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## The “hazards” of household waste

by MAURA KELLER

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The household hazardous waste industry is faced with a myriad of potential risks – from the improper handling and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) to the contamination issues resulting from wrongful disposal methods to the inherent dangers on the part of sanitation workers handling HHW.

Andrew Booker, programs manager for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), oversees SWACO's HHW program and is currently undertaking an evaluation to understand opportunities to improve the company's existing HHWs program to better serve the public.

A significant part of SWACO's work involves educating and engaging local residents about proper diversion methods through education and outreach efforts. This includes providing HHW disposal services for all residents in partnership with Environmental Enterprises Incorporated (EEI). In addition to operating an HHW center where residents can bring accepted waste items for recycling and/or environmentally safe disposal, they also offer mobile collection events throughout the year in partnership with local communities.

“As an organization that is devoted to keeping all types of materials out of landfills, the biggest issue for SWACO is simply that there is a tremendous amount of household hazardous waste generated every year, and the volumes aren't getting any smaller,” Booker said.

While there are certainly instances of improper handling of this material by residents, the biggest issue is the difficulty in identification or handling of this type of waste.

“I think it's mostly just the lack of awareness of how to properly dispose of it. In many places there are very limited opportunities to do so properly,” Booker said. SWACO has been able to



While there are certainly instances of improper handling of hazardous household materials by residents, the biggest issue is the difficulty in identifying this type of waste.

provide a permanent location where residents can take their HHW, and the company conducts several temporary events each year.

“But it's an extremely expensive undertaking, which is without a doubt a limiting factor to how widely these types of facilities or events can be offered,” Booker said. “It's the reason that in many parts of country there are very limited options for residents to properly dispose of these materials properly, unfortunately.”

What's more, in 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a statement about the trend of some commercial hazardous waste incinerators turning away their customers (hazardous waste generators) due to a backlog at their facilities.

Hazardous waste generators are only allowed to accumulate hazardous waste onsite for a maximum of 90 days for large quantity generators (LQGs) or 180 days for small quantity generators (SQGs). However, because of the backlog, hazardous waste generators are finding it difficult to locate TSDFs to send their hazardous waste within regulatory time frames. As a result, the EPA discussed the

use of temporary authorizations and permit modifications to treatment, storage and disposal facilities storage capacities, while also allowing time limit extension requests by LQGs and SQGs. In August 2021, the EPA released a statement that these regulatory options are still in effect due to the continued issues of hazardous waste disposal options.

#### Safety First

The most common safety problem that Booker has heard about regarding HHW are fires at recycling processing facilities caused by lithium batteries. It's a very common occurrence, and can be very dangerous.

As Booker explained, lithium batteries are in a lot of commonly used items at this point, and most residents have a sense that they are recyclable and shouldn't be put in the trash, but of course they also shouldn't be put in residential curbside recycling.

“People are trying to do the right thing, although they are choosing the wrong way to go about it,” Booker said. “It creates a real danger for the recycling facilities and the people that work there. We message against it regu-

larly, but a lot still end up in curbside recycling carts, so they also end up at the MRFs, creating a lot of risk.”

#### Efforts By Municipalities

If a municipality has the ability to provide collection points, either permanently or through mobile events, people will participate, but the cost of doing so makes this an impractical solution for many jurisdictions.

“Even if these are provided, only a certain percentage of residents will participate. So, I am not suggesting in any way that the provision of permanent or mobile collection events should be considered a true ‘solution,’” Booker said.

In SWACO's jurisdiction, which is all of Franklin County, Ohio, the company provides a permanent location and several mobile collection events each year, which are available to all residents in the county. They also have at least one local jurisdiction that hosts their own smaller event for their residents, and several have started to accept certain items year-round – typically just batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and electronic waste. Ultimately Booker thinks that

See HAZARDS, Page A4

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# Recycling Raccoon Squad helps kick off 2022 season



Michigan's acclaimed Recycling Raccoon Squad – the starring messengers of the state's national award winning Know It Before You Throw It recycling education campaign – made their debut at the Big House to help kick off this fall's University of Michigan (UM) college football season.

Images of the Recycling Raccoons and educational signage about recycling best practices will adorn about 250 locations throughout the Michigan Stadium and be displayed on 127 televisions in the concourse and premium seating areas during the entire 2022 season. Stadium goers will be encouraged by the Recycling Raccoon Squad to place their waste into the right area to avoid contaminating the properly sorted recyclables and compost.

The installation represents a new sports marketing partnership between UM and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) that can help UM get closer to achieving its zero waste game day initiative that has the aspirational aim of diverting 90 percent of the football stadium's waste from landfills.

On any given Saturday during a UM home football game, the more than 111,000 people who filter in and out of Michigan Stadium generate approximately 6.5 tons of recyclable materials, such as cardboard pizza boxes, aluminum cans and plastic bottles and containers. They also produce approximately 2 tons of compost, which includes food waste created by patrons and the specially designed compostable food trays, napkins, coffee lids, soda cups, cheese cups and lids, deli wraps, popcorn bags, spoons, forks, knives and straws distributed by the Big House's food and beverage vendors.

Michigan Athletics began a phased approach to zero waste during the 2016 season, by sourcing and testing the durability of compostable products and packaging and refining post game cleanup

operations to properly separate waste streams.

Each Sunday after a home game, the stadium is cleaned and waste is separated into compost, recycling and landfill bins, to be taken to their respective locations for sorting and disposal.

A zero waste Michigan Stadium builds on the more than 20 year history of recycling game day waste and supports the UM campus wide sustainability effort known as Planet Blue. The effort stems from recommendations by a committee of students, faculty, and staff to advance the university's progress toward its 2025 sustainability goals, specifically to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by 40 percent below 2006 levels and to strengthen the culture of sustainability on campus.

All UM football stadium recyclables go to the Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority plant near Chelsea.

About half the waste is disposed of by fans in hundreds of compost and recycling bins throughout the stadium on game day. Some contamination inevitably occurs as fans mistakenly place items in the wrong bins. The Recycling Raccoons' messaging supports existing, UM-specific signage, to minimize recycling miscues and reduce contamination of materials, Richardson said.

While the waste generated at seven home football games per year amounts to only a fraction of a percent of UM's overall campus wide waste, the educational value in doing waste diversion at the Big House is significant, Richardson said.

Recycling in Michigan has reached a new all-time high, up 35.4 percent from pre-2019 levels, according to a 2022 EGLE analysis. This equates to Michigan now capturing over 500,000 more tons of cardboard boxes, milk cartons, plastic bottles, organic material, and other recyclables, which equates to more than 110 pounds per person each year.

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# DOE seeks public input on new programs to strengthen domestic battery recycling

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), issued a request for information (RFI) to help guide the implementation of \$335 million in investments for lithium-ion battery recycling programs. Expanding options for domestic production of zero emissions transportation will allow more Americans to benefit from clean transportation, while adding jobs.

While lithium-ion battery costs have fallen more than 90 percent since 2008, energy density and performance have rap-

idly increased, paving the way for an accelerated transition to clean transportation. This RFI builds and expands on DOE's May 2022 announcement of \$3.16 billion in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including \$3.1 billion for battery materials refining and production plants, battery cell and pack manufacturing facilities, and recycling facilities, and \$60 million to support second-life applications for batteries once used to power electric vehicles, and new

processes for recycling materials back into the battery supply chain.

DOE is requesting feedback on how federal investments can accelerate the collection, transportation, processing and recycling of batteries and scrap materials, enable second life applications of lithium-ion batteries previously used to power electric vehicles and support high quality jobs for American workers.

Responses to the RFI are due October 14, 2022, by 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

## Hazards

Continued from Page 1

this is the direction that the industry needs to go – a network of local collection points, some regional options, and, importantly, more retailer take-back opportunities for these materials as well.

"We really need shared responsibility in providing as many easily accessible options for residents to responsibly dispose of these items," Booker said. "It's not realistic, or fair, to expect waste companies or local jurisdictions to be the sole 'solver' of this problem. We also need the companies that are producing and selling these items to step up and help be part of the solution."

In late August, the Illinois EPA announced a temporary suspension of all HHW events and locations after a fire occurred at a disposal facility in Ohio. The Illinois EPA is working with the current contractor to evaluate alternatives for disposal until the Ohio facility is back up and running, which isn't expected until mid-November.

### Education Is Key

If local or regional solid waste management districts or authorities are providing education on recycling and composting, the proper handling and disposal of HHW is naturally another important part of the overall education message.

That said, Booker stressed that the industry also needs to be educating,

constantly, about other non- or less-hazardous options that residents can use and "right-sizing" their purchasing so that they aren't left with so much excess material.

"But those can be challenging issues to improve on. It can be difficult to change long-standing purchasing habits," Booker said. "I also think that there are opportunities for much better point-of-purchase messaging. Many people leave the hardware store with a product and have not even contemplated that there may be challenges with properly disposing of the item. There are opportunities to reach them sooner to make them aware that proper disposal of the item won't be as easy as putting it in their trash."

Of course, all aspects of the waste and recycling industry are evolving towards greater use of robotics and AI, so that might be the easy answer to the influx of HHW. But Booker hoped that some of the technological innovations will be used to make some of these products less hazardous to begin with.

"There does seem to be a trend by some of the large corporations to market more items that have less hazardous characteristics or toxicity," Booker said. "Hopefully this trend continues so that residents won't have as much of this material to deal with to begin with."

Booker said businesses that sell a product to consumers that is particularly problematic to properly dispose of at the end of its use need to be part of the solution to the disposal problem that they are helping to create.

"The idea that waste companies, municipalities, counties, or regional government entities are solely responsible for fixing this problem just doesn't make sense, and in fact takes me back to the 'end of pipe' solutions of the past, which were often proven to be limited in addressing the broader environmental problems they were trying to address," Booker said.

The need for extended producer responsibility continues to grow, and for good reason. "We can debate the pros and cons of any specific piece of EPR legislation, and I could fall on either side of that debate depending upon what legislation we're talking about, but the general principal – that if a company is going to manufacture or sell a product that is inherently difficult to dispose of responsibly, then you need to be part of the solution to problem that you're contributing to – this

concept is sound," Booker said. "I'm not suggesting that they have to do it alone, just that they should take responsibility to be part of the solution to the problem that they are contributing to."

There are many examples that could be provided, but one good example is isocyanates, those foam insulation/sealant kits that can be purchased at hardware stores. These are serious chemicals and can be very dangerous to residents if they are not used correctly. Residents inevitably end up with excess canisters and have no idea of how to properly dispose of them.

"When they purchase them they often assume that it will be just as easy as taking a propane tank back to the store. It's not," Booker said. "The idea that waste companies or local political jurisdictions should be solely responsible for providing a responsible solution to something like this just doesn't make sense to me. If we're going to put these materials out into the residential waste stream, all entities involved in doing so need to part of a responsible disposal solution."



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## Glass recycling to improve with support of foundation grants

Glass recycling will continue to improve for residents in select cities and counties in North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. So far in 2022, the Glass Recycling Foundation (GRF) has awarded almost \$70,000 in grants to support equipment, education, and pilot project activities that improve glass recycling.

The Glass Recycling Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide and raise funds for localized and targeted assistance that addresses gaps in the glass recycling supply chain across the U.S.

**The following programs have received/will receive support in 2022 from the GRF:**

•Repeat Glass (Cleveland Heights, Ohio) – GRF will provide funding to support the purchase of roll-off containers to collect glass containers through a drop-off recycling program that serves both residential homes and commercial businesses with an anticipated 15 additional tons of glass recycled annually.

•Stillwater, Oklahoma – Grant funding will be used to purchase curbside recycling bins to allow 400 households the ability to recycle source-separated glass containers, with an anticipated 16 additional tons of glass recycled annually.

•Prism Glass Recycling (Erie County, Pennsylvania) – GRF funding, with additional funding from O-I Glass, will be used to expand Erie County's 2021 residential recycling grant and will provide glass recycling services to 20 bars and restaurants. The effort anticipates an additional 250 to 350 tons of glass recycled annually.

•North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – In North Carolina, where glass collection has fallen by 30 percent in the past four years, the GRF partnered with the NC DEQ to provide grants to the following communities:

•Pinehurst – Grant funding will support the installation of a new drop-off glass collection facility including a 20 yd. roll-off container to collect glass with a target of recovering 215 tons per year.

•Moore County – Grant funding will support the construction of a glass bunker, foam tire replacement for a wheel loader, roll-off containers, and signage. These improvements will enable the county to double its potential capacity, accept glass from other municipalities and commercial entities, reduce contamination in the glass recycling stream, and potentially increase glass recovered by 10 percent.

•Pitt County – Grant funding will support the construction of a bunker at the transfer station to collect glass containers brought in on roll-off containers from convenience sites throughout the county. Then the county can haul up to 20 tons of glass per trip instead of up to four tons per trip when transporting materials to the end market.

“Many communities struggle with strong glass recycling due to lack of investment or budget,” said Scott DeFife, president of the GRF. “Through donations from stakeholders in the glass recycling value chain, we can make an impact that increases glass recycling access and cullet available for recycled glass applications.”

To be considered for a GRF grant, eligible entities – non-profits, municipalities, county/state governments, glass collectors, material recovery facilities, beneficiaries, and manufacturers – must submit an application that includes a complete project budget, proposal, workplan, and other specified information. Projects allowed under the grant program can either be demonstration/pilot projects that address specific gaps in the glass recycling supply chain or education projects that educate the public about the benefits of recycling glass.

Funding for 2022 GRF grants is provided by generous donations from Anheuser-Busch Foundation, Ardagh Glass, Corona Extra/Constellation Brands, Crescent Crown Distributing, Diageo, Glass Packaging Institute, Knauf Insulation, O-I Charities Foundation, Strategic Materials Inc., and Urban Mining Industries.

## Community grants enhance local recycling

The Recycling Partnership has selected two Massachusetts communities to receive a grant funded investment to support the Every Bottle Back initiative, a beverage industry-led effort to reduce the industry's plastic footprint and to create a cleaner environment. The investment enables expansion of current recycling programs.

The Town of Falmouth will receive \$336,000 and the City of Methuen will receive \$240,000 which will provide residents in both towns with upgraded 95 gallon curbside recycling carts. The new lidded recycling carts will increase collection capacity, helping to improve recycling rates while reducing waste in landfills. The investments also include funding for community outreach and educational resources on what is and isn't recyclable, helping to cut down on contamination in the recycling stream.

“This program will allow residents in both communities to recycle more, add jobs and increase capturing valuable recyclables needed to make new products and packaging,” said Haley Gabbard, community program manager at The Recycling Partnership. “We are committed to supporting programs like this across the country to expand existing programs and increase public access.”

Launched in 2019 by American Beverage, the Every Bottle Back initiative is an integrated and comprehensive partnership featuring The Coca-Cola Company, Keurig Dr Pepper, PepsiCo and Polar Beverages. Members aim to improve the collection of the beverage industry's plastic beverage bottles, which are designed to be 100 percent recyclable.

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# California's carpet recycling program surpasses goals

At a time of immense strain on recycling efforts across the country, carpet recycling saw significant progress in California in 2021, according to the just-released California Carpet Stewardship Program 2021 Annual Report. In 2021, the program achieved an all-time annual high Recycling Rate of 27.9 percent, exceeding the 26 percent goal set in its 5 year plan.

Of all the carpet collected in California in 2021, 76.4 percent was recycled into useful new products, exceeding the program's goal of 60 percent. This percentage, called the yield, has grown dramatically over the life of the program from just 28 percent 10 years ago, thanks to expanded processing capacity, growing markets for post-consumer carpet materials and technological advances.

CARE executive director Bob Peoples noted, "2021 was another year of major progress in the face of multiple challenges. I credit the hard work of the recyclers, retailers, installers and drop-off site staff. Over the years we have built a robust system for collecting and recycling carpet that is unequaled anywhere. This is the first time the program has met the ambitious goals set forth in the 5 year plan and we are on track to continue this amazing progress."

**According to the California Carpet Stewardship Program's 2021 Annual Report:**

- 88.5 million pounds of post-

consumer carpet was collected across the state.

- 67 million pounds of recycled output was produced.

- Over 81 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions (MTC02E) was saved.

- \$23.1 million in subsidies was paid to support collectors, processors and manufacturers of recycled carpet material.

- Over \$1.5 million in grant funding was invested in 2021. Since 2017, CARE has paid over \$9.5 million to grow carpet recycling via grants for capital improvement, product testing and collection expansion.

Collection of carpet is a vital part of the recycling process. By the end of 2021, there were 94 CARE-sponsored public drop-off sites with all 58 counties having at least one operational program-sponsored public drop-off site. This is an increase of more than 200 percent from 44 public drop-off sites in 2017.

Through subsidies, grants and technical assistance, CARE supports increased collection and processing of carpet into products containing recycled carpet material. A total of 27 vendors currently incorporate carpet in at least 103 products, including 10 vendors in California. These products have industrial and retail applications, such as automotive plastic components, rubber transition mats, building materials and absorbency products.

# Gilchrist receives ISRI's 2022 Recycling Impact Award

Recognizing recycling stewardship among state gubernatorial successors, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), announced that Michigan Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II was presented with the third annual 2022 Recycling Impact Award.

ISRI, along with the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), presents the award annually to an NLGA member who is committed to working within a state, region, and/or communities to positively affect resource conservation and recycling.

"Lt. Governor Gilchrist is a valued champion of the environment, sustainability, and the recycling industry in Michigan," said ISRI president Robin Wiener. "His background in engineering and innovation enables him to see sustainable solutions in the state's recycling structure. The State of Michigan is fortunate to have his visionary leadership and ISRI congratulates him on this well deserved honor."

Throughout his career, Gilchrist has taken a boots-on-the-ground approach to understand problems in order to create solutions. He is known for using thoughtful innovation, progressive reform, and efficient modernization of policies and programs to the betterment of hardworking families.

From spearheading campaigns for equality and justice to harnessing technology to solve real problems, his focus has consistently remained on serving the public and getting things done.

Gilchrist brings a lifetime of experience to his role, receiving his first computer at the age of five and setting up a computer lab in a Detroit community recreation center using computers that he built himself at the age of 16. He studied computer engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan, graduating with honors.

He later had a successful career as a software engineer at Microsoft, helping to build SharePoint into the fastest growing product in the company's history.

Gilchrist spent the next several years of his career as a social entrepreneur and community organizer who helped people in communities across America realize their full economic and political potential.

Upon returning home to Detroit, he worked in local government to help build systems that made the government more responsive, transparent, and accountable to city residents. This experience prepared him for a key priority: to bring Michigan's state government fully into the 21st century on every level.

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# METALS

## Novelis reports quarterly results

Novelis Inc., a sustainable aluminum solutions provider and a leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, reported results for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023. Net income attributable to its common shareholder increased 28 percent versus the prior year to a record \$307 million, while net income from continuing operations increased 1 percent to \$307 million. Excluding special items in both years, first quarter fiscal year 2023 net income from continuing operations increased 18 percent versus the prior year to \$307 million due primarily to higher underlying Adjusted EBITDA, unrealized derivative gains and a lower tax provision in the current year, partially offset by a tax litigation gain benefiting prior year net income.

“Novelis once again delivered record financial performance in the first quarter, following our record performance last fiscal year,” said Steve Fisher, president and chief executive officer, Novelis Inc. “With our unmatched global footprint, broad product portfolio, and first mover capacity expansion plans to support growing demand for innovative and sustainable aluminum solutions, Novelis will continue to lead the aluminum industry in fostering a circular economy and driving long term value for our stakeholders.”

Net sales increased 32 percent to \$5.1 billion for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, compared to \$3.9 billion in the prior year period, primarily driven by higher average aluminum prices and local market premiums. Total flat rolled

product shipments were 962 kilotonnes, 1 percent lower than prior year shipments of 973 kilotonnes.

Adjusted EBITDA increased 1 percent to a record \$561 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, compared to \$555 million in the prior year period, which included a \$47 million gain related to a favorable decision in a Brazilian tax litigation. The underlying increase in adjusted EBITDA is primarily due to higher product pricing, favorable product mix on improved automotive and aerospace shipments, and lower metal costs, partially offset by high cost inflation and unfavorable foreign exchange translation.

Adjusted free cash flow from continuing operations was an outflow of \$72 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, higher than the prior year period outflow of \$30 million due primarily to less favorable metal price lag. The company had a net leverage ratio (net debt/TTM adjusted EBITDA) of 2.2x at the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, compared to 2.5x in the prior year period.

“In a strong demand but capacity constrained environment, we continue to focus on delivering high quality, high recycled content products to customers while continually optimizing our operations and portfolio,” said Devinder Ahuja, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Novelis.

The company continues to maintain a strong Total Liquidity position of \$2.4 billion as of June 30, 2022.

## Steel import permit applications down in August

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 August totaled 2,421,000 net tons (NT).

This was a 7.2 percent decrease from the 2,610,000 permit tons recorded in July and a 9.5 percent decrease from the July final imports total of 2,675,000.

Import permit tonnage for finished steel in August was 2,063,000, down 9.3 percent from the final imports total of 2,274,000 in July. For the first eight months of 2022 (including August SIMA permits and July final imports), total and finished steel imports were 21,889,000 NT and 17,789,000 NT, up 8.4 percent and 28.5 percent, respectively, from the same period in 2021. The estimated finished steel import market share in August was 23 percent and is 24 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Steel imports with large increases in August permits vs. July final imports

include sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (33 percent), heavy structural shapes (32 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coatings (up 17 percent) and cold rolled sheets (up 14 percent). Products with significant year-to date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2021 include wire rods (up 77 percent), oil country goods (up 65 percent), standard pipe (up 55 percent), line pipe (up 51 percent) and cold rolled sheets (up 46 percent).

In August, the largest steel import permit applications were for Canada (587,000 NT, up 8 percent from July final), Mexico (479,000 NT, up 4 percent), South Korea (202,000 NT, down 28 percent), Brazil (107,000 NT, down 58 percent) and Vietnam (107,000 NT, up 110 percent).

Through the first eight months of 2022, the largest suppliers were Canada (4,709,000 NT, up 1 percent), Mexico (3,894,000 NT, up 35 percent) and South Korea (1,962,000 NT, up 10 percent).

*Two factory workers were talking. The woman said, “I can make the boss give me the day off.” The man replied, “How?” The woman said, “Just wait and see!” She then hung upside down from the ceiling. The boss came in and said, “What are you doing!?” The*

*woman replied, “I’m a light bulb.” The boss declared, “You’ve been working so much you’ve gone crazy! I think you need a day off.” The man followed her so the boss asked where he was going. The man said, “I’m going home, too. I can’t work in the dark!”*



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Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
<b>FERROUS</b>						
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$410.00	\$398.00	\$400.00	\$421.00	\$418.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	390.00	405.00	385.00	395.00	401.00
Structural	per gross ton	310.00	320.00	310.00	335.00	365.00
#1 & #2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	300.00	304.00	305.00	310.00	315.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	196.00	198.00	197.00	212.00	315.00
Shredded Auto Scrap	per gross ton	415.00	410.00	418.00	415.00	420.00
<b>NON FERROUS</b>						
#1 Copper Bright	per pound	3.40	3.30	3.29	3.28	3.36
#2 Copper Wire & Tubing	per pound	3.20	3.19	3.09	3.10	3.13
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.77	.75	.76	.79	.75
Al/Cu Radiators	per pound	1.64	1.62	1.62	1.65	1.92
Aluminum Radiators	per pound	.69	.71	.67	.69	.69
Heater Cores	per pound	1.65	1.58	1.40	1.61	1.59
Stainless Steel	per pound	.60	.60	.58	.59	.65

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

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# METALS

## Steel imports down 5.7 percent in July

U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS						
BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (Thousands of Net Tons)						
*Preliminary	JUL 2022*	JUN 2022	YTD 2022	Prev 12 mths to JUL 2022	Prev 12 mths to JUL 2021	% Change 2022 Prev 12 mths vs. 2021
CANADA	544	635	4,122	7,010	6,261	12.0%
MEXICO	460	521	3,414	5,692	3,720	53.0%
BRAZIL	252	200	1,808	3,144	3,234	-2.8%
SOUTH KOREA	279	299	1,760	2,886	2,355	22.6%
VIETNAM	51	50	660	1,262	452	179.4%
JAPAN	173	98	762	1,234	935	32.0%
GERMANY	106	84	648	1,197	1,071	11.8%
TURKEY	119	52	660	1,191	571	77.4%
RUSSIA	0	123	465	1,142	966	18.3%
TAIWAN	90	97	672	1,124	636	76.6%
INDIA	33	88	451	705	184	284.0%
NETHERLANDS	57	57	326	624	518	20.5%
ALGERIA	56	39	414	623	144	331.9%
CHINA	39	68	372	623	359	73.4%
UNITED ARAB EM	29	20	226	405	293	38.4%
All Others	383	400	2,705	4,443	2,744	61.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>19,465</b>	<b>33,304</b>	<b>24,543</b>	<b>35.7%</b>

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 2,672,000 net tons (NT) of steel in July 2022, including 2,274,000 NT of finished steel (down 5.7 percent and up 2.1 percent, respectively, vs. June 2022). Total and finished steel imports are up 10.4 percent and 31.8 percent, respectively, year-to-date vs. 2021. Over the 12-month period August 2021 to July 2022, total and finished steel imports are up 35.7 percent and 47.1 percent, respectively, vs. the prior 12-month period.

Finished steel import market share was an estimated 25 percent in July and is estimated at 25 percent over the first seven months of 2022.

Key steel products with a significant import increase in July compared to June are wire rods (up 94 percent), reinforcing bars (up 42 percent), cut length plates (up 22 percent) and oil country goods (up 21 percent).

Products with a significant increase in imports over the 12-month period August 2021 to July 2022 compared to the previous 12-month period include oil country goods (up 111 percent), wire rods (up 92 percent), plates in coils (up 63 percent), cold rolled sheets (up 61 percent) and heavy structural shapes (up 53 percent).

In July, the largest suppliers were Canada (544,000 NT, down 14 percent vs. June), Mexico (460,000 NT, down 12 percent), South Korea (279,000 NT, down 7 percent), Brazil (252,000 NT, up 26 percent) and Japan (173,000 NT, up 76 percent). Over the 12-month period August 2021 to July 2022, the largest suppliers were Canada (7,010,000 NT, up 12 percent vs. compared to the previous 12-months), Mexico (5,692,000 NT, up 53 percent), Brazil (3,144,000 NT, down 3 percent), South Korea (2,886,000 NT, up 23 percent) and Vietnam (1,262,000 NT, up 179 percent).

## Elementus enters agreement

ElementUS Minerals, LLC, whose process will extract and refine strategic minerals, including pig iron, alumina and rare earth elements from bauxite residue with zero mining impact, has entered into an exclusive agreement with the partners of Lalumina to process bauxite residue from the Lalumina refinery in Burnside, Louisiana.

ElementUS's process, which will serve the dual purpose of extracting strategic minerals without the scars of mining activities while simultaneously cleaning up the environment by eliminating bauxite residue, is intended to be adapted and applied to many other alumina refining facilities around the

world. This agreement marks the next step in the growth of ElementUS and a critical step for Lalumina in the environmental remediation of the residual bauxite at its currently idled refinery, which could be restarted in the future.

ElementUS currently owns the rights to all the bauxite residue produced at the Atlantic Alumina refinery in Gramercy, Louisiana. More than 30 million dry tonnes of bauxite residue are already stored there, with roughly another million tonnes produced annually. ElementUS' agreement with Lalumina will add up to 15 million tonnes of additional captive feedstock supply.

## Novelis develops laminated aluminium surfaces for beverage can ends

Novelis Inc., an aluminum solutions provider and the world's largest aluminum recycler and manufacturer of beverage can sheet, announced the company's new laminated aluminum surfaces for beverage can ends. This innovative application improves beverage container appearance, increases production process efficiencies and lowers CO2 emissions for European beverage brands and can makers. As a result, it further advances Novelis' leadership in the growing market for aluminum beverage packaging.

Colored aluminum beverage can ends, especially black, are particularly popular for new and innovative beverage products and energy drinks. However, producing lacquered, black ends also poses challenges in terms of color stability and can makers' production processes.

High quality surfaces and color stability are especially important for the premium beverage segments. Novelis' new aluminum sheet comes with a black laminating film. The laminating film is free of Bisphenol A (BPA) and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and meets all food and beverage industry requirements.

At Novelis' Göttingen site in Germany, which specializes in rolled aluminum surface finishing, the

laminating film is applied by a combination of pressure and heat.

For beverage can makers, adoption of the laminated sheet is simple, as the production of laminated ends does not require any can line retooling. In fact, it requires less cleaning, leading to increased productivity.

Novelis' product innovation supports can makers and beverage brands in reaching their sustainability goals. The lamination of aluminum coils for can ends reduces CO2 emissions by 33 percent, compared to the conventional liquid coating, as the lamination process requires less heat and chemicals. Laminated ends have no adverse impact on beverage can recyclability. Similar to the conventional can coating, the laminating film is removed as an organic component in the recycling process by thermal pretreatment and waste heat is reused in the process.

Novelis annually recycles approximately 80 billion used beverage cans worldwide. In Nachterstedt, Saxony-Anhalt, Novelis operates one of the world's largest, most technologically advanced recycling centers. At the facility, up to 400,000 tons of aluminum scrap is shredded, sorted, thermally decoated, melted, cast and returned to the infinite production cycle each year.

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## AUTOMOTIVE

# Pennsylvania DEP offers larger rebates to help residents buy electric vehicles plus \$3.4 million for chargers

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering larger consumer rebates for electric vehicles, with a focus on working class households, and providing \$3.4 million in Pennsylvania Volkswagen settlement funds for installation of 54 DC fast chargers in major traffic corridors.

“DEP continues to work strategically to support Pennsylvanians’ growing interest in zero emission electric vehicles, supporting electric vehicle purchases for

working class Pennsylvanians and funding installation of fast chargers along major traffic corridors in locations where no fast charging infrastructure currently exists,” said DEP acting secretary Ramez Ziadeh.

As of September 1, the DEP 2022-2023 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate program is offering Pennsylvanians a larger rebate for the purchase of a new or used battery electric car or truck. The amount has increased from \$750 to

\$2,000 or \$3,000, depending on household income.

The program also lowered the household income levels eligible for a rebate. For example, a family of two with an income of \$69,000 is eligible for a \$2,000 rebate for a battery electric vehicle. A family of four with an income of \$55,500 is eligible for a \$3,000 rebate.

With a total of \$2 million available, the rebate program aims to help get about 1,000 more electric vehicles on the road in Pennsylvania.

The program was established by state law in 2004 and is funded by the utilities gross receipts tax.

The Driving PA Forward DC Fast Charging Grants program awarded \$3.4 million in Pennsylvania Volkswagen settlement funds to projects that will install 54 DC fast chargers in 16 high-traffic locations in 12 counties. DC fast chargers can charge a battery electric vehicle to 80 percent in 20 to 60 minutes.

The majority of the projects will help build out electric vehicle corridors across Pennsylvania, where charging stations are available every 50 miles. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is heading up development of these corridors and other charging networks across the state, using National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding.

The Driving PA Forward DC Fast Charging program provided grants to the following projects:

•6406 Truck Plaza LLC: \$195,039 to install two plugs at a travel plaza/truck stop within one mile of I-80 Exit 42 in Emlenton, Venango County.

•Applegreen Electric: \$250,000 to install eight plugs at a Pennsylvania Turnpike plaza serving the I-476 corridor in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, and \$500,000 to install eight plugs at two Turnpike plazas serving I-76 westbound and eastbound in Somerset, Somerset County.

•Blink Network: \$233,268 to install two plugs at a KwikFill convenience store within one mile of I-80 Exit 29 in Harrisville, Venango County.

•Coen Markets Incorporated: \$240,000 to install two plugs at the Coen Market convenience store within one mile of I-76 Exit 91 in Donegal, Westmoreland County, and \$240,000 to install two plugs at the Coen Markets Travel Plaza within a mile of I-70 Exit 6 in Claysville, Washington County.

•Evgo Services LLC: \$118,673 to install four plugs at a Wawa store within one mile of U.S. 202 in Malvern, Chester County; \$145,528 to install four plugs at a Wawa store on PA-611 in Pipersville, Bucks County; \$165,663 to install four plugs at a shopping center 2 miles from Rt. 422 in Collegeville, Montgomery County; and \$167,326 to install four plugs at a Wawa on Rt. 202 in North Wales, Montgomery County.

•Giant Eagle, Inc.: \$210,000 to install two plugs at a GetGo store within one mile of I-79 Exit 14 in Waynesburg, Greene County.

•Raceway Management Company, Inc.: \$205,618 to install two plugs at a Onvo Travel Plaza within one mile of I-81 Exit 219 in New Milford, Susquehanna County, and \$222,752 to install two plugs at the Onvo Travel Plaza within a mile of I-78 Exit 13 in Bethel, Berks County.

•Sheetz, Inc.: \$250,000 to install four plugs at a Sheetz store within one mile of I-70 Exit 57 in New Stanton, Westmoreland County, and \$250,000 to install four plugs at a Sheetz within a mile of I-81 Exit 77 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

With these grants, Driving PA Forward has now funded installation of 106 DC fast charging plugs in 34 locations around the state. Driving PA Forward launched in 2018 to permanently reduce NOx emissions in Pennsylvania by supporting clean transportation projects with funding from the commonwealth’s \$118.5 million settlement with Volkswagen.

Battery electric vehicle registrations in Pennsylvania more than doubled from March 2020 to March 2022, from 11,343 to 23,689 registrations.

## SALVAGING Millions

by Ron Sturgeon  
Autosalvageconsultant.com

### The hidden value of performance pay for delivery drivers

Many people have heard of pay by the delivery (delivery stop), but most people do not really understand how it is correctly computed or what the hidden value is. The simple explanation is the rate per delivery or attempted delivery (dry run), times the number of deliveries or attempted deliveries completed is route pay. Route pay divided by route hours equals the driver’s rate per hour.

UPS has been the standard to compare with on delivery service for many years, and they are paid by performance pay. An efficient auto parts delivery driver will complete deliveries at an average rate of one every 20 minutes or less. The faster the delivery rate per minute, the higher the driver’s hourly rate will be.

Many owners and managers balk at this point and say, “Wait a minute. I can’t afford \$20 or \$25 per hour for a delivery driver.” Sure you can if you truly understand how pay by the delivery stop is calculated and have the right formulas in place. In most cases, the maximum a driver can earn is three times the delivery stop pay divided by one hour. The key here is as the rate per hour goes up, the number of hours worked comes down. Why would you care if the gross wage was 10 hours at \$10 per hour, or 5 hours at \$20 per hour, provided the same amount of work is accomplished? The total labor cost is the same: \$100.

Rates can vary based on windshield time and other factors, including drivers in zones with heavy traffic.

The true value here is lower insurance exposure, less fuel, less

maintenance, less equipment, fewer employees, less stress, higher quality of life, higher morale and faster service. Properly designed and implemented performance pay for delivery drivers is a Win, Win situation. You determine the amount and quality of work, and the maximum annual wage, the driver determines the number of hours the work will be performed in.

You will need to give the drivers additional training on dealing with customers to maintain quality and dealing with times spent on deliveries.

Did you ever notice that when the drivers leave with 10 deliveries, they get back at the end of the day; if they have 18 deliveries, they still get back at the same time? When was the last time you had an employee to sweep the warehouse? Ha, it’s not a joke. On the pay per stop program, we tell the drivers if you get done sooner than the end of the work day, just check in and go home. They are making more and going home early! But here’s the best part, you tell them if they want to work more, they can sweep the warehouse, or do other tasks you need done, like restocking, and earn their average hourly wage from the prior period for doing that work.

We originally adapted performance pay for delivery drivers from the solid waste industry, where it is referred to as container pay or can pay, in mid 1994, and redesigned it for the auto salvage industry. Fewer employees, less equipment, better service, lower cost and higher profit.

**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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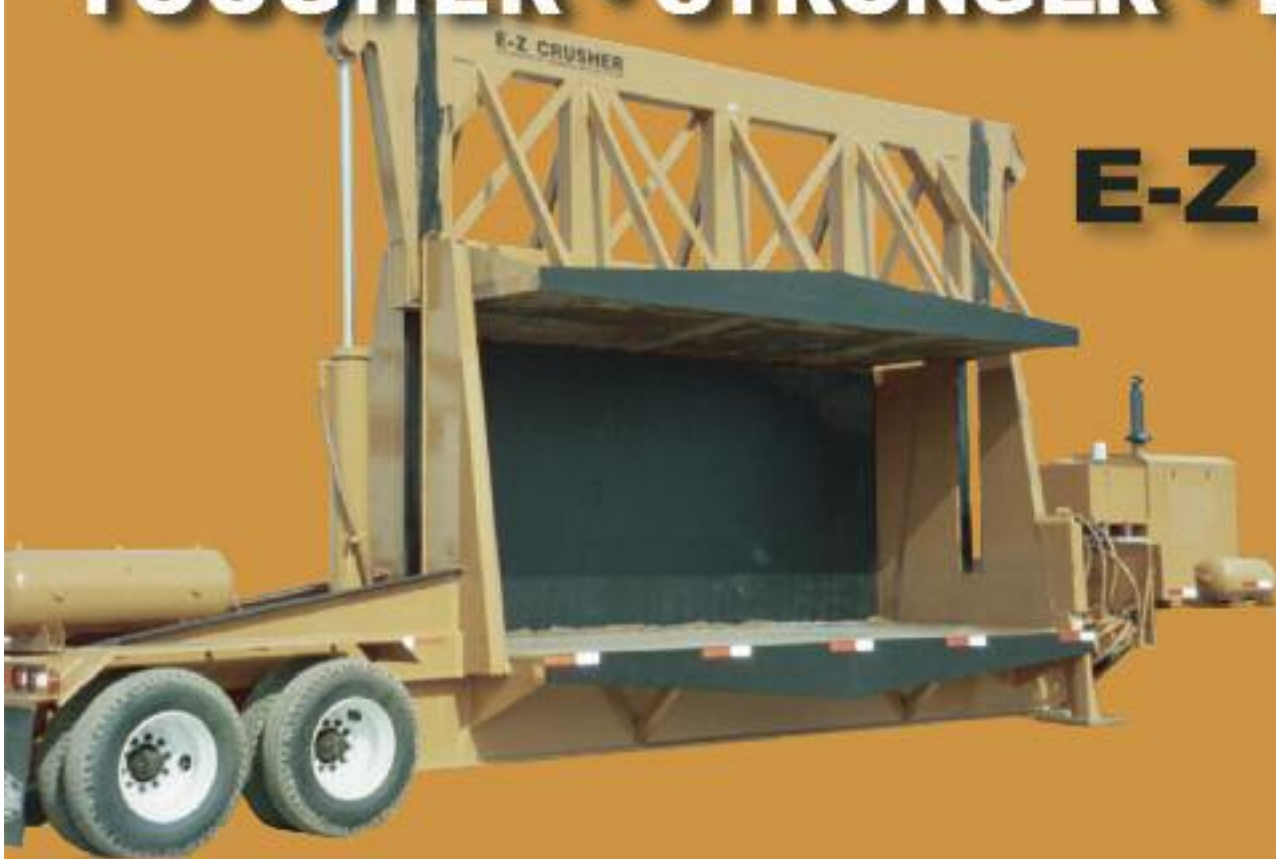
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# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Hydrodec merges with Cleveland Industrial

Hydrodec of North America, which collects and hydrotreats used transformer and naphthenic oils at its Canton, Ohio facility, has agreed to the merger with Ashtabula-based high voltage metal recycling business, Cleveland Industrial Recycling – with the expertise of both businesses joining to play a greater role in helping companies offset carbon emissions, conserve fossil fuels and gain Carbon Credits to help meet their sustainability goals.

The merger is the latest positive news for Hydrodec which was acquired by UK-based owning group Slicker Recycling in November last year.

The expanded company, which now counts over 50 employees, will be led by Gary Smith who becomes chief executive officer of the U.S. business – moving from the UK where he is currently Slicker Recycling’s operations director. Jim Szoka, former owner of Cleveland Industrial Recycling, will become the executive chairman of the amalgamated company.

Cleveland Industrial Recycling has 29 employees. Aside from its 74 acre Ashtabula, Ohio facility which processes high voltage scrap metal, the company also has sites in Mercer, Pennsylvania and Akron, Ohio which also process and drain transformers and high voltage electrical equipment.

The merger sees Slicker Recycling, which is headquartered near Birmingham in the UK, further increasing its global footprint and building its circular economy credentials after the 2020 opening of its \$95 million base oil re-refinery in Denmark through a joint venture with its German partner, Avista AG.

## Himes Service Company promotes Carlos Fabela

Himes Service Company (HSC) has promoted Carlos Fabela to the position of general manager. In this new capacity, Fabela will facilitate all HSC departments and customers working together in concert to continue providing HSC’s growing customer base with exceptional service.

Fabela joined HSC in 2007 as a shop assistant. In the 15 years since, he has developed an extensive product, service and industry knowledge base as he advanced through positions as technician, project manager, PM manager and most recently, service manager. In his previous position, Fabela used his knowledge through servant leadership to help HSC expand its reach as a premier service provider, doubling the technician workforce and tripling PM routes.

Himes Service Company is a multi-generational, family-owned company specializing in the sales and service of recycling and scrap processing equipment and is based in Waco, Texas.

## Waste Harmonics hires pallet manager

Waste Harmonics, a waste service provider, has hired Taylor Little as director of pallet management.

In her new role, Little will oversee the standardization and expansion of the pallet recycling program and enhance efficiencies. Little will leverage streamlined processes and industry-leading customer service to bring awareness and growth of the pallet recycling program to customers.

Little was previously employed at 48Forty Solutions as the director of supply chain operations.

## Covanta acquires Biologic Environmental Services

Covanta has acquired Biologic Environmental Services and Waste Solutions, a California based environmental management firm offering comprehensive waste management services. This is Covanta’s latest in a series of acquisitions since its purchase by the EQT Infrastructure V fund, expanding the company’s geographical footprint further west into California markets and providing another significant proof point in its business transformation.

The acquisition of Biologic provides numerous avenues for growth for Covanta in North America. Following completion of the deal, Covanta will integrate Biologic’s fully permitted Northern and Southern California facilities into its robust portfolio of zero carbon and zero waste-to-landfill services. This integration will further diversify Covanta’s customer offerings and will present significant growth potential from operating permits in areas including profiled waste and USDA regulated garbage and maritime waste.

With a shared focus on sustainability, Covanta will also leverage Biologic’s assets to further its continued expansion into key areas and markets, including industrial waste processing and exporting state regulated profiled waste to other jurisdictions. The acquisition also optimizes Covanta’s existing services, particularly those provided by its Long Beach Southeast Resource Recovery Facility by supporting customers desiring sustainable management of their waste.

## Sayward named Services Member of the Year

Shelley Sayward, senior vice president and general counsel for Casella Waste Systems, Inc., a regional solid waste, recycling and resource management services company, was recently named the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) Services Member of the Year as part of its 2022 Industry Leadership Awards.

Sayward was honored for playing an integral role in helping to shape much of the policy discussion on key industry issues throughout the Northeast. As a senior leader at Casella, her first term as the vice chair of NWRA’s Government Affairs Committee has provided significant insight and influence in advancing positive recycling and waste disposal infrastructure policy outcomes in Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. Her positive contributions have been felt throughout the association, and beyond, as she continues to be a unifying voice across several issues, while advancing critical environmental health and safety infrastructure.

Her commitment to understanding all facets of the company to be a better leader was on full display when she graduated from Casella’s innovative CDL school in 2021, becoming one of the over 90 graduates of the program since it was established in November 2020.

## American AllWaste names new CFO and new COO

American AllWaste LLC is a NewHold Enterprises company and a provider of non-hazardous liquid waste transportation and disposal, utility infrastructure cleaning and inspection and on-site dewatering services. The firm has appointed Mark Apostle to chief financial officer (CFO) and has promoted current CFO, Robert Schima, to chief operating officer (COO).

Based at AllWaste’s headquarters in Houston, Texas, Apostle will be responsible for leading accounting, finance and reporting for the company and will report to AllWaste’s chief executive officer Darrell Rogers and COO Robert Schima. Apostle brings over 20 years of finance and accounting experience, with over 10 in public accounting and the more recent 10 with private energy and industrial companies. Prior to joining AllWaste, he was CFO of two Houston-based companies, Kinetica Partners, a mid-stream gas acquisition company, and Republic Development Partners, a mid-stream energy infrastructure company, previously owned by ArcLight Capital Partners. Prior to this, Apostle was with Energy Transfer Partners, a diversified mid-stream energy company in San Antonio.

In addition to Apostle’s appointment, current CFO, Robert Schima was promoted to COO. Schima joined AllWaste in 2018 and has 30 years of accounting, commercial and financial management experience. In his role as COO, Schima will oversee all day-to-day operations of AllWaste, including transportation, pre-treatment and composting.

## MetalX acquires SRT Aluminum in Indiana

MetalX has completed the transaction acquiring the assets and business of secondary aluminum melter SRT Aluminum in Wabash, Indiana. Effective immediately, the facility will begin operating as MetalX Aluminum Conversion LLC (MAC).

Industry veteran, David Currence, has been named plant manager of MAC and will be responsible for leading the company’s efforts to refine operating performance and increase capacity. Joe Rosengarten, former SRT chief operating officer will be joining the MetalX commercial team as a vice president. More than 120 employees at the facility have been retained.

This newly acquired facility is a secondary aluminum melting operating that converts scrap aluminum into specification RSI. Located on a 40 acre site that also includes an aluminum shredder and turnings processing facility, melt operations utilize three electric induction and two reverberatory furnaces to produce RSI in sow and ingot form. In the near term, MetalX intends to increase monthly throughput from 11 to 15 million pounds, with longer term plans to invest additional capital for capacity expansion.

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# BRIEFS

## Igneo appoints new chief strategy officer

■ As Igneo Technologies continues to accelerate its growth, the company announced the appointment of Lars Radowitz as chief strategy officer. Radowitz joins the team with more than two decades of experience at Aurubis, one of the largest smelters in the world.

In his most recent role as vice president of raw materials recycling at Aurubis, Radowitz led both the tactical purchasing of recycling raw material feed and global marketing strategy.

Igneo presently operates a metal recovery plant in Isbergues, France, with an infeed capacity of 30,000 metric tons annually. A second plant is currently under construction in Savannah, Georgia, and will process 90,000 metric tons annually once it is online in early 2024.

## Waste Pro promotes Kenny Skaggs to regional VP

■ Waste Pro has promoted Kenny Skaggs to regional vice president for Southeast Florida.

Skaggs is an industry veteran who has nearly 30 years of experience dating back to 1995. He joined Waste Pro earlier this year as the Southeast Florida regional operations manager.

As regional vice president, Skaggs will lead Waste Pro's operations in Southeast Florida, which is home to offices in Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach, Pompano Beach, and Pembroke Pines. Waste Pro services more than 400,000 homes and 10,000 businesses in the market.

## Total Reclaim acquired by it's chief executive officer

■ Total Reclaim, Inc., a provider of recycling services in the Pacific Northwest is under new ownership. Bobby Farris has acquired a majority interest in the company. Farris has been the chief executive officer of Total Reclaim and its subsidiary, EcoLights NW, for the past three years and brings to the company 25 years of experience in managing electronics recycling, appliance recycling and universal waste recycling companies. Farris acquired the shares in the company previously owned by Craig Lorch and Jeffrey Zirkle. Lorch and Zirkle no longer have any interest in the company.

## Nucor adds Lamach to board of directors

■ Nucor Corporation elected Michael W. Lamach as a director, effective September 1, 2022.

Lamach served as executive chair of Trane Technologies plc from July 2021 until his retirement in December 2021. Previously, Lamach served as chairman and chief executive officer of Trane Technologies from its separation from Ingersoll-Rand plc in February 2020 to July 2021.

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## Paper vs. digital – Paper recycling remains strong

by MAURA KELLER

[mkeller@americanrecycler.com](mailto:mkeller@americanrecycler.com)

The biggest trend in the paper recycling industry is the decreasing supply of all forms of paper except packaging, as digital communication continues to replace printed periodicals, financial forms and office papers.

As Joe Riconosciuto, Republic Services director of materials marketing and recycling, explained, in addition to the well-publicized decline in printed daily news circulation, mail volumes are also in structural decline. According to USPS data, the piece count of first class mail has declined by more than 3.5 percent annually since 2018, or nearly 14 percent overall.

“Meanwhile, e-commerce has created an increase in containerboard products,” Riconosciuto said. “The shift from brick and mortar retail means that more secondary packaging is required to get products into consumer hands, often involving a box in a box. That means more total OCC in circulation, as well as increasing demand from mills.” Both of these big trends also point to an increasing portion of total supply shifting to residential sources, as opposed to retail locations (OCC) or pre-consumer production scrap (de-inking grades). As Riconosciuto pointed out, these trends were both in effect well before COVID-19, but accelerated significantly in 2020.

Digital changes aside, paper recycling is healthy overall, but some sectors are doing better than others.

“The products we ship are feedstock for manufactured goods, which puts paper recyclers at the beginning of a critical supply chain,” Riconosciuto said. “As was true with virtually every commodity in the economy, prices were very strong from mid-2020 until recent macroeconomic headwinds started to lead to weak end market demand.”

The last five years have been a whirlwind; the recent high prices came on the heels of the weakest market in history, three years into China’s National Sword program. As such, Riconosciuto said the short term out-



Containerboard has seen massive investments with new machines being introduced, according to Joe Riconosciuto, Republic Services’ director of materials marketing and recycling.

look is uncertain, but we are bullish about long term demand outlook for key categories.

“Containerboard has seen massive investment in the last couple years, with new paper machines coming online every couple of quarters,” Riconosciuto said. “Folding carton is also strong, as brand owners look to paper as a sustainable packaging solution for snack foods. Tissue and toweling continue to grow, and the away-from-home products that feature more recycled content are healthy now that Americans are traveling and returning to offices.”

Brian Hawkinson, American Forest & Paper Association’s (AF&PA) executive director of recovered fiber, also highlighted several key trends in the paper recycling marketplace and in public policy that are shaping the paper recycling industry:

- Increased demand for recovered paper in the U.S. and globally. In

2021, the consumption of recovered paper in U.S. paper and paperboard mills increased 4.7 percent over 2020 levels. And, U.S. exports of recovered paper for use in mills around the world increased by 13.4 percent.

- Corporate sustainability goals, especially those targeting increased recyclability of product packaging, puts additional focus on paper-based packaging as the solution.

- Lower quality of recovered paper from residential recycling systems, which has been a growing problem since the widespread adoption of single-stream collection, puts additional pressure on mill processing systems and increases costs for mills.

- Continued growth of e-commerce is increasing the amount of old corrugated containers (OCC) in residential recycling systems. This represents an opportunity for paper recyclers to collect more OCC to be used in manufacturing.

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies should be carefully designed to avoid interfering with successful paper recycling programs and to credit the early voluntary investments to support paper recycling.

“The paper industry achieves a consistently high recycling rate and is a success story. In 2021, 68 percent of all paper consumed in the U.S. was recycled. This rate is on par with the highest rate previously achieved,” Hawkinson said. “Additionally, 91.4 percent of all corrugated boxes were recycled in 2021. Our paper recycling system works. Our industry is committed to investing in its continued growth and success. An efficient and successful paper recycling system is an essential building block for a more sustainable future.”

Graham Rihn, chief executive officer and founder of RoadRunner Recycling, also pointed out that one of

See PAPER, Page B6

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## Brightmark launches medical waste recycling program with Jamar Health Products

Brightmark, a waste solutions provider based in San Francisco, and Jamar Health Products, a Wisconsin-based health care product manufacturer, have announced a strategic partnership to recycle plastic medical waste.

Brightmark's process uses a form of pyrolysis. Incoming plastics are shredded, dried and pelletized. The resulting pellets are placed in heated stainless steel vessels, known as plastic conversion units (PCUs). The vapor produced in the heating process is captured and cooled, creating fuels and the building blocks for future plastic products.

Jamar created PATRAN slide sheets for lateral transfer 40 years ago. Starting with the original disposable slide sheet, the company sells a variety of sizes and styles of single-patient, multiple-use slide sheets for safe

patient handling and mobility (SPHM) tasks, including boosting patients in bed when they start to slump down. As health care facilities nationwide started using PATRAN slide sheets, caregivers, including nurses, physical and occupational therapists and SPHM coordinators, started getting creative and found more than 25 ways to use PATRAN slide sheets for SPHM tasks by hospitals, surgery centers, long-term care facilities, EMS and other health care operations, the company said.

"The global health care plastic market produces over 14.5 billion pounds of plastics a year," said Bob Powell, chief executive officer of Brightmark. "Health care is a market that will likely continue to grow over 5 percent per year. We're with Jamar to help reuse and solve the plastics that come out of their slide sheets."

## The European paper value chain reached a 71.4 percent recycling rate

A new report shows the progress made by the European paper value chain towards recycling objectives, which are some of the most ambitious in the world, and highlights the most effective activities involved.

By committing earlier this year to recycle 76 percent of all paper consumed by 2030, the European paper value chain renewed its pledge to contribute to the EU's transformation towards a new model of circular economy. The 2021 Monitoring Report, released today, marks the first report monitoring the paper value chain's recycling commitment under the new European Declaration on Paper Recycling 2021-2030.

In 2021, 71.4 percent of all paper and board consumed in Europe was recycled. Both consumption of new paper and board and collection of Paper for Recycling (PFR) have increased. In a year-to-year comparison, the total amount of paper and board collected and recycled in the paper sector in 2021 increased by 2 percent, up to 57.1 million tonnes.

Since 2000, the European paper value chain has been committed to improving recycling and to overcoming obstacles to paper recycling in Europe. To that end, the paper value chain has undertaken various initiatives facilitating the recycling process and increasing recycling rates.

Some of the activities undertaken by the paper value chain include the publication of collection and sorting guidelines and a roadmap to further increase the sustainability of packaging. Most important is also the value chain's commitment to collection targets, including projects assessing the quality of Paper for Recycling, and its collaboration with CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, on technical specifications.

Also essential were initiatives to make paper-based products recyclable by design, including the publication of a Circularity by Design Guideline for fiber-based packaging, as well as information campaigns organized to support awareness and exchange best practices on recycling technologies.

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## DS Smith names managing director

DS Smith, a sustainable packaging leader, has named Keith Tornes as managing director, paper, forestry and recycling for North America.

Tornes, who has nearly 30 years of experience in operations and plant management in several senior global leadership roles, will be responsible for the U.S. operations that produce linerboard and corrugating medium to support the company's integrated corrugated packaging business.

Based in Riceboro, Georgia, he will oversee paper production at DS Smith's paper mills, as well as the North American recycling and forestry operations with a focus on growing DS

Smith's paper production and ensuring the delivery of high quality, high performing papers to meet changing demands in packaging and other industry sectors.

Tornes joins DS Smith from Sonoco, a global packaging company where he most recently served as segment manufacturing manager for protective solutions. At Sonoco, he also had 15 years in plant manager roles leading facilities in several of Sonoco's business units, including paper and protective solutions. Before Sonoco, he was at International Paper, where he led mill operations in roles with increasing responsibility.

## AR EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

To be included in the spotlight, you must **manufacture** the equipment featured. We require a company name, one contact person, a telephone number and, if applicable, a website address.

### UPCOMING TOPICS

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American Recycler News is not responsible for non-inclusion of manufacturers and their equipment. Manufacturers are to contact American Recycler to ensure their company is listed in the Equipment Spotlight.

## Cyclyx partners to reward for recycling plastics

Cyclyx International, a consortium-based post-use plastic innovation company with a mission to increase the recyclability of plastic from 10 percent to 90 percent, has announced a partnership with Virgin Red, the rewards club from the Virgin Group. The partnership will drive behavioural changes in plastic recycling by offering Virgin Points to incentivize participation in Cyclyx's 10 to 90® programs, that will help address plastic pollution and the global transition towards Net Zero.

Virgin Points will, in the future, be earned through a series of 10 to 90 programs and redeemed with Virgin Red for rewards. From sailings with Virgin Voyages, awesome holiday breaks with Virgin Limited Edition, gifts and experiences with Virgin Experience Gifts, or flights with Virgin Atlantic and its partner airlines – there's something for everyone. The partnership will first be introduced as a pilot before expanding nationwide and then more globally.

The 10 to 90 brand is a set of take-back programs, education, rewards and engagement tools, sponsored by Cyclyx, designed to incentivize small changes of behavior in order to increase the amount of waste plastics diverted from landfills and into the Cyclyx supply chain. Those waste plastics can then be recycled to a range of products by its consortium of members.

"We couldn't be happier to be working with Virgin Red," stated Joe Vaillancourt, chief executive officer of Cyclyx. "If we're going to increase the recyclability of plastic from 10 percent to 90 percent, we will need to create some real behavioral changes in the way that people recycle. By partnering with Virgin Red, we will be able to offer people exciting rewards that will help to incentivize those changes."

## PX GROUP awarded contract at first commercial scale plastic recycling plant



PX Group, the owner of Saltend Chemicals Park and operator of several critical energy infrastructure sites in the UK and Europe, has been awarded a 10 year operations & maintenance (O&M) contract by ReNew ELP at the world's first commercial scale plastic recycling plant.

Based at the Wilton International site, in Teesside, North East England, ReNew ELP, a subsidiary of Mura Technology Ltd will use the HydroPRSTM™ technology platform to chemically recycle end-of-life plastic. The HydroPRSTM process uses supercritical water to break down post-consumer plastics into a range of valuable liquid hydrocarbon products including naphtha, gas oils and heavy wax residue, all essential building blocks in the manufacturing of new plastics and other materials. Unlike traditional mechanical recycling, there is no limit to the number of times plastic can be recycled using this process, in addition it is capable of processing all plastic waste types, including difficult to recycle material such as composite films.

At this site, PX Group and ReNew ELP will initially process over to 20,000 tonnes of waste plastic each year, during phase 1 of operations. The site has scope and planning permission

for additional processing lines, which would take its processing capability to over 80,000 tonnes per year.

The announcement marks the start of PX Group and ReNew ELP's working relationship. PX Group is itself headquartered in Teesside and owns and operates Saltend Chemicals Park in Hull.

PX Group was selected as Renew ELP's O&M partner as a result of its exemplary health and safety track record, its long standing O&M nationwide expertise, and the fact that it is a local company. The contract will directly lead to the creation of around 30 new highly skilled jobs on the site.

The contract is scheduled to begin before the end of the year, which is commensurate with the completion of the construction phase of the project at the Wilton International site.

## AF&PA releases paper reports

The American Forest & Paper Association released its August 2022 U.S. paper reports.

### Printing-Writing Paper

Total packaging papers & specialty packaging shipments in August remained essentially flat (-0.1 percent) compared to August 2021. They were essentially flat (+0.1 percent) when compared to the same eight months of 2021.

- The unbleached packaging papers operating rate was 94.4 percent, up 1.1 points from August 2021 and up 1.7 points year-to-date.

- Shipments of bleached food wrapping were 31,600 short tons for the month of August, down 2.1 percent year-to-date.

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

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- Shipments of bleached food wrapping were 31,600 short tons for the month of August, down 2.1 percent year-to-date.

## CPI Survey Reveals 1.6 percent growth in polyurethane production

The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) shared the results of a three year survey on the polyurethanes industry in the U.S, Canada and Mexico. The 2021 End-Use Market Survey on the Polyurethanes Industry shows that polyurethane production rose to over 9.4 billion pounds. U.S. polyurethane production rose in several major product segments between 2018 and 2021, with the most significant growth in the rigid foam market.

The survey illustrates demand for polyurethanes remained steady even through the pandemic. Markets that use polyurethane products experienced a surge in demand, continuing to drive growth in the polyurethanes industry.

"CPI's survey is one of the most trusted sources of information on the industry, and it clearly demonstrates the

organization's role as the premier knowledge center for the North American polyurethanes industry," said Lee Salamone, senior director, CPI. "The past few years have demonstrated just how resilient the polyurethanes industry has been and continues to be during ongoing challenges. We continue to see strong performance thanks to the many dedicated professionals who continue to innovate high performance products for North American consumers."

The 2021 End-Use Market Survey on the Polyurethanes Industry provides a breakdown of raw material demand for polyurethane markets by type and by major end-use market for each country over a three-year period, as well as historic trends, market drivers and key issues.

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# EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Balers

by **MARY M. THORNTON**

maryt@americanrecycler.com

Last year, the EPA reported that while 68 percent of paper was recycled, there was only a 9 percent recycling rate for plastics. The reason? Products made from paper are very different from those made by plastics and likewise, the way each are recycled, differs greatly. For instance, paper items when recycled, are more easily identified and sorted. Regardless, both materials must be contained during the recycling process, for improved ease in handling, storage, transportation and/or sale. The variety of balers available for containing both materials is immense and the variations between the two materials must of course, be taken into consideration, when choosing the most effective baler type.

“Nonferrous, solid waste and single-stream facilities can rely on International Baler’s two-ram baler for solid, heavy duty construction and quick changeover of material. Our customers can also expect the most standard features of any two-ram, setting International Baler above the rest of the market,”

stated Sean Usoff, sales and marketing director.

He also explained that document destruction facilities and distribution centers benefit from International Baler’s open-end auto-tie, which offers high volume through-put, heavy bale weights, and is available in numerous standard configurations, including a space-saving vertical-tie option. The flagship model, the ATX, is the first roller-platen auto-tie built in the USA, capable of processing forty-five tons of OCC per hour. International Baler also provides vertical balers, closed-door horizontals (including full-ejects), and specialty machines for textiles, dust and mote, foam, and more. Every baler is engineered for reliability, safety and ease of operation.

International Baler is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service before, during, and after the sale. “Thanks to our experienced sales and service departments, you can expect knowledgeable support for the long life of your equipment. We’ve been a leading manufacturer of industrial recycling equipment since 1946, offering over two-hundred different models to



Maren Engineering Inc.

meet the unique needs of almost any customer’s application,” concluded Usoff.

Maren offers three types of horizontal balers in many sizes for both paper and plastic products: closed-end manual-ties, open-end auto-ties and two-ram. Todd Wondrow, president, commented, “Our ever increasing product breadth and width gives our team the unique ability to provide paper and plastic recyclers of all sizes, with the exact baler they need. Each type of baler Maren offers is available in a wide array of motor and cylinder sizes, and hopper openings.” Maren product interlocking steel plates are single and often triple pass welded on both sides of each attaching plate. Doing this improves the strength of the weldments and distributes the forces being applied over multiple plates. “Using thicker, interlocking steel plates is the reason our balers are often the heaviest balers in each class. The Maren key lock cylinder mount is unique in the market. This type of mount allows for a steel-to-steel flange mount by four bolts, which are unaffected by cylinder baling force. This eliminates the danger of breaking cylinder bolts. Also, our product use of multiple motors allows users to keep the second or third motor in reserve. Incorporating this option during

times when throughput levels are low saves on electrical costs,” added Wondrow.

He noted that Chinese policies for the importation of recyclable waste, Operation Green Fence & National Sword have redefined the domestic recycling landscape. “Although U.S. exports have started to level out, we also have begun producing more recyclable waste due to the pandemic. This has led to more investment in recycling infrastructure and innovation, especially for fiber and plastic. Labor shortages have necessitated the need to proceed in other ways and switching from a vertical to horizontal baler can help in that regard.”

Maren has manufactured high quality, long lasting horizontal balers for paper & plastic recyclers for over 60 years for customers in the following industries: paper/cardboard converters, distribution centers, single-stream recycling centers, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, manufacturing plants, general/confidential paper shredding and scrap metal yards.

Van Dyk Recycling Solutions offers high-speed, high-capacity, fully-automatic balers for recyclers and waste processors operating anywhere between 15 to 50 tons of material per hour. Models offered are the HBC-120, HBC-140 and HBC-180. Balers handle all types of paper, cardboard,

See BALERS, Page B5



International Baler

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## Town of Gilford becomes first polystyrene foam recycling hub in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's Town of Gilford received a \$50,000 grant from the Foodservice Packaging Institute's Foam Recycling Coalition to add a Foam Cycle system to its solid waste center.

The Gilford Solid Waste Center (GSWC), a source separated facility, created its Recycle Right campaign to encourage residents to recycle cardboard, mixed paper, plastics, metals, glass and yard waste, as well as specialty materials, including concrete, asphalt, batteries, tires, light bulbs, motor oil, clothing and electronics.

The Gilford Department of Public Works became aware of an initiative by the New Hampshire Plastics Work Group to create a hub-and-spoke system throughout northern New England to collect and recycle polystyrene (PS) foam. The new recycling center will have an expanded service region to northern New England; within 50 miles of the location there are 125 communities and over 530,000 residents.

"The GSWC is frequently asked by residents if foam can be recycled," said Meghan Theriault, public works

director with the Town of Gilford. "We are proud to become the first hub in the state to collect and densify foam for recycling, helping to divert the material from landfills, save money on trash disposal costs and potentially generate revenue for the community."

The Foam Recycling Coalition funding will assist with the purchase and installation of a PS foam recycling system, including a foam densifier. The GSWC will accept loose PS foam, both rigid and food packaging, on site during normal business hours. Rotary clubs are also planning to work together to create numerous spoke locations where foam can be dropped off or collected at organized events. The clubs will handle the logistics of delivering the collected foam to a hub location, such as Gilford, where it will then be densified into ingots to be sold to end markets for manufacturing into new products.

The grant is made possible through contributions to the Foam Recycling Coalition, which focuses exclusively on increased recycling of post-consumer foam polystyrene.

## Minimum postconsumer plastic recycled content model legislation published

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) and the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) announced the publication of Model Minimum Postconsumer Recycled Content Requirements for Plastic Products and Packaging Legislation. This Model is the result of two years' worth of work by a group of state recycling officials from the northeast and incorporates many of the suggestions received from 36 organizations and individuals during a public comment period in early 2022.

The working committee that drafted the Model was made of up state agency representatives and jointly facilitated by the NERC and the NEWMOA. The views expressed in this Model do not necessarily reflect those of each of the NEWMOA-member states or NERC's members. Rather, it reflects a best effort based on current circumstances to provide a potential basis for state legislative action to further the use of postconsumer resin in plastic products and packaging.

This Model bill would require producers of covered plastic products and packaging to use a specified amount of minimum postconsumer

recycled content, phased in over time. The covered plastic packaging and products include film bags, single-use containers used for food, beverages, household cleaning, and personal care products, and rigid plastic containers. This Model does not address all types of plastic products and packaging.

The Model legislative strategy encourages a circular economy in plastics. The other benefits of mandating minimum postconsumer recycled content in plastic products and packaging include conservation of resources, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts from producing plastics products from petroleum, strengthened domestic markets for products made with postconsumer plastics, and increased stability in the plastic scrap markets.

As 501(c)(3) organizations, neither NERC nor NEWMOA will lobby for this Model legislation. Rather, it is intended as a tool for interested organizations and legislators to consider when examining opportunities for the use of minimum postconsumer recycled content legislation and implementation for plastics.

## Balers

■Continued from Page B4

aluminum and plastics and seamlessly switch between grades for the ultimate flexibility in baling. All models are strictly "no-shear" and are designed with a pre-press compression flap that condenses material into square bales that are evenly dense on all sides (making them easier to stack and store).

Material preloads on top of the flap while the flap is in motion to keep the baler maintaining high speeds. Eliminating the act of shearing drastically reduces wear and tear on the machine and reduces maintenance costs.



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He concluded with, "Every baler is backed by our unmatched customer support plan, which includes exclusive access to our extensive parts warehouse and 24/7 technical assistance over the phone, at no extra charge. We keep all spare parts in stock in our Connecticut warehouse, so they are ready to ship the moment you need them. We also offer a new option for remote serviceability: Van Dyk Vision. Using augmented reality technology, our technicians can live stream footage of your plant and give directions in real time. It's just like having an expert in your plant, in an instant."

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# Paper

■Continued from Page B1

the biggest trends in the paper recycling industry right now has to do with sustainable packaging. It is taking the industry by storm and partly accelerated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As more industries and consumers start to understand the problems caused by plastics, they’re seeking paper-based products to fill that void,” Rihn said. “Recyclable paper products can meet their needs in terms of sustainability, recyclability, strength, weight and size. Manufacturers have realized these products can often be created for less money.”

Based on what RoadRunner’s seeing, while the paper recycling industry is good, it is slowing from the height of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic drove most employees from offices to their homes. Without places or events to go to, people had food and goods shipped to their homes in record numbers. That generated huge amounts of recyclable material which facilities quickly snatched up.

“Mills were running at more than 95 percent capacity at times in order to process the recycled material. High demand drove the industry to manufacture new paper products,” Graham said. “The effort also ballooned prices for bales of recyclable materials. With overseas shipping nightmares and delays at the U.S.-Canadian border,

facilities turned to domestic feedstock to meet the skyrocketing demand.”

Currently, RoadRunner sees the price of fiber-based commodities decreasing from the record prices experienced at the height of the pandemic. Fluctuating values in the market and less need to stockpile materials means recyclable paper products have less value as we head into the holiday season.

## Addressing Challenges

An increasing portion of total supply is shifting to residential curbside recycling. This is a more challenging stream to recycle than source-separated post-industrial scrap. As one of the nation’s largest providers of residential recycling, Republic Services sees the challenge first-hand.

“Municipalities want to see as much volume as possible diverted from landfills, and we do too. However, this is a double-edged sword; typical residential single stream has a higher contamination rate than commercial streams and is increasingly heterogeneous, as more types of packaging enter the curbside cart every year,” Riconosciuto, said. “OCC is now approximately half of our total volume, up dramatically from just a few years ago. This shifting mix impacts the mass-balance of our recycling centers, with too much material on some conveyors and not enough on others. Price indices also indicate an imbalance, with too little paper finding its way to high-value deinking applications.”

To address the technological challenges faced by the paper recycling

industry, system integrators are adapting designs to meet the dual needs of greater automation and shifting material streams.

According to Riconosciuto, modern recovery facilities employ substantially more optical sorters than previous generations in the final processing steps, while machinery like ballistic separators and auger screens are doing a lot of heavy lifting at the front end of recycling systems.

“Paper recycling is an industry that is greatly impacted by global macroeconomic trends that we cannot control,” Riconosciuto said. “The last five years have taught us all a little humility regarding forecasting the future. We are learning to be more adaptive to fast-changing conditions, even as the total supply of printed paper continues to decline. Fortunately, the entrepreneurial drive is alive and well in our industry.”

Hawkinson at AF&PA is seeing many “one-size-fits-all” approaches to recycling through extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, either being considered or implemented across several states.

“Paper recycling is a model that works. EPR policies must give credit to our industry’s consistently high recycling rates, continuous industry investments and ongoing efforts to promote voluntary recycling,” Hawkinson said.

One way forward is modeled by California. As Hawkinson explained, the state passed a law that creates an “off-ramp” for highly recycled materials like paper that hit state-defined recycling rate targets. EPR legislation like that in California will help ensure the continued market-based success of paper recycling.

“Additionally, low quality recovered paper sourced from single-stream residential curbside collection systems is a growing problem,” Hawkinson said. “Lower quality increases costs for paper mills, requires additional processing and reduces the amount of usable fiber that mills can use to manufacture new paper and paperboard.”

AF&PA members are always looking to create new innovative technologies and processes. One exciting innovation is Georgia-Pacific’s Juno Technology. Hawkinson said this game changing technology can recycle up to 90 percent of waste that is diverted from landfills and otherwise would be burned or buried.

AF&PA member New-Indy improved repulping systems at its Ontario, California mill. They’re doing this by adding additional screening and de-trashing capacity. The additional equipment delivered higher fiber recovery yield and provided the ability to consume mixed paper in all products without sacrificing quality. In addition to raw material cost savings, New-Indy’s waste stream was also reduced. The improved fiber recovery efficiency resulted in 5,500 tons less waste leaving the mill. Additionally, 10,000 tons of mixed paper with no outlet were processed by the mill and diverted from the landfill.

Another challenge is figuring out how to manage fuel costs. Domestic and international economic issues caused the price of fuel to balloon in early 2022. Much of the costs are passed to the customer as surcharges and higher-cost materials. While prices have steadily dropped throughout the summer, the price at the pump is still well above what industries have ever paid. Finding solutions to insulate customers and industries from those conditions proves to be a major hurdle right now.

Another issue still to be overcome involves the fibers. “Paper fibers degrade each time they’re recycled,” Rihn said. “After about a half dozen times, they break down to such a point they’re no longer usable in terms of strength. Much of it gets sent to landfill. The fibers are compostable, but that is not always the most financially feasible option.”

## Looking Ahead

“The future of the paper recycling industry is bright,” Hawkinson said. “The industry has announced more than \$5 billion in new manufacturing capacity investments utilizing recovered paper between 2019 and the end of 2024. That new manufacturing capacity will utilize an additional eight million tons of recovered paper.

In terms of product recyclability, paper cups are a great example of how the industry is making major investments to continue the best use of recycled fiber in our products. There are currently 30 mills across North America recycling paper cups. The fiber from those cups is used to make tissue, paper, containerboard and paperboard. The same goes for pizza boxes, which are successfully recycled every day at paper mills.

“And AF&PA is working with our members, stakeholders and other industry professionals who want to learn more about how they can design sustainable packaging and provide more access to recycling programs,” Hawkinson said.

“U.S. history is built on fiber-based products,” Rihn adds. “The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper. The paper industry is one of the oldest in the world, and we believe it will grow well into the future. Specifically, as we recognize the issues plastics create for human and environmental health, industries are turning to paper.”

Rihn pointed to the food industry as one area demanding more paper products. Think paper straws, for example. Meal kits are also increasingly choosing paper packaging over plastic. In response to consumer demands, paper packaging is also more recyclable or compostable.

“We expect the industry to grow by leaps and bounds,” Rihn said. “Paper is one of the most sustainable waste streams. It is recyclable and compostable. It can create new products, capture carbon from the air, and return nutrients to our food system. As Millennials and Gen Z continue into middle age and impart their values to their children, we believe the paper recycling industry will grow.”

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# ISRI updates position on minimum recycled plastic content legislation

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), the Voice of the Recycling Industry™, announced its position statement on the use of recycled plastics in the manufacture of new products, and on minimum mandates for recycled plastics in certain products imposed through legislation for the purpose of strengthening end markets for plastics derived from end-of-life consumer products. The updated statement was adopted by ISRI's board of directors on July 14, 2022.

Updates to the former policy include the addition of new definitions for "Consumer," "Pre-Consumer Plastic," and "Post-Consumer Plastic." New content was added, including "For the purposes of verification and measurement process as a byproduct that was collected for the purpose of recycling separate from the process that generated it, rather than being reclaimed within the same process." Additional new content was added, "Legislation that focuses on measuring recycled content using only post-consumer plastics (as defined below), provided that such limitations are not applied to any other commodity materials."

The policy states: Plastics are an incredibly diverse, versatile group of materials that are used in nearly all aspects of daily life, from life-saving medical supplies to light-weight food packaging. Despite the benefits plastics offer, many people in the United States are concerned about high levels of used plastic entering the natural environment. Using recycled plastic as a feedstock to manufacture new products is an environmentally responsible activity that also strengthens the economy by creating jobs and investment opportunities.

Plastics recyclers process material from commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential sources. While all four are important sources of material, they each have very different market dynamics. The markets for plastics sourced from industrial operations that were generated during a manufacturing process as a byproduct are strong, with supply and demand generally balanced. This plastic is generally homogeneous and "clean" and more easily recycled. All of this results in its desirability to be used as feedstock in the manufacturing supply chain. The market for these plastics – referred to by many as "pre-consumer" plastics – does not require intervention in the form of government mandates or policies to support them.

**Under the new policy, ISRI supports:**

- Legislation that expands the use of recycled plastic from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources in applications that are appropriate, noting these levels will vary by application and type of plastic;

- Legislation that focuses on measuring recycled content using only post-consumer plastics (as defined below), provided that such limitations are not applied to any other commodity materials;

- Efforts by manufacturers and brand owners to increase the use of recycled plastic resin beyond legislated levels and applications, when possible;

- Manufacturers incorporating the principles of Design for Recycling® (DfR) to ensure their products are more easily recycled;

- Stakeholder efforts that seek to increase plastic recycling through public education, outreach, and advocacy to meet growing demand for recycled plastic;

- Efforts that consider the life cycle assessment of a plastic product to help manufacturers make informed choices on the inclusion of recycled plastic resin; and

- For the purposes of verification and measurement, there may be up to a possible 10 percent variation in post-consumer plastics resulting in limited non-PCR contamination.

Such efforts will help spur the demand for recycled plastics while also increasing the commitment by stakeholders throughout the supply chain to ensure plastics are responsibly manufactured, collected, and recycled into new products.

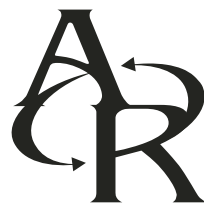
#### Applicable Definitions

- Consumer: Individuals, Households, Commercial, Industrial, and/or Institutional facilities in their role as end users.

- Pre-Consumer Plastic: "Pre-Consumer Plastic" is plastic resin material that resulted from a manufacturing process as a byproduct that was collected for the purpose of recycling separate from the process that generated it, rather than being reclaimed within the same process.

- Post-Consumer Plastic: "Post-Consumer Plastic" is plastic resin material that has completed its life as a consumer item, having served its intended end use, and has been collected for the purpose of recycling

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Q: What tops off a ghost's ice cream sundae? A: Whipped scream.

Q: Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party? A: He had no body to dance with.

Q: Where do most werewolves live? A: In Hollywood, California.

Q: What do you get when there's a witch in the desert? A: You get a sandwich.

Q: What's a monster's favorite bean? A: A human bean!

Q: Why does a cemetery have to keep a fence around it? A: Because people are dying to get in!



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