components of many manufactured goods, including automobiles, household appliances, building materials, and more.

- Steel and aluminum production are two of the most carbon-intensive industrial sectors, accounting for roughly 10 percent of all carbon emissions – comparable to the total emissions of India. A carbon-based sectoral arrangement will drive investment in green steel production in the U.S., Europe, and around the world, ensuring a competitive U.S. steel industry for decades to come.

Minnesota aluminum recycler invests \$10 million in upgrades

Spectro Alloys, a Midwest based recycler of aluminum, announced approximately \$10 million in plant upgrades to be completed in early 2022. The projects include a new warehouse and pollution control equipment, enabling progress towards its long term sustainability objectives.

Founded in 1973, Spectro turns what's used into what's new by recycling aluminum for regional die casters and foundries. The recycled material is then made into new products.

Spectro Alloys broke ground on a new 70,000 sq.ft. building in Rosemount, Minnesota in September. The modern warehouse will significantly reduce truck traffic while streamlining the production, shipping and receiving processes for safety and efficiency.

The building, which will be completed in the spring of 2022, will be optimized for solar power and will utilize process heat to reduce energy consumption. The project will also include trees and native prairie landscaping around the facility.

Completed in August, over \$3 million in equipment and baghouse upgrades have enhanced Spectro's process automation and controls and expanded the company's environmental benefits. Baghouses are traditionally attached to furnaces within plant environments to capture and clean emissions. While these air filtration systems are standard for the recycling process, Spectro's new equipment improves emissions control well beyond industry standards.

Metals

■Continued from Page B1

“This provides stronger leverage and more influence on the domestic markets and overall performances of their companies,” Perez said. “With many investments and the growth outlook for producers of metals, one of the biggest driving forces is the ability to access scrap and control costs for their products. As the U.S. continues to recover from the pandemic, with plans for countrywide infrastructure growth, we are seeing demand increase for products that are heavily reliant on consumer and construction goods, which is resulting in an uptick for scrap metal volumes.”

Pickard added that there are a number of market conditions that are incentivizing M&A activity and can favor larger companies, including the need to ensure steady material flows; the need to invest in technology to produce higher quality grades; investing in transportation equipment including trucks, railcars, and containers; advantages related to managing cash flow; higher regulatory burdens that can pose significant barriers to entry for new market entrants; and a favorable interest rate environment that reduces the cost of financing acquisitions.

Jeff Saal, vice president of sales, haz division at Clean Earth, said the acquisition of the Environmental Solutions business (ESOL) from Stericycle in 2020 grew Clean Earth’s footprint nationally, further propelling the company into a global platform for waste management, including aerosol can recycling.

Clean Earth has the largest specialty waste network with 92 locations including 24 transfer, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) and technology that allows for efficient recycling of aerosol can components such as metal.

“Clean Earth’s key to successful aerosol recycling is its hazardous waste facility in Morgantown, West Virginia, that processes nearly one million aerosol cans each month, received from coast to coast,” Saal said. “From our perspective, we’ve increased our footprint within the scrap metal recycling market by expanding our own network focused on recycling and then sending material such as metals out for the final recycling process.”

Saal said the biggest driving force in regard to mergers and acquisitions is acquiring companies that have the capability of recycling materials that Clean Earth does not presently process.

“We have such a large collection of facilities that collect various types of waste. Finding avenues to recycle is always going to be a key priority for our company,” Saal said. “The goal of the scrap metal industry is to melt steel to make metal products, which is more cost effective than raw material and provides a sustainable alternative to raw material. From a recycling standpoint, the number one market is steel making.”

Clean Earth also has a sister division known as Harsco Environmental. It is a similar business in the sense that it recycles, reduces, reuses and processes byproducts, but unlike Clean Earth, which processes hundreds of types of waste, Harsco Environmental is focused on the scrap and byproducts from the steel and aluminum industries only.

“Our company, and that division specifically, is committed to leading our industry into a more sustainable future. Harsco Environmental has developed innovative metal recovery processes for carbon and stainless-steel slags and aluminum dross, helping customers cap-

ture valuable iron, nickel and aluminum that can be recycled directly into the metal production process,” Saal said. “We are leveraging our most recent acquisition to further their commitment to recycling nearly all components of an aerosol can, further benefiting the scrap metal recycling market.”

Steelmakers also are actively looking to vertically integrate through the acquisition of metals recyclers. As Petruski explained, integrated steelmakers and mini-mill steelmakers recognize the need to secure sources of prime ferrous scrap from industrial manufacturing.

“Recent announcements by Schnitzer Steel to acquire Columbus Recycling and Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. to acquire Ferrous Processing & Trading are major market movers,” Petruski said. “Cliffs is only the most recent major mill to acquire a scrap processor for vertical integration with Steel Dynamics and Nucor before them. We wouldn’t be surprised to see additional consolidation in the industry including major producers continuing to look for opportunities to vertically integrate outside of these three.”

2022 and Beyond

The forecast for both ferrous and nonferrous markets tends to be positive with strong demand in the markets as the global environment recovers from the pandemic. “We watched copper hit all-time highs this year due to mainly export demand and steel grades peaking with several large mills being built throughout the U.S. and current mill demand forecast,” Perez said. “We see the markets staying healthy for the producer and consumer of scrap metal as the country continues to recover.”

Some of the biggest challenges faced by the industry involve the global supply chain interferences and domestic trucking issues with driver availability and lane rates. Perez said that other issues such as the workforce shortage and the ability to produce scrap and automobile manufacturers scaling back on production outputs, and chip shortages for many consumer goods, are also several areas where the industry must focus.

“While the challenges associated with labor and transportation markets are likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future,” Pickard said, “the outlook for recycled metal markets in 2022 is extremely positive, given domestic manufacturing capacity expansion plans that will rely on scrap as their main raw material input; rising global demand, given scrap’s favorable carbon footprint as compared to primary production; the increased focus on sustainable development, and the ongoing recovery of the global economy from the COVID pandemic.”

According to Petruski, industry analysts anticipate that North American consumption of steel has leveled out and ferrous scrap generated from manufacturing will remain at or decline due to lighter weight steels, inroads by aluminum and improved manufacturing efficiencies.

“Add to that a greener movement to decarbonize the steel industry leading to more EAF production and the consumption of more scrap,” Petruski said. “More scrap demand with the same scrap supply should see elevated pricing and opportunities in the future. As we move forward to 2022, we anticipate hot-rolled steel prices will soften and ferrous scrap prices will soften as well. The proposed infrastructure bill could keep raw steel-making above 80 percent capability and demand for ferrous scrap strong.”

Nucor reports new record in third quarter

Nucor Corporation announced record quarterly consolidated net earnings of \$2.13 billion, or \$7.28 per diluted share, for the third quarter of 2021. By comparison, Nucor reported consolidated net earnings of \$1.51 billion, or \$5.04 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2021 and \$193.4 million, or \$0.63 per diluted share, for the third quarter of 2020.

In the first 9 months of 2021, Nucor reported consolidated net earnings of \$4.58 billion, or \$15.34 per diluted share, compared with consolidated net earnings of \$322.6 million, or \$1.06 per diluted share, in the first nine months of 2020.

“During the third quarter, we once again achieved record results, with earnings per share of \$7.28. Our third quarter performance surpassed our previous record of \$5.04 set in the second quarter of this year and almost matched our full year earnings record of \$7.42 that we set back in 2018,” said Leon Topalian, Nucor’s president and chief executive officer.

The average scrap and scrap substitute cost per gross ton used in the third quarter of 2021 was \$511, a 12 percent increase compared to \$457 in the second quarter of 2021 and an 84 percent increase compared to \$277 in the third quarter of 2020. The average scrap and scrap substitute cost per gross ton used in the first nine months of 2021 was \$457, a 60 percent increase compared to \$285 in the first nine months of 2020.

Included in the second quarter of 2021 earnings is a \$42.0 million, or \$0.11 per diluted share, non-cash impairment charge related to our leasehold interest in unproved oil and natural gas properties. This charge is included in the raw materials segment. Included in earnings for the third quarter of 2020 is a restructuring charge of \$16.4 million, or \$0.04 per diluted share, related to the realignment of Nucor’s metal buildings business. This charge is included in the steel products segment.

Pre-operating and start-up costs related to the company’s growth projects were approximately \$36 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share, in the third quarter of 2021, compared with approximately \$22 million, or \$0.06 per diluted share, in the second quarter of 2021 and approximately \$22 million, or \$0.06 per diluted share, in the third quarter of 2020.

In the first 9 months of 2021, pre-operating and start-up costs related to the company’s growth projects were approximately \$76 million, or \$0.19 per diluted share, compared with approximately \$73 million, or \$0.18 per diluted share, in the first 9 months of 2020.

Overall operating rates at the company’s steel mills decreased to 96 percent in the third quarter of 2021 as compared to 97 percent in the second quarter of 2021 and increased from 83 percent in the third quarter of 2020. Operating rates in the first nine months of 2021 increased to 96 percent as compared to 80 percent in the first nine months of 2020.

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