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Plastic recycling



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Metal recyclers face increasing challenges

by MAURA KELLER

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The scrap metal recycling industry in California faces an uphill battle with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as well as several bills introduced in the state's legislature that could pose significant threats to the state's metal recycling industry.

From a legislative standpoint, AB 2851 is on the Governor's desk, and industry experts believe it will severely harm California's metal shredding industry and economy. Here's why: AB 2851 imposes a hazardous waste fee on metal shredding facilities, which will place an unsustainable financial burden on these operations. It is expected that this will lead to facility closures, disrupt California's recycling efforts, and dismantle the state's circular economy.

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association in Van Nuys, California stated, "Metal shredding facilities are essential to processing recyclable materials and reducing waste. By imposing this fee, AB 2851 will undermine environmental sustainability, increase scrap metal accumulation, and create new environmental hazards. This bill sets a damaging precedent for over-regulation, threatening sectors critical to California's environmental and economic stability."

Mitch Kramar, vice president at Kramar's Iron and Metal, pointed to key information that was recently sent to California legislators regarding AB 2851. In this correspondence, it was clearly stated that "the bill was amended at the last minute to subject these facilities to the hazardous waste generation and handling fee, which will impose a huge fee on every ton of material that DTSC classifies as hazardous waste. There was no notice of these last-minute amendments and no opportunity to comment on or discuss the crushing economic impact of this fee on the metal shredding industry."

Quite simply, the statement made to legislators stressed that metal shredding facilities simply cannot absorb this fee. It will cost more to dispose of the waste than these facilities can make from the sale of their finished metal products.

In addition, another bill – SB 1234 – will give DTSC comprehensive permitting authority over scrap metal facilities – the type of permitting that had applied to hazardous waste treatment facilities (e.g., barrels of toxic chemicals, workers in hazmat suits).

"This may make sense for the five to six very large scrap metal facilities that produce such huge volumes of waste that they 'chemically' treat that waste



AB 2851 imposes a hazardous waste fee on metal shredding facilities, which will place an unsustainable financial burden on these operations.

so it can be sent to a regular solid waste landfill," said Steven Slater, EHS Regulatory Compliance Manager at Universal Service Recycling, Inc. "In fact, that is all that was supposed to happen when the Legislature passed SB 1249 ten years ago. But DTSC got greedy and wants authority over small scrap metal facilities that only do physical separation, sorting and sifting of scrap metals. There is hope that the Legislature will modify SB 1234 to ensure the focus of any new DTSC authorities are on the chemical treatment of waste – and not the physical processing of scrap metal."

As California also introduces SB253, a law mandating stricter Scope 3 emissions reporting requirements set to take effect in 2027, the scrap metal industry is facing significant challenges, particularly due to thermal events caused by the improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries. These batteries, increasingly found in consumer electronics and electric vehicles, pose substantial risks when mishandled, making their way into recycling facilities undetected and creating severe safety and financial challenges.

"Although SB253's requirements won't take effect until 2027, scrap recyclers need to start preparing now. The data infrastructure needed to accurately track and report Scope 3 emissions will require a significant upfront investment in new systems and technologies to monitor emissions across the entire supply chain," said Stan Chen, who serves as both chief executive officer of RecycleGO Inc., a Web3 and AI powered sustainability tech company, and president of United Metal Recycling, a full-service, Class-A permitted recycling facility that handles all grades of ferrous and nonferrous material, source-separated plastics, and fibers using state-of-the-art processing equipment. "Preparing for compliance with SB253 will add financial strain to

an industry already grappling with the operational risks of thermal events. Companies will need to allocate resources to ensure they can meet the upcoming regulatory demands, placing further pressure on profit margins."

DTSC Role

Slater stated that DTSC is now causing a lot of investments in scrap metal recycling and job creation in Nevada and Arizona, rather than California.

"This movement of investments, capitol and jobs has been ongoing since the 2012–2015 time frame, when DTSC started its quest to attempt to regulate scrap metal recycling as a 'hazardous waste treatment' under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)," Slater said.

According to Slater, "DTSC has also been trying to impose its regulatory oversight on scrap metal processing (a product purchased and sold) via other means – first by enforcement orders (NOVs) (then asking those business owners to toll their rights to sue them under those orders – this is still ongoing), then by seeking 'voluntary' agreements to bring in their oversight; then by adopting an illegal 'emergency' regulation over a three-day holiday weekend (a court tossed those out and ruled against DTSC); then by illegally repealing their long-standing policy consistent with federal EPA and the other 49 states that scrap metal is a valuable product and processing it is a valuable recycling activity and should not be regulated as a waste. A court reversed DTSC on that and then ordered DTSC to pay that business owner \$475k for their costs in defending themselves from DTSC's illegal actions."

The California Metal Recyclers Coalition recently pointed out in a suit filed against DTSC for classifying scrap metal as 'hazardous waste,'

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California achieves record carpet recycling rate



Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) submitted the California Carpet Stewardship Program's 2023 Annual Report to CalRecycle, highlighting a historically high recycling rate among other achievements. The California carpet recycling rate was 35 percent for the year 2023 and reached 41 percent in Q1 2024, pulling even with the statewide recycling rate for all materials. This annual rate is an 83 percent increase over 2019's rate despite economic and operational challenges that have created significant headwinds.

- Other achievements in 2023 include:
- 71 percent recycling efficiency rate: Recycling efficiency refers to the amount of collected carpet that is transformed into recycled products.
 - More than 66 million pounds of old carpet were kept out of California landfills along with 12.5 million pounds of padding.
 - 2.4 million pounds of carpet was sent for reuse, enough to cover 68 football fields. CARE helps schools, universities, churches and other organizations

to reuse carpet in good condition that has been removed from its original placement.

- 110 products made by 28 vendors contain post-consumer recycled carpet material. In 2023, the 66 million pounds of recycled carpet material was used in a variety of products in the automotive and construction industries.
- 137 public drop-off sites for carpet recycling are established in all 58 California counties, three regional distribution centers and over 200 private sites operate across the state.

CARE executive director Robert Peoples noted, "This historically high recycling rate has been reached thanks to the hard work of our dedicated recycler community and the CARE California Team. We have seen a lot of press lately expressing skepticism about recycling, but the California Carpet Stewardship Program is showing tremendous success and uninterrupted growth in the face of multiple challenges. This program is a California success story."

Keurig Dr Pepper fined for false recyclability claims

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged Keurig Dr Pepper Inc. over claims by the company that its coffee pods could be recycled, despite not being accepted by major U.S. recycling companies.

The SEC said that Keurig has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1.5 million to settle the charges, without admitting or denying the Commission's findings.

According to the SEC, Keurig had stated in its fiscal year 2019 and 2020 annual reports that testing with recycling facilities indicated that its K-Cup coffee pods "can be effectively recycled," although the Commission said that the company failed to disclose that two

of the largest U.S. recycling companies "expressed significant concerns" to the company at the time about the commercial feasibility of curbside recycling of the pods, and had indicated to Keurig that they did not intend to accept the pods for recycling.

Keurig announced in 2020 that it had achieved making 100 percent of its K-Cup pods recyclable, after converting more than 100 manufacturing lines to produce new recyclable format pods made from polypropylene #5 plastic. The company also said at the time that it had intensified its efforts to ensure that recycling facilities across the U.S. have the capability to recycle polypropylene.

Kentucky offers solid waste recycling grants

Kentucky cities can receive a share of approximately \$58 million in grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Environmental Protection Agency anticipates awarding 20 to 30 assistance agreements with at least one award in each EPA region. The minimum award amount is \$500,000, and the maximum individual award is \$5 million per grant period.

Applicants must achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection and improve materials management infrastructure.

- Fund the creation and construction of tangible infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream.
- Establish, increase, expand, or optimize capacity for materials management.
- Establish, improve, expand, or optimize end markets for recycled commodities.
- Demonstrate a significant and measurable increase in the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste.

Applications are due December 20, 2024, and must be submitted through grants.gov.

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City of Flint distributes over 68,000 free curbside carts

Flint, Michigan, Mayor Sheldon Neeley helped launch a new milestone achievement for recycling by announcing the largest distribution of rolling, easy-to-use carts curbside carts in the city's history.

Neeley, along with Flint City Council president Ladell Lewis, and state Rep. Cynthia Neeley, D-Flint, joined leaders with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), The Recycling Partnership and Grand Rapids-based Cascade Engineering to celebrate the delivery kickoff of more than 60,000 free 96 gallon trash carts and 64 gallon recycling carts to over 30,000 residential households.

"Today's announcement is the final major step in transitioning Flint to a cart-based recycling program that will promote the largest recycling push in our city's history," Mayor Neeley said during an outdoor news conference at Rollingwood Park, where models of the city's new dark gray trash containers and blue recycling receptacles adorned with "Flint Strong" logos were on display.

The city's previous recycling program required residents to provide their own waste and recycling receptacles to hold materials at the curbside. The new rolling, lidded recycling carts manufactured by Cascade Engineering are projected to increase the amount of materials recycled in Flint from 624 tons per year to 5,400 tons annually – a 750 percent increase – as well as improve recycling access, inspire more resident participation and enhance safety for sanitation workers.

The Flint cart rollout features multiple funding sources. The city is receiving a \$1 million EGLE grant to help the city purchase and provide the free recycling carts. In addition, The Recycling Partnership, a purpose-driven organization, awarded a \$3.3 million grant to help support Flint's effort to modernize its waste management program and expand access to recycling.

"Expanding and modernizing Flint's recycling infrastructure is a key goal of EGLE and the State of Michigan," Strong said. "Our \$1 million EGLE grant is an investment in the City of Flint that will help all residents across the city have convenient and equitable access to recycling opportunities."

Together with its partners, including Midland-based Dow Inc. and the PepsiCo Foundation, The Recycling Partnership mobilizes investment to support local communities by modernizing facilities and expanding access to recycling in communities of all sizes.

Since 2020, The Partnership has teamed with EGLE to deploy 245,000 recycling carts in more than 30 communities across Michigan, serving a combined population of over 1 million Michiganders.

By transitioning to a cart-based collection program, the City of Flint is adopting an industry-recognized best-management practice to set the city up for immediate and long-term success. Of the 821 cities in the U.S. with populations over 50,000 people, 78 percent have carted collection.

American Beverage, Closed Loop Partners finance loan to support recycling facility

American Beverage, in partnership with Closed Loop Partners, announced a \$3 million loan to support the San Antonio-based facility of Balcones Recycling, one of the largest independent privately held recycling companies in the U.S. The loan, part of a multi-million-dollar investment across several partners, supports the development of a new 200,000-square-foot materials recovery facility.

The new facility will impact nearly 1.5 million San Antonio residents, multifamily buildings and commercial customers by better sorting and cleaning recyclables, allowing more materials to be processed and remade rather than wasted in a landfill.

"This state-of-the-art facility is a critical step toward improving San Antonio's recycling infrastructure," said Carol McGarah, executive director of the Texas Beverage Association. "We are proud to be a part of this project and build on Every Bottle Back's work in Texas to ensure recyclables, like our bottles and cans, are remade into new materials as intended."

The \$3 million loan to Balcones from American Beverage, through Closed Loop Partners' Infrastructure Group, financed the installation of new equipment to improve the processing and recycling of materials and add recycling capacity at the facility. With new sorting technology, the facility aims to significantly improve the recycling rate of a range of materials including



polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles, which will be returned to supply chains and can be used for new bottles.

This project is expected to yield nearly 1 million tons of recyclables over the next decade. This includes nearly 60,000 tons of PET plastic and more than 20,000 tons of aluminum, both of which are used to make recyclable cans and bottles.

This investment is part of 65 initial projects that the leading members of the beverage industry – The Coca-Cola Company, Keurig Dr Pepper and PepsiCo – and its sustainability partners have committed to fund through Every Bottle Back. To date, the beverage industry has committed \$39.1 million in funding nationwide. These investments are estimated to yield nearly 915 million new pounds of recycled PET and more than 87 million more pounds of recycled aluminum over the next decade.

Equipment Spotlight

3Tek Alpha 7400+2100 Hammer Mill Auto Shredder



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Metal recyclers

■Continued from Page A1

that the “metal-shredding industry is already extensively regulated by a wide array of federal, state, regional and local authorities, including federal and state air and water quality laws, regional water control boards, regional air quality districts, and local fire departments, as well as other government entities that deal with land use and local permitting.”

“Now, state government, through DTSC, is about to worsen the recycling crisis by threatening to put the largest, most successful, and most viable remaining recycling operations out of business by making it infeasible to recycle scrap metals like junk cars, used refrigerators, and thousands of other end-of-life metal products,” the CA Metal Recyclers Coalition stated. “DTSC’s action is unlawful and threatens to undermine the scrap-metal recycling industry in California. Instead of being recycled into new products and reducing waste, this ‘hazardous waste’ designation by DTSC will result in such materials accumulating in huge quantities, increasing urban blight, creating eyesores, and causing potential threats to health and safety by being abandoned in back alleys, yards,

neighborhood streets, vacant lots – and through a geometric increase in ‘mid-night dumping’ along roadsides or in empty fields.”

As a result of these DTSC’s actions, Slater said small recyclers and peddlers will have to travel farther to the bigger scrap metal facilities that will be able to withstand the added DTSC costs.

“The costs of doing business in California will be passed along to both suppliers and consumers of scrap metal. DTSC will force oligopoly conditions in the state. And states like Nevada, Arizona and Utah will get most new investments and jobs,” Slater says.

Another area of concern facing California’s metal recycling industry is the chemical treatment of waste residue.

As Slater explained, DTSC has historically regulated this activity by F letters. If DTSC now desires to regulate by permit, then facilities with F letters are the only ones that should be subject to the new permit.

“For anyone else, it would be superfluous, duplicative and prohibitively costly,” Slater said.

In California, scrap metal recycling facilities are currently subject to extensive regulations. These include:

- Industrial stormwater permitting by local water districts
- Underground storage tank permitting by local water districts
- Fugitive dust control by local air quality management districts
- Portable equipment air permitting by Air Resources Board
- Occupational Safety & Health requirements by CUPA, Fire Marshall, Cal/OHSA
- Land use and zoning restrictions by local municipalities
- Spill response and release requirements by EPA, DTSC, CUPA, Dept. of Transportation
- Universal Waste management requirements by DTSC, CUPA
- Hazardous waste controls for metal shredder residue
- Certified Appliance Recycler program requirements by DTSC, CUPA for the handling and removal of “materials that require special handling” (e.g., PCBs, CFCs)
- Chemical management and release reporting requirements by EPA, DTSC, CUPA

Global Recycling Standards Organization appoints new executive director

The Global Recycling Standards Organization (GRSO) has appointed Shannon Fertitta as executive director.

A key focus of GRSO, the RIOS™ standard and certification are specifically designed for the recycled materials industry. The program integrates the key operational elements of a robust management system by bringing quality, environmental and health, and safety together into one streamlined system. RIOS™ is a program that is designed to assist recyclers across all commodities in the goal of improving their environmental, health and safety performance, while also becoming a better partner to their customers and suppliers.

Fertitta has worked in the non-profit space in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for 22 years, leading movements across Louisiana for responsible electronics recycling, digital inclusion for the community, and safe workplace practices. Fertitta has extensive experience implementing and operating management systems in a live environment, including RIOS, R2, and 3rd party certification audit support. She has spent the past several years working with recyclers across commodities creating beneficial partnerships. In addition to her use of RIOS in her own business, she has also served as an officer on the GRSO/RIOS board of directors.

Casella Waste Systems highlights investments in recycling infrastructure

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. published its 2024 Sustainability Report, outlining its progress toward five key sustainability metrics, while highlighting significant achievements.

“With this year’s report, we are pleased to highlight several areas of achievement, and exceedingly proud that our commitment to our team continues to shine through in several areas of reporting,” said Casella chairman and chief executive officer, John W. Casella. “The investments we have made in our people, infrastructure, and logistics have had a positive impact on the sustainability and strength of our business, while also benefiting our customers and the communities we serve.”

The Casella team has grown by more than 32 percent since 2022 and is approaching 5,000 total employees. Even with its growth, the company reported continued improvement in its safety performance, with its total recordable incident rate (TRIR) dropping nearly 20 percent since 2019. A key contributor to improving safety performance has been the Company’s success in filling vacancies and maintaining near-full staffing levels, buoyed by the more than 300 drivers and technicians who have successfully trained at the company’s Kenneth A. Hier Sr. CDL Training Center with a focus on safety, service, and commitment to excellence.

In order that the company’s commitment to safety is felt from the front line to the back office, Casella enhanced its annual incentive compensation plans so that all such plans include goals to improve safety and reduce turnover year over year. “Safety is critically important to our success, and it is imperative that everyone

shares in the commitment to achieving this goal,” Casella said.

Casella also continues to make significant progress in climate leadership and earned a spot on the USA Today’s “America’s Climate Leaders 2024” list for the second consecutive year.

“We estimate that for every ton of greenhouse gas we emit through our operations, we help prevent more than five tons of greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the economy through our recycling, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration services,” Casella said. “This reflects our focus on simultaneously reducing our emissions and growing our emission-reducing services. We expect progress will continue as we work to advance renewable natural gas infrastructure and make further upgrades to our recycling infrastructure.”

Continued investments in infrastructure, innovation, and education have the company currently positioned to achieve its materials management goal of recycling more than 2 million tons in 2030.

“Since 2019, we have increased the amount of material we recycle by more than 36 percent, representing nearly 400,000 tons recyclables being put to a higher and better use,” Casella said. “In 2023, we completed a full retrofit of our largest recycling facility, while adding new facilities in New York and Pennsylvania through acquisition. Further investments in the critical infrastructure required to help achieve our materials management goals are scheduled to occur in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, positioning us to see tonnage growth in our resource solutions line of business in 2024 and beyond.”



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Republic Services breaks ground on recycling facility



Leaders from Blue Polymers, LLC; Republic Services and the City of Buckeye, Arizona, broke ground on Blue Polymers' latest innovative recycled plastics production facility, which will support sustainable packaging manufacturing throughout the Western United States. The 162,000 square foot facility is expected to create more than 60 highly skilled permanent jobs when it opens in the second half of 2025.

The Blue Polymers facility will specialize in recycled polyethylene, commonly found in milk jugs and laundry detergent bottles, and polypropylene, used in consumer packaging, such as margarine tubs and yogurt cups. These plastics will be processed and formulated into high-quality, drop-in recycled plastic solutions for the packaging industry.

Phoenix-based Republic Services, a joint venture partner in Blue Polymers, is developing a network of regional

Polymer Center plastics recycling facilities. These centers, the first of their kind in North America, produce high-quality, color-sorted recycled plastics directly from Republic's national curbside collection operations. Each Republic Services Polymer Center will be paired with a Blue Polymers facility; the Buckeye facility will process materials from Republic's Las Vegas Polymer Center, which opened in late 2023.

Demand is rising for domestically sourced, high-quality recycled plastics from both voluntary sustainability commitments and state legislation. Many consumer-packaged goods (CPG) companies are pledging to incorporate more recycled content into their packaging designs. At the same time, five states have implemented minimum recycled content requirements for single-use packaging. Republic's Polymer Centers and Blue Polymers' innovative facilities will help meet this demand.

Blue Polymers' facilities aim to support true package-to-package circularity, with an annual production target of 300+ million pounds of recycled resins.

*What is the best way to communicate with a fish?
Throw it a line.*

The screenshot shows the American Recycler E-NewsVoice website. At the top, it says 'Visit Our Website', 'Subscribe Now', and 'Advertise'. Below is the logo for 'American Recycler' with the tagline 'News/Voice of Salvage, Waste and Recycling'. The main content area features a 'GENSCO Complete Depollution & Dismantling Systems' advertisement with images of industrial equipment and a phone number '(800) 444-0815'. Below that is a 'Latest News' section with several articles: 'North American aluminum demand continues to decline', 'Proposed new legislation aims to restrict plastic foam foodware', 'The Government of Canada is seeking feedback on developing a federal plastics registry', and 'Gf Goodrich inflation system wins new product'. There is also a '2024 P World' logo. At the bottom, there is a 'Trending Articles' section with 'The largest clean energy project in U.S. history starts full construction' and 'Fatality rate for waste and recycling industry declines in 2022'. A 'Request a Media Kit' button is visible at the bottom of the page.

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METALS

Novelis accelerates sustainability goals with 3x30 initiative

Novelis Inc., a sustainable aluminum solutions provider and leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, announced its new sustainability initiative to advance aluminum as the material of choice for circular solutions. With Novelis 3x30 the company aims to set ambitious, carbon-related sustainability goals and identify priorities to accelerate the company's decarbonization and circularity efforts.

"Novelis 3x30 is our roadmap to going further, faster in our efforts to decarbonize our products and increase the circularity of aluminum," said Steve Fisher, president and chief executive officer, Novelis Inc. "Novelis has long been a sustainability leader in our industry, but we need to accelerate our progress and help our customers achieve their own goals for decarbonization in a shorter timeframe. We are committed to innovating and implementing solutions that significantly decarbonize aluminum and make it the material of choice for the circular economy."

Growing consumer preference for sustainable products is driving increased

demand for lower-carbon solutions, including the adoption of aluminum in the automotive; beverage, food and cosmetics packaging; building and construction; and aerospace industries, among others. The company believes the 3x30 vision will enable the company to help its customers achieve their sustainability goals faster by focusing on three objectives to reach by the end of 2030:

1. Pushing the boundaries on recycled content in its products by increasing its average recycled content to 75 percent, from today's 63 percent.
2. Becoming the lowest-emissions, flat-rolled products aluminum provider at less than 3 tonnes of CO₂e per tonne of flat rolled product (FRP) shipped.
3. Continuing first-mover investments to lead the industry to circularity.

Novelis 3x30 builds on the company's previous sustainability achievements, including a 10 percentage points increase in its recycled content and 27 percent reduction in carbon emissions in fiscal year (FY) 2024 from its FY16 baseline.

Steel Dynamics petition on imported corrosion resistant flat rolled steel

Steel Dynamics, Inc. petitioned the Department of Commerce (DOC) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to apply antidumping duties against imports of corrosion resistant flat rolled steel (CORE) from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, UAE, and Vietnam, and countervailing duties against imports of CORE from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Vietnam. The company was joined by four other organizations in at least one or more of these cases.

"Between the first half of 2023 and the first half of 2024, imports of CORE from the 10 subject countries surged from less than 1.25 million tons to almost two million tons, a significant 57 percent increase. The surge of unfairly traded imports of CORE has had a significant negative impact on the domestic steel industry's volume, prices, and profits, necessitating these cases," said Barry T. Schneider, president and chief operating officer.

CORE steel is used in various market sectors, including in the production of automobiles, appliances, and in many construction applications. CORE products consist of hot rolled and cold rolled steel, which has been coated with zinc,

and in some cases aluminum, and may be painted or have other coatings applied to make the product corrosion resistant. The present annual U.S. market demand for these products is over 20 million tons.

"Steel Dynamics has invested \$3.7 billion in our steel divisions since June 2019, including investments in a new state-of-the-art 3.0-million-ton electric arc furnace flat rolled steel mill, four flat rolled galvanizing lines with Galvalume® capability, and three flat rolled paint lines. Corrosion-resistant flat rolled steel is a strategically important product to the domestic steel industry, and the restoration of fair trade is critically important," said Christopher A. Graham, senior vice president, Flat Roll Steel Group.

Under the unfair trade statutes, the DOC must determine whether to initiate the requested investigations within 20 days, and the ITC must make a preliminary determination of injury within 45 days. Subject to initiation, the company expects preliminary determinations on subsidies later this year and on dumping early next year, though these determinations are subject to extension. Final rulings by both agencies should be completed by October 2025.

Crude steel production decreases

World crude steel production for the 71 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 144.8 million tonnes (Mt) in August 2024, a 6.5 percent decrease compared to August 2023.

Crude steel production by region
Africa produced 1.9 Mt in August 2024, down 7.2 percent on August 2023. Asia and Oceania produced 107.1 Mt, down 8.0 percent. The EU (27) produced 9.1 Mt, up 2.2 percent. Europe, Other produced 3.7 Mt, up 8.4 percent. The Middle East produced 3.4 Mt, down 3.2 percent. North America produced 9.0 Mt, down 3.8 percent. Russia and other CIS + Ukraine produced 7.0 Mt, down 8.7 per-

cent. South America produced 3.6 Mt, up 0.8 percent.

Top 10 steel-producing countries

China produced 77.9 Mt in August 2024, down 10.4 percent on August 2023. India produced 12.3 Mt, up 2.6 percent. Japan produced 6.9 Mt, down 3.9 percent. The United States produced 7.0 Mt, up 0.7 percent. Russia is estimated to have produced 5.8 Mt, down 11.5 percent. South Korea produced 5.5 Mt, down 2.2 percent. Germany produced 2.9 Mt, down 0.5 percent. Turkey produced 3.1 Mt, up 13.8 percent. Brazil produced 3.0 Mt, up 7.3 percent. Iran produced 1.4 Mt, down 9.9 percent.

Top steel-producing countries				
	July 2024 (Mt)	percent change July 24/23	Jan-July 2024 (Mt)	percent change Jan-July 24/23
China	77.9	-10.4	691.4	-3.3
India	12.3	2.6	98.5	6.5
Japan	6.9	-3.9	56.7	-2.9
United States	7.0	0.7	53.8	-1.7
Russia	5.8 e	-11.5	48.5	-4.9
South Korea	5.5	-2.2	42.5	-5.5
Germany	2.9	0.5	25.4	4.0
Turkey	3.1	13.8	24.8	14.8
Brazil	3.0	7.3	22.4	3.8
Iran	1.4	-9.9	19.8	1.9

Ranking of top 10 producing countries based on year-to-date aggregate, e-estimated.



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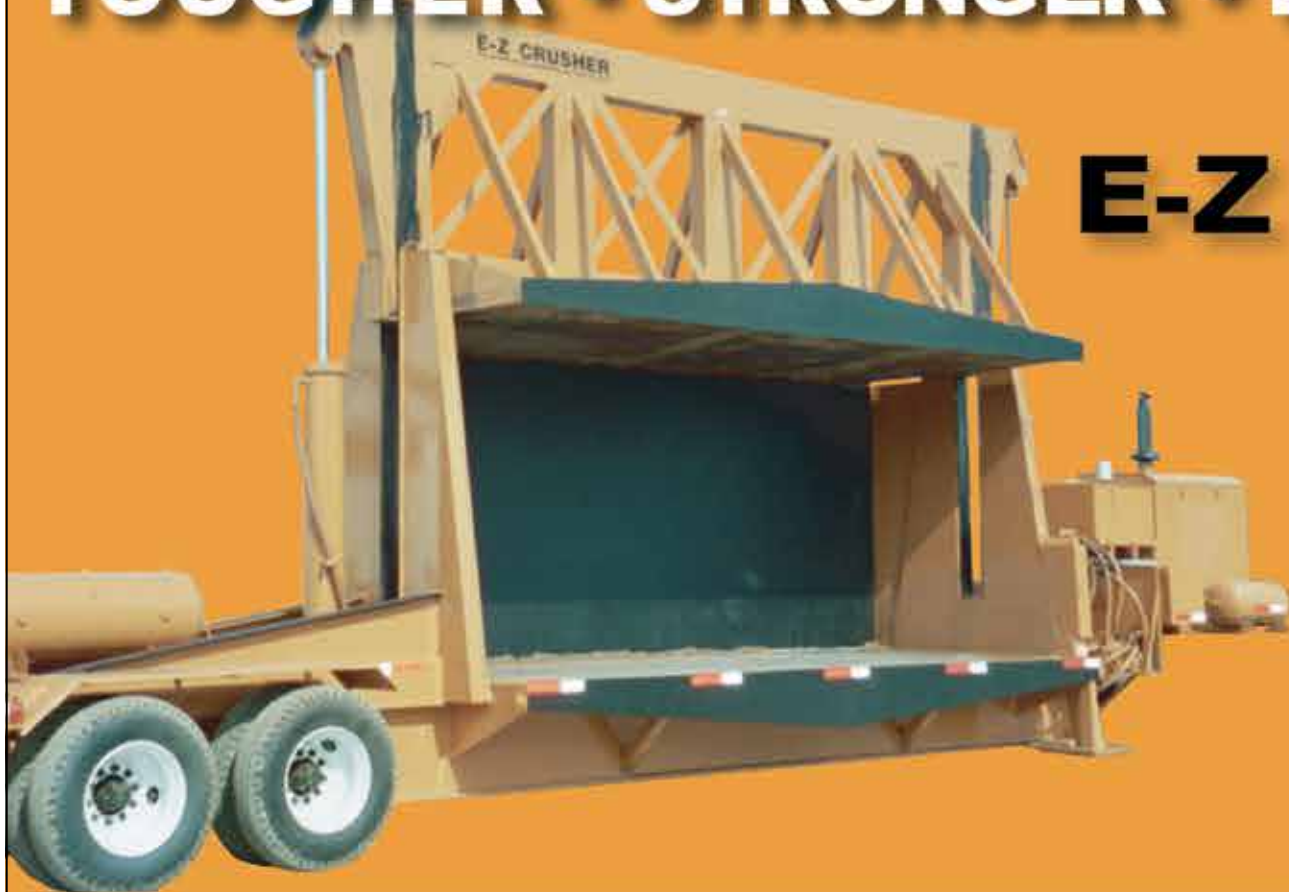


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METALS

Stan Gish joins MetalX management team

MetalX LLC announced that aluminum industry veteran Stan Gish has joined the MetalX executive team as president and chief operating officer of MMX Aluminum, the company's new aluminum slab business to be built in Defiance, Ohio.

With a distinguished career in the aluminum industry, Gish brings decades of experience and leadership that will be invaluable as MetalX continues to expand its operations and capabilities.

His career began at Logan Aluminum, where he developed a strong foundation in the industry. He has spent time with both Alcan Aluminum and later Tri-Arrows

Aluminum, where he served as vice president of operations.

Following his tenure at Tri-Arrows, Gish formed a consulting practice that focused on industry project development and due diligence work, which ultimately led to an opportunity to partner with MetalX on the concept for an independent slab casting operation to produce high-recycled content slab consistent with future sustainability objectives.

As president of MMX Aluminum, Gish will initially oversee all aspects of the design, engineering, construction and operation of the slab business.

Steel imports down 2.2 percent

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 2,367,000 net tons (NT) of steel in August 2024, including 1,828,000 NT of finished steel (down 2.2 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively, vs. July 2024). Total and finished steel imports are up 2.4 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively, year-to-date vs. 2023. Over the 12-month period September 2023 to August 2024, total and finished steel imports are up 0.4 percent and down 2.2 percent, respectively, vs. the prior 12-month period. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 21 percent in August and is estimated at 23 percent over the first eight months of 2024.

Key steel products with a significant import increase in August compared to July are blooms, billets and slabs (up 34 percent), oil country goods (up 34 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coated (up 32 percent) and line pipe (up 22 percent). Products with a

significant increase in imports over the 12-month period September 2023 to August 2024 compared to the previous 12-month period include sheets and strip all other metallic coated (up 48 percent), sheets and strip hot dipped galvanized (up 28 percent), wire rods (up 22 percent), heavy structural shapes (up 12 percent) and cold rolled sheets (up 11 percent).

In August, the largest suppliers were Canada (500,000 NT, down 8 percent vs. July), Brazil (454,000 NT, up 10 percent), South Korea (268,000 NT, up 31 percent), Mexico (161,000 NT, down 5 percent) and Japan (77,000 NT, down 47 percent). Over the 12-month period September 2023 to August 2024, the largest suppliers were Canada (6,687,000 NT, down 3 percent compared to the previous twelve months), Brazil (4,654,000 NT, up 43 percent), Mexico (3,486,000 NT, down 21 percent), South Korea (2,898,000 NT, up 11 percent) and Japan (1,176,000 NT, down 4 percent).



Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
FERROUS						
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$378.00	\$381.00	\$379.00	\$380.00	\$379.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	356.00	360.00	357.00	359.00	358.00
Structural	per gross ton	329.00	315.00	323.00	324.00	340.00
#1 & #2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	312.00	313.00	319.00	316.00	315.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	216.00	218.00	219.00	220.00	223.00
Shredded Auto Scrap	per gross ton	368.00	370.00	371.00	374.00	375.00
NON FERROUS						
#1 Copper Bare Bright	per pound	4.00	4.09	4.10	4.12	4.20
#2 Copper Wire & Tubing	per pound	3.81	3.93	3.90	3.82	4.00
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.80	.79	.79	.82	.85
Al/Cu Radiators	per pound	2.05	2.04	2.05	2.01	2.08
Aluminum Radiators	per pound	.66	.67	.68	.71	.70
Heater Cores	per pound	1.32	1.31	1.38	1.45	1.49
Stainless Steel	per pound	.65	.65	.62	.64	.63

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

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U.S. Imports of Steel Mill Products by Country of Origin (thousands of net tons)

COUNTRY	AUG. 2023 PRELIM	JUL. 2023 FINAL	% VAR. AUG. VS. JUL.	YTD 2024 (8 MON.)	YTD 2023 (8 MON.)	% VAR. 2024 VS. 2023	SEP. 2023 TO AUG. 2024	SEP. 2022 TO AUG. 2023	% VAR.
Canada	500	542	-7.8%	4,521	4,719	-4.2%	6,687	6,868	-2.6%
Brazil	454	413	9.9%	3,383	2,671	26.7%	4,654	3,255	43.0%
Mexico	161	169	-4.6%	2,282	2,979	-23.4%	3,486	4,383	-20.5%
South Korea	268	204	31.2%	1,989	1,728	15.1%	2,898	2,607	11.2%
Japan	77	146	-47.3%	811	824	-1.5%	1,176	1,230	-4.3%
Vietnam	154	71	117.3%	898	398	125.7%	1,060	567	86.8%
Germany	126	110	14.8%	684	713	-4.1%	1,013	1,097	-7.7%
Taiwan	85	87	-2.7%	691	437	58.1%	833	720	15.7%
Netherlands	47	50	-5.2%	374	329	13.5%	552	542	1.8%
China	39	78	-50.4%	347	455	-23.8%	489	666	-26.5%
Romania	79	8	866.4%	345	269	28.2%	451	408	10.5%
Turkey	30	48	-38.4%	344	224	53.9%	432	463	-6.7%
United Arab Emir.	33	38	-11.8%	263	191	37.3%	374	284	31.5%
Egypt	33	15	121.5%	261	250	4.6%	346	250	38.3%
Italy	16	27	-39.2%	249	358	-30.4%	331	547	-39.5%
All Other	264	414	-36.2%	2,685	3,112	-13.7%	3,854	4,639	-16.9%
Total	2,367	2,421	-2.2%	20,128	19,657	2.4%	28,638	28,528	0.4%
memo EU-27	411	401	2.3%	2,875	2,818	-2.0%	4,059	4,330	-6.2%

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METALS

Board of Arbitration rules in favor of U.S. Steel

United States Steel Corporation announced that the Board of Arbitration, which is jointly selected by U. S. Steel and the United Steelworkers (USW) to decide disputes between them, ruled that U. S. Steel has satisfied each of the conditions of the successorship clause of its Basic Labor Agreement (BLA) with the USW and that no further action under the BLA is required to proceed to closing the pending transaction between U. S. Steel and Nippon Steel.

On January 12, 2024, USW leadership filed a series of grievances alleging that the successorship clause in the BLA had not been satisfied. On August 15, 2024, the Board of Arbitration heard evidence and arguments from both U. S. Steel and the USW on the matter. Today, the Board of Arbitration determined that the successorship clause has been satisfied and that, as required by the BLA, Nippon Steel has:

- Recognized the USW as the bargaining representative for USW-represented employees at U. S. Steel;
- Provided reasonable assurances that it has both the willingness and financial wherewithal to honor the commitments in the agreements between U. S. Steel and the USW applicable to USW-represented employees; and
- Assumed all USW agreements that

are applicable to USW-represented employees at U. S. Steel.

In making this decision, the Board of Arbitration recognized the repeated written commitments Nippon Steel made to fulfill the requirements of the successorship clause and that no further actions by Nippon Steel were required. Moreover, the Board of Arbitration cited Nippon Steel's written commitments – including its commitment to invest no less than \$1.4 billion in USW-represented facilities, not to conduct layoffs or plant closings during the term of the BLA, and to protect the best interests of U. S. Steel in trade matters – in support of its decision.

With the completion of this arbitration proceeding, all outstanding issues related to the BLA have now been resolved with respect to the Transaction.

Following the ruling, Karl Kocsis, vice president and chief labor relations officer for U. S. Steel, commented, “We commend the Board of Arbitration for its thorough review of the USW’s allegations and are pleased with its decision that U. S. Steel and Nippon Steel have fully complied with the BLA. U. S. Steel always has and always will continue to have the utmost regard for our union-represented employees and the role of the USW.”

Novelis to increase recycled content to 75 percent

Novelis Inc., a sustainable aluminum solutions provider and leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, announced its new sustainability initiative to advance aluminum as the material of choice for circular solutions. With Novelis 3x30 the company aims to set ambitious, carbon-related sustainability goals and identify priorities to accelerate the company’s decarbonization and circularity efforts.

Growing consumer preference for sustainable products is driving increased demand for lower-carbon solutions, including the adoption of aluminum in the automotive; beverage, food and cosmetics packaging; building and construction; and aerospace industries, among others. The company believes the 3x30 vision will enable the company to help its customers achieve their sustainability goals faster by focusing on three objectives to reach by the end of 2030:

- Pushing the boundaries on recycled content in its products by increasing its average recycled content to 75 percent, from today’s 63 percent.
- Becoming the lowest-emissions, flat-rolled products aluminum provider at less than 3 tonnes of CO2e per tonne of flat rolled product (FRP) shipped.
- Continuing first mover investments to lead the industry to circularity.

Novelis 3x30 builds on the company’s previous sustainability achievements,



including a 10 percentage points increase in its average recycled content and 27 percent reduction in carbon emissions in fiscal year (FY) 2024 from its FY16 baseline. The achievements have pushed Novelis to the industry forefront with an average recycled content of 63 percent.

“We’ve made tremendous progress toward creating a more circular economy for aluminum,” said Pierre Labat, senior vice president, chief strategy and sustainability officer, Novelis. “The 3x30 vision strengthens our commitment to leading the industry toward decarbonization and is essential to our company purpose of Shaping a Sustainable World Together. As we look to the future, the success of Novelis 3x30 will be dependent on a company-wide effort by our employees, along with meaningful collaborations with our customers, suppliers and research partners.”

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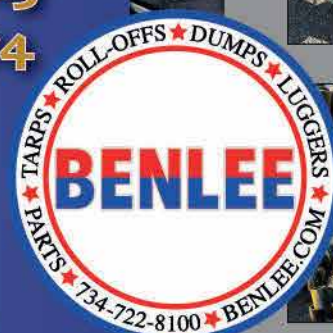
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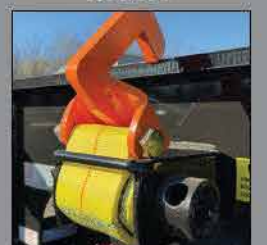
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NY DEC hits 32 million-pound milestone in food scraps recycling program



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim commissioner Sean Mahar announced Feeding New York State—the state association of New York’s 10 Feeding America member food banks—collected 32 million pounds of food since launching in 2022. Implemented under the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law, this nation-leading program helps reduce waste and climate-altering emissions caused by landfilling while providing quality food to New Yorkers in need. The latest milestone is a direct result of DEC funding to Feeding New York State to increase new food donations, strengthen partnerships with local providers, and help build stronger, healthier communities.

New York State’s partnership with Feeding New York State remains a model for food diversion programs. Implementation of the law and investments by New York to put the program into action helped successfully divert tens of millions of pounds of food to those in need. As of August 2024, Feeding New York State reported receiving an average of two million pounds of food donations each month. This is a significant increase from 300,000 pounds per month during the last 12 months, and the 50 to 60,000

pounds per month when the program first launched in October 2022. The program previously reached the five-million-pound food donation milestone in October 2023.

The New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law continues to see record volumes of food managed sustainably and diverted away from disposal at the state’s largest food-related businesses. DEC provided \$4.8 million to Feeding New York State and the 10 regional food banks through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) beginning in October 2021. The funds are used by Feeding New York State to deploy staff to grocery stores, restaurants, colleges, and other food industry facilities to increase participation in the program and encourage food donations. The fund also supported several vehicle and equipment purchases for the 10 regional food banks to increase food pickup capabilities at food pantries, meal centers, and other partner agencies. The ongoing development of innovative solutions such as continuing to enable food bank partner agencies to pick-up edible food from donors reduces wasted food and lowers the carbon footprints of New York state food banks traveling long distances to transport food from donor to receiver.

Grants available to bolster food scraps recycling

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced \$2.5 million in new grant funding is available to assist not-for-profits that provide emergency food relief in New York State and municipalities seeking to start or expand existing food scraps recycling programs and facilities. New York State’s nation-leading food donation and food scraps recycling programs help reduce waste and climate-altering emissions caused by landfilling.

“Food donation and food scraps recycling infrastructure are critical to achieving New York’s waste diversion goals and the \$2.5 million in grants announced today will help increase the effectiveness and reach of emergency food relief programs, said DEC interim commissioner Sean Mahar. “DEC’s grant program complements other successful initiatives like the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law by diverting waste, helping decrease our dependence on landfills, and reducing climate-altering emissions while getting millions of pounds of healthy.”

Approximately \$1.25 million from the State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is available to assist emergency food relief organizations in increasing the amount of wholesome food available

to those in need through the purchase of transportation, cooling, emergency power generators, and related equipment. This program provides 75 percent reimbursement to not-for-profits, with reimbursement limited to a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$100,000 awarded per project. Another \$1.25 million in EPF funding is available to assist municipalities to start or expand municipal food scraps recycling programs. This program provides 75 percent reimbursement to municipalities, with reimbursement limited to a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 awarded per project.

The initiatives targeted for funding in this grant round builds upon initiatives to promote both increased food donation and food scraps recycling. The New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law continues to see record volumes of food managed sustainably and diverted away from disposal at the state’s largest food-related businesses. Since 2021, DEC has provided \$4.8 million to Feeding New York State and the 10 regional food banks through the EPF.

The deadline to apply for funding is January 31, 2025. Questions regarding this grant opportunity can be directed to OrganicsGrants@dec.ny.gov.

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Casella Waste Systems, Inc. published its 2024 Sustainability Report, outlining its progress toward five key sustainability metrics, while highlighting significant achievements in several areas since its last report was issued in 2022.

“With this year’s report, we are pleased to highlight several areas of achievement, and exceedingly proud that our commitment to our team continues to shine through in several areas of reporting,” said Casella chairman and chief executive officer, John W. Casella. “The investments we have made in our people, infrastructure, and logistics have had a positive impact on the sustainability and strength of our business, while also benefiting our customers and the communities we serve.”

The Casella team has grown by more than 32 percent since 2022 and is approaching 5,000 total employees. Even with its growth, the company reported continued improvement in its safety performance, with its total recordable incident rate (TRIR) dropping nearly 20 percent since 2019. A key contributor to improving safety performance has been the company’s success in filling vacancies and maintaining near-full staffing levels, buoyed by the more than 300 drivers and technicians who have successfully trained at the company’s Kenneth A. Hier Sr. CDL Training Center with a

focus on safety, service, and commitment to excellence.

Continued investments in infrastructure, innovation and education have the company currently positioned to achieve its materials management goal of recycling more than 2 million tons in 2030.

“Since 2019, we have increased the amount of material we recycle by more than 36 percent, representing nearly 400,000 tons of recyclables being put to a higher and better use,” Casella said. “In 2023, we completed a full retrofit of our largest recycling facility, while adding new facilities in New York and Pennsylvania through acquisition. Further investments in the critical infrastructure required to help achieve our materials management goals are scheduled to occur in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, positioning us to see tonnage growth in our resource solutions line of business in 2024 and beyond.”

The cumulative benefits of Casella’s investments in these core areas have led to the company’s recognition on Time Magazine’s America’s Best Midsize Companies 2024 list, which recognizes U.S. companies that generated between \$100 million and \$10 billion in revenue and have excelled in the areas of employee satisfaction, revenue growth, and sustainability transparency based on 15 different criteria measurements.

Pennsylvania offers grants to prevent food waste

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acting secretary Jessica Shirley joined the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to announce new grant availability for non-profit organizations helping to fight hunger in Pennsylvania. Grants up to \$50,000 are available to non-profit organizations that partner with food retailers/wholesalers to recover safe and wholesome foods and then make that food available to the public, are eligible for grants up to \$50,000 through the Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant program.

“Preserving fresh food and preventing it from going to landfills is vital to fighting hunger in Pennsylvania,” said DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, speaking at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. “The Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant helps put food where it belongs – in people, not in landfills.”

The Food Recovery Infrastructure Grants can be awarded to reimburse

the cost of equipment like refrigerators, freezers, refrigerated and non-refrigerated vehicles, stoves, and microwaves to store, transport, or prepare the recovered safe, wholesome foods to ensure that the food can be redistributed to the public. Grants up to \$50,000 are available per applicant. Special consideration will be given to applicants with projects that serve Environmental Justice areas.

“In addition to helping feed Pennsylvanians in need, keeping food waste out of landfills also helps fight climate change. Organic waste like food breaks down into methane, a potent greenhouse gas – so every potato, every stalk of broccoli, every apple, every tomato that doesn’t go to a landfill is helping to fight climate change in Pennsylvania,” said Shirley.

Grant applications must be submitted at <https://grants.pa.gov/>. Applications must be received by February 28, 2025, to be eligible for funding.

SWANA responds to hurricane clean-up efforts

SWANA is continuing to monitor recent hurricane recovery preparation from the lens of potential implications for the waste industry. SWANA is ready to offer its resources and technical knowledge to support the waste and resource management industry.

As media reports have highlighted, the industry is working 24/7 to keep waste management services aiding clean-up efforts from Hurricane Helene and Milton.

Amy Lestition Burke, SWANA’s Executive director/chief executive officer shared “The work being done by our solid waste and resource management professionals continues to demonstrate the indispensable contributions to our society.



These individuals are spending time away from their families to ensure their local communities are cleaner and healthier as they prepare for the next storm. I am extremely proud of the contributions being made and know that our society echoes that appreciation.”

SWANA offers a variety of safety resources, including a webpage on disaster management: <https://swana.org/resources/natural-disaster-resources>.

Impacted communities should continue to follow local guidance on debris management and other critical communications.

Los Angeles diverts more than 1,000 pounds of cotton waste

Los Angeles, California Sanitation and Environment Department (LASAN) has successfully diverted more than 1,000 pounds of cotton waste, primarily discarded fabric scraps from businesses, from nearby landfills. The department worked with commercial partners to “upcycle” the waste into clothing, bags and other items.

“We are working every day to build a greener Los Angeles. Fabric waste from businesses makes up an estimated six percent of Los Angeles’ total waste sent to landfills,” said LASAN general manager Barbara Romero. “Through our innovative pilot program, we are successfully removing this waste from landfills and recycling it in order to combat greenhouse gas emissions and

improve our local environment.”

First launched in 2020, the pilot program just completed its second phase of operations, recycling more than 1,000 pounds of cotton waste into new cotton shirts that will be released by the brand Outerknown in early 2025. Over the course of the pilot program, the Department has established infrastructure and partners to be able to divert and “upcycle” cotton and fabric waste to new, productive uses. The Department has partnered with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), a powerful network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals supporting policies and projects where producers share in the responsibility for managing problem products at their end of life.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Line 5 Capital invests in Engineered Recycling Systems

■ Engineered Recycling Systems (ERS), located in Atlanta, Georgia, announced that Line 5 Capital has made an institutional investment in the company.

The entire management team will remain in place. Line 5 and the ERS management team will continue the build out of a broader product offering, while further positioning the business to scale.

Line 5, acting as an independent sponsor, was supported by O15 Capital Partners with both debt financing and an equity co-investment alongside other limited partners on the investment.

ERS specializes in designing, installing and servicing custom equipment and systems focusing on scrap metal recycling as well as pneumatic scrap handling and dust collection systems for the paper and paper converting industries.

Summa Equity invests in Bollegraaf Group

■ Impact investment firm Summa Equity has acquired a majority stake in the Bollegraaf Group, a creator of recycling facilities and key player in the recycling sector.

Bollegraaf has a strong impact profile through actively contributing to the EU taxonomy. Summa sees that Bollegraaf fits well in their resource efficiency theme. Optimizing the use of natural resources is one of the spearheads of Summa's strategy and in this challenge they will from now on join forces with Bollegraaf. Investing from its EUR 2.3bn Summa Equity Fund III, this acquisition leverages Summa's expertise in enhancing portfolio companies' strategies to create long-term value and address critical global issues.

Over the last decades, Bollegraaf has grown into a total solution provider in the recycling industry. Bollegraaf provides waste management companies worldwide with state-of-the-art sorting installations and machinery. Innovations in advanced mechanical recycling are at the core of these high-end solutions. Bollegraaf's technologies and solutions help reduce carbon footprints associated with material processing and recycling and increase recycling rates. It therefore plays a crucial role in the transition towards more sustainable and low-carbon industrial practices.

The acquisition of Bollegraaf is being made within Summa's Resource Efficiency investment theme and contributes positively to UN Sustainable Development Goal #11.6, #12.5 and #13.1. Summa takes over Bollegraaf from Capital A Investment Partners, who has been the controlling shareholder for the past nine years. In this period, with Capital A's support, the Bollegraaf Group experienced significant growth and innovative breakthrough, positioning the company as a key player in the recycling industry.

The acquisition is pending, per regulatory approvals.

Clean Harbors expands its board of directors

■ Clean Harbors, Inc., a provider of environmental and industrial services throughout North America, announced that co-chief executive officers Michael Battles and Eric Gerstenberg have joined the company's board of directors, effective immediately.

The company's board was expanded to 13 members in conjunction with these appointments. Gerstenberg and Battles will both serve as Class III directors.

Gerstenberg joined Clean Harbors in 1989 and during the past 30 years he has held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility throughout the organization. Prior to being named co-chief executive officer, he was the company's chief operating officer – a position he has held since 2015 – where he had responsibility for the environmental sales and service organization, all of its facilities including incinerators and re-refineries, and oversaw the majority of its workforce. Gerstenberg completed the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at Harvard Business School, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Syracuse University.

Battles joined Clean Harbors in 2013 as chief accounting officer after a long career in public accounting at Deloitte & Touche, and as a finance leader at PerkinElmer, Inc. He was elevated to chief financial officer (CFO) in 2016 and became co-chief executive officer in 2023. During his tenure as the company's CFO he oversaw the entire finance organization, including multiple debt raises and refinancings, as well as taking on some strategic and operational oversight. He is also a member of the board of directors of Casella Waste Systems Inc.

McNeilus adds Haaker Equipment to growing dealership network

■ McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing, Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation business, announced Haaker Equipment Company has joined McNeilus' growing independent dealership network. Haaker Equipment will serve as the McNeilus dealer covering Arizona and California for sales, parts distribution and the service of refuse and recycling collection products.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, Haaker Equipment has been serving customers for over 50 years and offers robust service and support across California and Arizona with multiple facilities as well as mobile technicians.

A female-owned business, Haaker Equipment has decades of experience with heavy-duty equipment, including city sweepers, sewage equipment, hydro-excavation trucks and more. Working with an experienced equipment dealer such as Haaker Equipment will help McNeilus better serve the California and Arizona markets and provide enhanced access to parts, service and sales support.

Reworld signs agreement to sell minority stake to GIC

■ EQT and GIC disclosed that the EQT Infrastructure V fund (EQT Infrastructure) has signed an agreement to sell a 25 percent minority stake in Reworld™ to GIC via a combination of primary and secondary capital. EQT Infrastructure took the company private in November 2021 and will remain the largest shareholder following the closing of the transaction.

Reworld has rapidly scaled into a leader in sustainable waste solutions, providing environmentally responsible services to businesses and communities throughout North America. Since 2021, Reworld has nearly doubled its number of operational facilities and increased headcount by 800, significantly expanding its reach across new and existing core geographies. Today, Reworld reduces, recycles and recovers more than 20 million tons of waste across over 100 facilities for more than 4,600 customers. The transaction is subject to customary conditions and approvals and is expected to close in Q1 2025.

Eriez names Loudin as vice president of global sales

■ Jaisen Kohmuench, Eriez president and chief executive officer, announced the appointment of Todd Loudin as vice president of global sales.

With more than three decades of experience in international business and sales management, Loudin has a proven track record of success. He most recently held a senior executive position at Valmet, a global leader in flow control solutions, where he significantly expanded market share and strengthened customer relationships.

As part of the Eriez executive leadership team, Loudin will apply his understanding of international sales dynamics and pipeline management to advance Eriez' efforts to diversify its business worldwide.

Throughout his career, Loudin has been actively engaged in prominent professional organizations, including serving on the International Society of Automation (ISA ANSI) Standards Committee for more than 12 years.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lakeshore Recycling Systems names Goldstein as chief financial officer

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS), the Midwest's leading independent waste and recycling provider has appointed Dan Goldstein as chief financial officer. Goldstein, who has served as interim chief financial officer since May 2024, brings over two decades of specialized experience in finance, procurement, and mergers and acquisitions within the waste industry, making him an invaluable asset to the LRS leadership team.

Goldstein holds a BA in Economics and an MBA in Finance from the University of Illinois. His extensive experience and insightful expertise will continue to guide LRS's financial operations, ensuring the company remains well-positioned for sustained growth and success.

SWANA leader joins Tire Recycling Foundation

Amy Lestition Burke, executive director and chief executive officer of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), has joined the board of directors of the Tire Recycling Foundation to contribute SWANA's knowledge, resources, and expertise in support of the goal of tire reuse and recycling.

The Tire Recycling Foundation is a broad-based, whole value chain initiative committed to securing funding and allocating grants for research, education, intervention, and demonstration projects targeting critical gaps within the tire recycling supply chain across the United States. It is led by the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association and the Tire Industry Association.

"SWANA is committed to being part of the solution by supporting the expanding tire reuse markets," said Lestition Burke. "As a key stakeholder, we look forward to being part of the foundation's work to achieve critical goals and progress in tire recycling initiatives."

Tires often present challenges to the waste and resource recovery industry, including illegal dumping of scrap tires and the need for more recycling options. Although many milestones have been achieved in scrap tire cleanup, the Tire Recycling Foundation reports tire regeneration outpaces re-usage. The dramatic rise in electric vehicle adoption has also increased tire scrappage rates. While states are exploring ways to address carbon reduction and other challenges, the Tire Recycling Foundation and its stakeholders can collaborate by developing practical and sustainable solutions.

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Plastic recycling technology advances globally

by MAURA KELLER

mkeller@americanrecycler.com

Plastic recycling technology has seen a tremendous shift in recent years, moving from mechanical recycling, which typically degrades plastic quality over time, to more advanced chemical recycling methods.

Co-founder of Denovia Labs, Nick Spina, said the company has been at the forefront of this shift, using proprietary depolymerization technology to revert plastics into their original chemical building blocks, regardless of contamination or complexity. This advancement allows the company to upcycle plastics into virgin-quality materials, increasing both the scope and efficiency of recycling efforts.

“In addition to this, AI-driven sorting systems and smart infrastructure are now playing a key role in automating and optimizing the recycling process,” Spina said.

One of the most groundbreaking advancements is Denovia’s depolymerization technology, which processes plastic waste in just five minutes – a dramatic improvement compared to older methods that take hours and hours. This speed significantly boosts the throughput of recycling facilities while lowering energy costs.

“Additionally, AI-powered vision systems and sorting technologies are rapidly enhancing the precision with which plastic materials are identified and segregated, allowing for higher purity and more efficient recycling streams,” Spina said. “Outside of Denovia, super-enzyme-based recycling has also emerged as a promising innovation, capable of breaking down PET plastic, but still has yet to prove itself.”

Michael Bockstaller, professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, said that the technology surrounding plastic recycling is one of the most widely recognized ‘focus areas’ in the field of polymer science and technology.

“The concept of a ‘Circular Plastics Industry’ best describes the long term vision of current research,” Bockstaller said. A key challenge to accomplish a circular economy is recycling. Some

examples of exciting new developments are:

- The application of machine learning methods to enhance the sorting and separation of plastic types and grades out of a waste product stream. This has the potential to significantly reduce costs and improve quality of recycled products.
- The advancement of catalytic methods to “depolymerize” plastics into their respective (low molecular) building blocks. This is important because established recycling methods result in a degradation of properties and hence the gradual decrease of performance of plastic products. The term “Depolymerization” refers to the “break-up” of polymers into small “monomer” materials from which new polymers can then be produced. Depolymerization has the potential to realize truly circular use of feedstock materials.
- The development of biological (e.g., bacteria) based approaches to degrade large volume plastics.

Rajesh Buch, senior global futures scientist, Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University, added that mechanical recycling of plastics involves shredding recyclable plastics (#1 PT, #2 HDPE and #5 PP) into flakes, using heat to reform into pellets and then using the pellets to inject mold products, press sheets, or extrude long pieces such as plastic lumber. Mechanical technologies have been around since plastics were widely produced and used in the 1950s.

“Thermal recycling is the burning of plastics to produce energy, since plastics are produced from crude oil,” Buch said. This technology is also referred to as pyrolysis, and can convert the plastics into gaseous fuel or liquid fuel (usually diesel fuel). Buch said the drawback of pyrolysis is that it produces toxic emissions (air and char) which have to be scrubbed at the exhaust or landfilled for the char.



The technology surrounding plastic recycling is one of the most widely recognized ‘focus areas’ in the field of polymer science and technology.

“The other problem with pyrolysis is that it is not very effective in terms of extracting energetic value from plastic because the process is highly energy consuming – the net energy gain makes it less economically viable,” Buch said. “The newest technology being developed for plastic recycling is chemical recycling, which involves breaking plastics down into their component polymers and associated monomers, and then reforming the monomers back into polymers again. This technology has tremendous potential, but it is very capital intensive, and has yet to be proven as commercially viable.”

To take plastic recycling to the next level, Spina said advancements in the collection and sorting processes also are critical. This could involve scaling up the deployment of smart bins, which use sensors to sort and compact waste more effectively at the point of collection, and enhancing AI-driven systems to sort increasingly complex plastic materials.

“Additionally, further research into hybrid recycling methods – combining mechanical and chemical processes – could provide a more comprehensive solution for different types of plastics,” Spina said. “Collaborative efforts between municipalities, governments, and private industry to create standardized recycling systems are also needed to make recycling more seamless globally.”

Besides the technical aspects, for

recycling to improve, Buch said the general public’s plastic waste diversion behavior has to be significantly increased (only about 9 percent of plastics are estimated to be recycled globally). To achieve that, Buch suggested that recycling services need to become widely available, recyclable waste protocols among municipalities need to become more consistent, and end markets for post-consumer recyclable (PCR) plastic need to become more widely available.

“Today, both mechanical recycling into pellets and converting pellets into product is limited nationally because these facilities are also capital intensive and require large volumes of materials to be processed to be profitable, which then requires acquiring that material from large geographic regions,” Buch said. “Finally, the commodity value of recycled pellets is almost the same as virgin pellets, which completely disincentivizes product manufacturers from adding PCR into the mix. This is changing, however, as more and more chief executive officers of finished product manufacturers are committing to making products with PCR.”

Challenges Aplenty

One of the biggest challenges is the complexity of the plastic waste stream itself. As Spina pointed out, plastics vary in composition and often contain

See PLASTIC RECYCLING, Page B6

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Plastics industry thrives

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) unveiled its 2024 Size and Impact Report, the association's flagship annual analysis of the plastics industry, highlighting continued positive contributions to the U.S. economy.

Dr. Perc Pineda, chief economist at PLASTICS, presented an overview of the report's findings during a Executive Briefing provided exclusively to PLASTICS members and members of the press.

Highlights include:

- The U.S. plastics industry is large, accounting for over a million jobs (1,005,100) and \$519.1 billion in shipments in 2023.
- A success story for the U.S. economy, plastics manufacturing employment grew 1.1 percent per year from 2013 to 2023, outpacing total manufacturing,

which saw employment grow by just 0.7 percent per year during the same period.

- When suppliers to the plastics industry are considered, plastics related U.S. jobs grew to 1.55 million, and total shipments grew to \$658.2 billion.
- As measured by gross output, the plastic products portion of the plastics industry was the eighth largest U.S. industry in 2022 (the latest year for which data are available).

"This report shows the plastics industry remains vital to our economy as a job creator and a source of innovation," said PLASTICS president and chief executive officer Matt Seaholm. "Our industry will continue to grow as part of the circular economy, finding innovative ways to make plastic better and more sustainable."

The PET Recycling Coalition reports 29 million pounds of PET recycled per year

The Recycling Partnership's PET Recycling Coalition (the Coalition) released its first annual report showcasing measurable improvements in the circularity of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Established in June 2022, the Coalition awards grants to materials recovery facilities (MRFs), secondary sorters and reclaimers to increase acceptance, improve capture, and deliver higher-quality recycled PET to responsible end markets. In just two years, the Coalition has brought together key constituents to address the biggest barriers to the recyclability and circularity of PET. Together, its members have helped deploy over \$5 million in grant funding, resulting in the capture of 29 million new pounds of recycled PET per year.

Since it was first recycled in 1970, PET has faced many challenges to achieving circularity due to the small number of households with curbside or drop-off sites where PET is collected, certain PET materials such as non-bottle PET not being widely accepted in MRFs, or lack of proper MRF sortation of PET to ensure end markets can purchase high-quality material. The Coalition's grants address these barriers by enabling MRF facility upgrades, improved sortation capabilities, and community engagement needed to boost recycling rates of residential PET, non-bottle PET, and pigmented and opaque PET. The PET Recycling Coalition aims to capture an additional 250 million pounds of new PET recycled each year by the end of 2027 and achieve an acceptance rate of 60 percent+ for non-bottle PET by the end of 2025.

"The Coalition's first annual report demonstrates how collective action is making it possible for more PET to be recycled and transformed into future packaging," said Brittany LaValley, vice president of materials advancement.

Together with producers, communities, recyclers and manufacturers, The Recycling Partnership's PET Recycling

Coalition is taking targeted, on-the-ground action to:

- **Capture more material:** Each year, 24 million pounds of new bottle PET is captured, and 5 million pounds of new non-bottle PET is captured, processed, and added to the recycling stream rather than lost to landfills. As one example, the Pico Rivera facility in Los Angeles, California received a Coalition grant, and as a result its new optical sorter and related equipment will increase the amount of recycled waste by 70 percent per year.
- **Provide more access:** 1.4 million households now have access to recycle non-bottle PET, including 100,000 households in southwest Alabama (Baldwin County). With a grant from the Coalition, the new Baldwin County MRF will be able to process up to 80 million pounds of material each year, which is far more than what the county's households will produce and allows room for commercial processing.
- **Advance the system:** Recycling facilities are discovering unique and innovative ways to derive value from different types of PET, such as using optical sorters to separate PET bottles from non-bottle PET containers including cups, tubs, and trays. Nearly 850,000 people in the Charlotte, North Carolina area can now recycle non-bottle PET for the first time because of a grant from the Coalition.

Since its inception 10 years ago, The Recycling Partnership has granted investments surpassing \$70 million across 450 grants that are being used to improve local recycling access, education, and infrastructure investments in more than 100 recycling facilities. These grants improve PET recycling, improve capture and processing for all materials. The Partnership's PET Recycling Coalition is uniquely positioned to meet PET recycling challenges at every level.

CPI celebrates polyurethane trailblazers with industry awards



The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) named the recipients of two prestigious industry awards – the 2024 Polyurethane Innovation Award and the 2024 Distinguished Leadership Award. Both awards were presented during the closing session at the 2024 Polyurethanes Technical Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. **Woodbridge Receives 2024 Polyurethane Innovation Award**

The winner of the 2024 Polyurethane Innovation Award is Woodbridge. The top industry honor recognizes companies with vision and perseverance that bring new innovative, life-enhancing products, technologies, and initiatives to the marketplace. Eligible innovations must have entered the market, for the first time, between June 19, 2022, and June 20, 2024.

CPI congratulates Woodbridge on this achievement. Sustainability is at the top of mind for manufacturers and the value chain. Woodbridge's TrimVisible™ BIO illustrates how polyurethanes are helping drive progress with durable solutions, and CPI is proud to recognize and honor Woodbridge on this cutting-edge innovation.

Woodbridge describes its winning entry as: TrimVisible™ BIO combines biogenic carbon from forest residue with high-performance polyurethane seating foam chemistry. This exclusive technology reduces automotive seating foam's overall global warming potential (GWP) by displacing traditional urethane chemical components. This technology is available in automotive seating, ensuring that performance and comfort are not compromised.

This year, three finalists were selected to present their products at the 2024 Polyurethanes Technical Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, the other two being Huntsman and Incorez.

CPI Recognizes DuPont's Massaro-Kustuch with 2024 Distinguished Leadership Award

The recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Leadership Award is Lisa Massaro-Kustuch of DuPont.

CPI established the Distinguished Leadership Award to recognize

individuals who have provided outstanding leadership and advanced the goals of CPI as well as the interests of the industry.

Massaro-Kustuch's experience in the polyurethanes industry goes back more than a decade, and she currently serves as global advocacy & product stewardship manager at DuPont, supporting the DuPont Performance Building Solutions business. Previously she was at Dow Chemical Company as the environmental health & safety product stewardship manager, supporting Dow Building Solutions and Dow Building & Construction.

Her numerous contributions to CPI include a prominent role in CPI's ongoing discussions with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), regarding the Safer Consumer Products regulation of spray foam. Since 2020, she's served as chair of CPI's Blowing Agents Workgroup and played a critical part in the establishment of a Code of Practice for Low-Pressure Two-Component Spray Polyurethane Foam Products adopted by Canadian authorities in 2020. Her work has been recognized with the "Best Paper" award three times at previous Polyurethanes Technical Conferences.

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NexTrex launches drop-off directory for plastic bag and film recycling

NexTrex

Amid increasing concern related to plastic bag and film recycling, Trex Company is making it easier than ever for Americans to responsibly dispose of plastic film waste. The manufacturer of composite decking and railing launched the NexTrex® Plastic Recycling Drop-Off directory, the country's only online searchable platform dedicated to connecting eco-minded Americans with Trex recycling partners in their local communities. With locations in all 50 states, the nationwide directory fills a gap in the marketplace, offering a comprehensive resource that empowers individuals to contribute to a greener planet by diverting plastic bag and film waste from landfills and waterways.

"Plastic film is a material that cannot be recycled in curbside bins with other recyclable materials, such as paper, cardboard and glass," explained Stephanie Hicks, Materials and Recycling Programs Manager for Trex Company. "The NexTrex program offers a simple way for people to dispose of flexible plastic waste responsibly and confidently. When you drop off plastic bags and film at a NexTrex recycling location, you know exactly where those materials are going and how they will be used."

Since first inventing composite decking, Trex has built a successful business from recycled polyethylene (PE) plastic, a core ingredient in its world-famous composite decking, which is made from up to 95 percent recycled and reclaimed materials. One of the largest recyclers of PE film in North America, the company reclaims and repurposes more than 300 million pounds of discarded plastic material annually. Among its primary sources are grocery stores and other retailers who partner with Trex to responsibly dispose



of shrink wrap, pallet wrap, and other flexible plastic materials used in their operations. More than 10,000 of these stores also serve as public-facing drop-off locations with dedicated bins posted in their stores where local community members can recycle plastic bag and film materials that qualify to be used by Trex. These include everyday items such as grocery/retail bags, produce bags, sandwich bags, case overwrap, plastic wrap from paper towels and toilet paper, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaner bags, bubble wrap and flexible shipping pouches. A full list of qualifying materials can be found at www.NexTrex.com.

Through the new NexTrex Plastic Recycling Drop-off directory, people can simply type in their city, state or zip code to find NexTrex recycling partners in their area. The directory currently includes approximately 10,000 drop-off locations across all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. New locations will continue to be added as more retailers join the NexTrex program. The directory site also invites visitors to suggest alternate locations and provide feedback for program improvements.

Plastic bag recyclers form Responsible Recycling Alliance



A coalition of plastic film recyclers and reusable bag manufacturers launched the Responsible Recycling Alliance (RRA), a coalition organized to help Californians across the state reduce, reuse, and recycle as a long-term environmental solution to plastic waste.

The RRA's founding members – EFS Plastics, Merlin Plastics, and PreZero US – oppose AB 2236 and SB 1053, two bills pending in the State Legislature that would eliminate the convenient reusable plastic film grocery bags that millions of Californians use – and reuse – every day. They support instead shifting to the plastics industry responsibility for recycling reusable plastic film grocery bags by integrating them into the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Program created in 2022 by SB 54.

"AB 2236 and SB 1053 do not result in a more environmentally friendly option. We all share a common goal to protect the environment, and while I am certain that the proponents of these bills have the best of intentions, as written this legislation would roll back environmental gains, make shopping more expensive for low-income Californians, eliminate jobs across California, and make it more difficult for SB 54 to succeed in improving plastic film recycling in the state," Roxanne Spiekerman, vice president of public affairs for PreZero US, said on behalf of the RRA.

Reusable plastic film grocery bags are made in California, contain at least 40 percent recycled post-consumer content (PCR), are used multiple times, and can be recycled into new bags and other materials. They represent a sustainable and circular local solution.

Spiekerman added: "The proposed ban on reusable plastic film grocery

bags would force Californians to choose between two options, both of which carry with them negative environmental challenges. The canvas and sewn poly-woven or non-woven polypropylene bags are not recyclable by any known method in the U.S., contain zero post-consumer content, and are typically imported from overseas. Similarly, paper bags consume more water and energy during production and recycling than reusable plastic film grocery bags, resulting in a bigger carbon footprint, they are not intended to be reused, and consumers will have to pay more."

RRA strongly advocates for the addition of reusable plastic film grocery bags into SB 54 as the surest path to achieve the right long-term solution for recycling in California. Doing so will:

- Provide an easy-to-use way for Californians to collect the plastics they encounter every day – from dry cleaning bags to bread wrappers to so many others that are not included in curbside recycling – for eventual deposit in large collection bins providing the necessary volume to support plastic film recycling.
- Protect middle- and lower-income Californians – who are among the most prevalent users of \$.10 plastic bags – from having to pay more at a time when groceries are already stretching family budgets. In fact, 77 percent of purchasers of these bags have annual incomes of less than \$150,000, and 52 percent have incomes of less than \$80,000.
- Preserve thousands of jobs. The reusable plastic film grocery bag manufacturing and recycling industry employs thousands of hard-working Americans in California and across the country, and AB 2236 and SB 1053 directly threatens those jobs, not to mention all the related jobs they support, such as local restaurants and other small businesses. California's reusable plastic film grocery bag manufacturers cannot simply switch to making poly-woven and non-woven bags with stitched handles or paper bags.

Neste strengthens chemical recycling

NESTE

Neste is enhancing its chemical recycling capabilities by collaborating with Tepsa Netherlands on the storage and handling of liquefied waste plastic in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. This partnership, focused on the implementation of advanced aggregation tanks, underscores the company's commitment to expanding its liquefied waste plastic processing capabilities and advancing the circular economy. Following successful industrial-scale processing runs, Neste is moving towards using larger quantities of liquefied waste plastic as a raw material at its Porvoo refinery in Finland and turning it into

Neste RE™, a high-quality recycled drop-in feedstock for the production of new plastics and chemicals.

The aggregation tanks will be located in the Port of Rotterdam to optimize supply chains and streamline logistics. As Neste is securing liquefied waste plastic supply through various suppliers across Europe, this central and major logistics hub offers seamless connectivity to the continent's expansive infrastructure. The state-of-the-art tank solution and surrounding infrastructure will ensure safe and reliable storage of liquefied waste plastic. The preparation and installation of the tanks have been meticulously planned, demonstrating both companies' commitment to safety and excellence. The tanks are expected to be

operational in the second half of 2025, matching the schedule for the ongoing construction of capacity upgrading facilities for liquefied waste plastic in Porvoo.

"The new aggregation tanks in Rotterdam enabling efficient logistics are crucial in optimizing our supply chain and in reaching our ambitious goals of processing liquefied waste plastic. We are continuously expanding our network of suppliers for liquefied waste plastic and the new storage significantly enhances our offtake flexibility. This paves the way for a more sustainable and circular plastics economy and we are excited about the opportunities this collaboration brings," said Andreas Teir, head of chemical recycling at Neste.

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EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Balers

By 2028, the North American recycled paper market is expected to exceed \$6,367 million, per Business Market Insights. This market includes materials such as writing, newsprint and printing paper, containerboard and tissue. Containerboard dominates the market due to the increasing demand from various industries such as food & beverage, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics. Last year, Transparency Market Research projected that by 2035, the value of the global plastics industry is expected to reach \$129 billion by 2035. This data illustrates the varying volumes of what may in part, require processing, in a wide variety of industry sources.

For over 50 years, Marathon Equipment “has been a global leader in waste and recycling technology, delivering innovative solutions that help businesses and municipalities efficiently manage recycling operations while advancing sustainability objectives. Our balers are designed with advanced features to optimize performance and reduce operational costs. These precision-engineered components make Marathon’s balers among the most reliable and advanced in the industry,” explained Eric Monsen, vice president, sales and marketing. Marathon manufactures a wide range of high-performance baling equipment, including auto-tie and manual-tie balers, two-ram balers, vertical balers, compactors, and material recovery facility (MRF) systems. This diverse lineup enables Marathon to meet the needs of both small businesses

and large recycling centers.

While Marathon is recognized for its cutting-edge baling and recycling equipment, Monsen commented that “one of our most exciting innovations is our Connected Baler technology. This revolutionary system transforms baler management for industries such as recycling and MRF facilities, retail, manufacturing, and educational institutions, eliminating blind spots in stationary baler management.” Connected Baler retrofits to existing equipment or integrates into new Marathon balers, providing real-time monitoring of bale weights, equipment status, and location. This data is seamlessly connected to the cloud, offering detailed reports and instant alerts via 3rd Eye’s intuitive interface. By delivering real-time insights and data, businesses can reduce costs, increase efficiency, and achieve sustainability goals. Users can also benefit from proactive maintenance scheduling, enhanced service planning, and comprehensive tracking of baled materials with labels that can be scanned. This solution enables companies to optimize recycling, recover more materials, and recognize revenue sooner. Whether managing small operations or high-volume recycling centers, Marathon offers flexible, scalable solutions tailored to meet each customer’s needs. From design and installation to ongoing support, Marathon ensures that its equipment maximizes productivity and efficiency, so that companies can focus on their core operations, while their



Marathon Equipment

recycling processes run efficiently in the background.

According to Todd Wondrow, president of Maren Engineering Corporation, “Maren has few peers in the horizontal baler industry that match our breadth of product. We build two ram balers – open end auto tie balers and closed door manual tie balers – in ranges ideal for a customer’s first step into horizontal baling, all the way to machines producing truckloads of bales per hour. Our baler expertise and product options allow us to help customers identify the right baler for their specific application. In contrast, other manufacturers may urge you to adapt your process to meet their narrow product offering. Our extensive product line is a valuable asset. So is our knowledge regarding large baling operations with distribution, manufacturing and recycling facilities, which require a myriad of baler sizes and configurations. As a member of the Komar family of companies, we’re also able to offer vertical balers, hydraulic and auger compactors and complete waste systems. We can support a customer with the entire infrastructure and life cycle of their business.”

“The future of horizontal balers hinges on efficiency – not just the type you’d expect, like how many tons are processed per hour or kilowatt hour. While that is an important factor, buyers are drawn to Maren horizontal balers the most, due to the impact Maren often has on a customer’s entire business process. One example could be the elimination of manual loading time for a vertical baler, by switching to a dump and run practice, which

allows an operator to be redirected to work unrelated to recycling. Another example could involve a self-cleaning bale chamber and easy access design. This could eliminate weekly cleaning by maintenance staff that could instead perform other important facility operation tasks. Also, Maren assists buyers that may choose machine features like automatic weight scales and barcode printers. This could allow warehouse staff to move bales to a trailer without wasting time in transitioning to scales, or performing clerical tasks,” Wondrow stated. In conclusion, Wondrow believes the Maren/Komar team can help your business run better, not just make your baler run faster – and he invites those in the market for their services and products to give Maren a call.

Van Dyk Recycling Solutions offers balers that process all types of paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastics and seamlessly switches 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.

The company offers high speed, high capacity, fully-automatic balers for recyclers and waste processors operating anywhere between 15 to 50 tons of material per hour. “Our customers are consistently impressed with the performance and reliability of our balers. ‘It just runs and runs,’ and ‘it gives us a sense of confidence every

See Balers, Page B5



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Balers

■ Continued from Page B4



Van Dyk Recycling Solutions

day' are sentiments we often hear. We like to say the baler is the heart of any recycling operation, and ours keep hundreds of operations pumping, sometimes for decades! Our balers are known to last for ten, even twenty years with no signs of slowing down," said Mark Neitzey, sales director.

He added, "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."



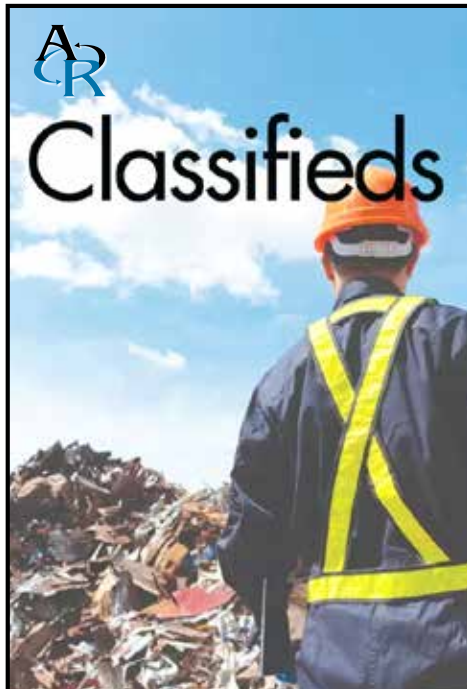
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Pilot program launched to recycle PVC materials

Westlake Global Compounds and Westlake Dimex, business units of Westlake Corporation, launched “Choose Pink,” a pilot polyvinyl chloride (PVC) recycling program with Houston Methodist. The program is the first-of-its-kind at a health care system in Houston and will take place at the Outpatient Center at Houston Methodist Hospital, the hospital’s flagship location in the Texas Medical Center.

The Choose Pink pilot recycling program will establish a collection system for post-patient, PVC items such as nasal cannulas and masks; oxygen tubing; and saline bags from outpatient procedures, items traditionally disposed of in the hospital setting. These items will be collected in designated hampers and bags to contain the recycled waste, which will eliminate the need for further material sorting in this program. Bags will be collected and placed into containers and transported to a Houston Methodist warehouse to be loaded onto a semi-trailer that, once filled, will be transported to Westlake Dimex’s facility in Marietta, Ohio for recycling.

Houston Methodist will be the first health care facility to launch a PVC recycling program in the Houston area. Other programs have successfully been launched for PVC medical devices in other countries, including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Belgium, Guatemala and the United Kingdom. A PVC medical device recycling program has been underway in Toronto, Canada since 2020, and other programs have recently launched in Atlanta, Chicago and Rochester, New York. According to the Vinyl Institute, 1.1 billion pounds of vinyl is recycled annually in North America, reducing the carbon footprint and preventing waste from entering landfills.

Based on the more than 100 million pounds’ capacity of plastic recycled materials Westlake Dimex processes annually, the Marietta, Ohio-based company is one of the largest processors of post-industrial resins in the U.S. The recycled material collected will be reprocessed into consumer and industrial products such as business and home office chair matting; garden edging; and household mats.

Guatemala joins global initiative to end plastic pollution

The End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC), a public-private partnership aimed at advancing more circular economies and reducing the environmental impact of plastic use, held an inception workshop in Guatemala City.

The workshop was hosted under the leadership of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with The Ocean Foundation, Serious Business and the Aspen Institute, and with the support of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).

EPPIC will focus on increasing knowledge of potential upstream and midstream solutions to advance more circular approaches for plastic, ensuring policy and regulatory frameworks that support and promote the implementation of diverse solutions and technologies through mechanisms such as grants, innovation prizes, and business development support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Globally, EPPIC will support the development of national projects by providing resources for interventions that ensure effectiveness and relevance to local contexts in Central America, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. In Central America, EPPIC will closely collaborate with governments to develop plans addressing plastic pollution in Costa Rica and Guatemala under the implementation of IUCN’s Regional Office for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (ORMACC).

Through its grant mechanism, EPPIC will provide financial support to implement local solutions to plastic pollution. In

June 2024, the partnership launched its first call for applications for the grant program, with the announcement of the first round of grantees expected soon. A second call for applications is scheduled for January 2025.

According to Edwin Castellanos, deputy minister of natural resources and climate change at MARN, the proper management of solid waste is a priority for this administration, which is why they are interested in implementing viable solutions that can be developed in collaboration with municipalities, the private sector, and the general population. Furthermore, it was noted that plastics represent an opportunity to showcase innovative solutions that include, for example, reducing single-use plastic materials. In this regard, EPPIC will be an important ally in the search for solutions, it was concluded.

“The incorporation of Guatemala into sustainable supply chains is key not only to improving the country’s competitiveness but also to mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting natural resources,” said Luis Guillermo Pineda, advisor to the vice ministry of integration and foreign trade at the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala (MINECO).

By strengthening policies, public awareness, multisectoral collaboration, and business development capacity, plastic circularity will be improved throughout its lifecycle, preventing the release of plastic waste into the environment.

Through its grant mechanism, EPPIC offers financial support for implementing local upstream and midstream solutions to plastic pollution. Guatemala will receive up to \$225,000 under the current funding amount and potentially an additional \$425,000 depending on future funding.

Plastic Recycling

■ Continued from Page B1

additives that make recycling difficult.

“To address this, we need more standardized plastics and improved preprocessing technologies that can handle mixed or contaminated streams,” Spina said. “Public awareness and education also play a crucial role – encouraging consumers to dispose of waste correctly can help reduce contamination. Additionally, there is a need for greater infrastructure investment in recycling technologies to ensure scalability and accessibility across regions.”

Bockstaller said that many polymers are not used in “pure form” but as part of complex systems (e.g., food packaging). “One challenge remains the recycling of packaging films and substrates that often are constituted of layers of distinct polymer (as well as ceramic or metal) types,” Bockstaller said. “If the materials cannot be separated, this results in impurity formation in downstream products and reduces performance and usability of recycled products.”

Buch pointed out that existing solid waste management services in urban regions rely on improper community waste-diversion practices driven by inconsistent municipal waste protocols and policies, widespread waste collection networks serviced with fleets of GHG-intensive trucks, and large-scale, centralized, capital-and technology-intensive material recovery facility (MRF) operations.

“The outcome at the MRF creates additional challenges – from contamination by improperly cleaned or discarded materials, to improperly sorted materials, to limits on the types of plastics that MRFs can process, leading to inconsistent recyclable plastic feedstock for end markets,” Buch said. “Downstream of the MRF, the lack of guaranteed feedstock prevents investment

and business attraction, and ultimately very few intermediate processors or end market producers are available in the state or in the region, and long-distance transportation becomes the only viable option to find the nearest end-markets, further exacerbating GHG emissions.”

As an additional result, Buch pointed out that these services are either inaccessible to rural communities in developed countries, or entirely unavailable in developing countries. In developed countries, smaller populations resulting in smaller volumes of materials and large distances to urban centers and associated end markets means rural communities dispose of these valuable materials in landfills. In developing countries, large informal communities of waste pickers are formed (70 percent of which are women) that rely on collecting and valorizing low-value commodities through volatile commodity markets to generate unsustainable daily incomes.

To counter all these systemic deficiencies of the existing plastic recycling industry, ASU’s Circular Plastics Microfactory is a groundbreaking initiative with the ambition to reshape global supply chains by creating a decentralized and distributed network of localized, circular microfactories.

“The microfactory model includes the entire lifecycle of plastic waste – collection, processing, conversion, and remanufacturing – creating a sustainable closed-loop system that catalyzes local economic development by creating jobs,” Buch said. “Unlike traditional recycling models that only handle parts of this lifecycle, ASU’s approach is fully integrated and localized, which allows for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, economic inefficiencies, and the reliance on linear, waste-heavy supply chains.”

New video features commercial plastic recycling

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) has unveiled a new video as part of the Recycling is Real advocacy campaign, marking the campaign’s one-year milestone dedicated to promoting and defending plastic recycling in America. The new video highlights the efforts taking place at Commercial Plastics Recycling (CPR) Inc. in Tampa, Florida.

PLASTICS’ Recycling is Real campaign has highlighted mechanical and advanced recycling facilities throughout the U.S. Employees in each video who represent the recycling industry and the work that they do are featured at locations including Atlanta, Georgia; Madison, Wisconsin; North Vernon, Indiana; Baton Rouge, Louisiana and many others.

“Plastic recycling is very real, and Commercial Plastics Recycling (CPR) Inc. does it every day in Tampa, Florida,” said PLASTICS’ president and chief executive officer Matt Seaholm. “For the past year now, the Recycling is Real campaign has been highlighting the

dedicated people of our industry across America who work to recycle valuable materials. We are committed to continuing to show the public and lawmakers that recycling is undeniable, and a feasible and economical way to achieve a more circular economy.”

The Recycling is Real campaign provides content to help elected officials and policymakers understand that recycling is a vital link of the sustainability and circularity chain, enabling them to make more well-informed decisions about recycling resources for their constituents.

The Recycling is Real campaign was also created in an effort to put an end to false narratives suggesting recycling is not actually happening or claiming that recycling is a “myth.” Recycling has come under attack from those who wish to reduce or eliminate the production of plastic altogether. Recycling is Real shows how recycling happens, where it happens and introduces the people who make it happen.

Nefab opens new facility to strengthen sustainable plastic packaging



Nefab, a leader in sustainable packaging and logistics solutions, announced that PolyFlex – Part of Nefab Group, is opening a new facility in Grand Blanc, Michigan. This new site houses sophisticated equipment, enabling PolyFlex to design, prototype, and build tooling for injection molded solutions all in one location. Together with PolyFlex’s nearby Farmington Hills, Michigan location, which specializes in injection molded packaging solutions for the automotive industry, this new facility fosters collaboration that reinforces Nefab’s commitment to providing high quality packaging solutions for automotive customers.

“Leveraging the latest technology and boosting our in-house capabilities gives us greater control over costs and timing,” said Darrell Tiedeman, chief operating officer at PolyFlex – part of Nefab Group “With these innovations, we can deliver injection molded tools and other critical components faster than ever, ensuring our customers meet their production schedules without compromise.”

As part of its commitment to sustainability, Nefab’s closed-loop system for

returnable injection molded and thermoformed packaging is designed to minimize waste and enhance sustainability throughout the packaging lifecycle. This year, the company has successfully integrated reground material into its processes, reusing over one million pounds (>450 000 kg) of plastic that would have otherwise ended up in landfills. Once customers finish their existing programs and no longer need their plastic packaging, Nefab offers a credit to buy back the packaging, which is then reground and repurposed for future programs. This innovative approach not only reduces environmental impact but also ensures that valuable materials are efficiently reused, aligning with Nefab’s mission to deliver sustainable packaging solutions.

Located in Michigan, the “auto capital of the world,” Nefab’s new facility is ideally positioned to serve the automotive industry, benefiting from the region’s dense automotive supply chain and skilled workforce. Nefab’s returnable packaging solutions offer significant cost savings for the automotive industry by enabling materials to be shipped between suppliers and OEM or power engine plants throughout the vehicle program lifecycle, reducing the need for disposable packaging and lowering overall expenses.

Georgia-Pacific unveils plans for mixed-use redevelopment in downtown Atlanta

Georgia-Pacific announced initial plans for one of the country’s largest mixed-use redevelopments and the intent to transform its iconic 51 story world headquarters and the surrounding city block into a thriving center for innovation and community engagement. The downtown location will be reimagined into a mix of residential living, modern office spaces, retail, restaurants and a landscaped central plaza for gathering. This project reaffirms Georgia-Pacific’s commitment to the future of Downtown Atlanta and promises to set a new standard for adaptive reuse.

- More than 400 apartment units on the tower’s uppermost floors, among the highest in the Southeast +/- 125,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space
- +/- 600,000 square feet of Class A office space anchored by Georgia-Pacific and Koch
- +/- 35,000 square feet dedicated to a large central plaza
- More than 2,100 parking spaces plus adjacent MARTA and Atlanta Streetcar transportation access

Future multi-phase development plans include opportunities for a hotel and additional retail and residences.

“If realized, this will be more than just a redevelopment; it has the potential to generate economic growth and create mutual benefit for the city, local businesses, their employees, Georgia-Pacific

employees and our vibrant community,” said Christian Fischer, president and chief executive officer of Georgia-Pacific. “The office landscape has changed, and we recognize that the adaptive reuse of our site and office tower can create greater long-term value. We are also acutely aware of the need for more residential, shopping, dining, and entertainment options in our downtown neighborhood, which is why Georgia-Pacific is excited to provide a space that will offer unmatched opportunity in Downtown Atlanta.”

Georgia-Pacific has assembled a team of experts to bring this project to life, including an in-house, mixed-use development team responsible for leading both the redevelopment efforts and the go-to-market strategy and capitalization of the project. External partners include Rule Joy Trammell + Rubio, architect of record; Healy Weatherholtz, retail broker; Kimley-Horn, civil engineering; Studio Saint, interior design; Brasfield & Gorrie, preconstruction; and Transwestern, consulting and property management.

This project also promises to be a boon for surrounding businesses by creating a welcoming neighborhood with easy access to amenities and entertainment for companies and their employees seeking to work in the downtown area.

The Georgia-Pacific Center has been an architectural landmark since its completion in 1982.

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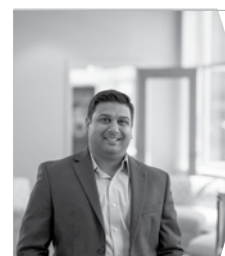
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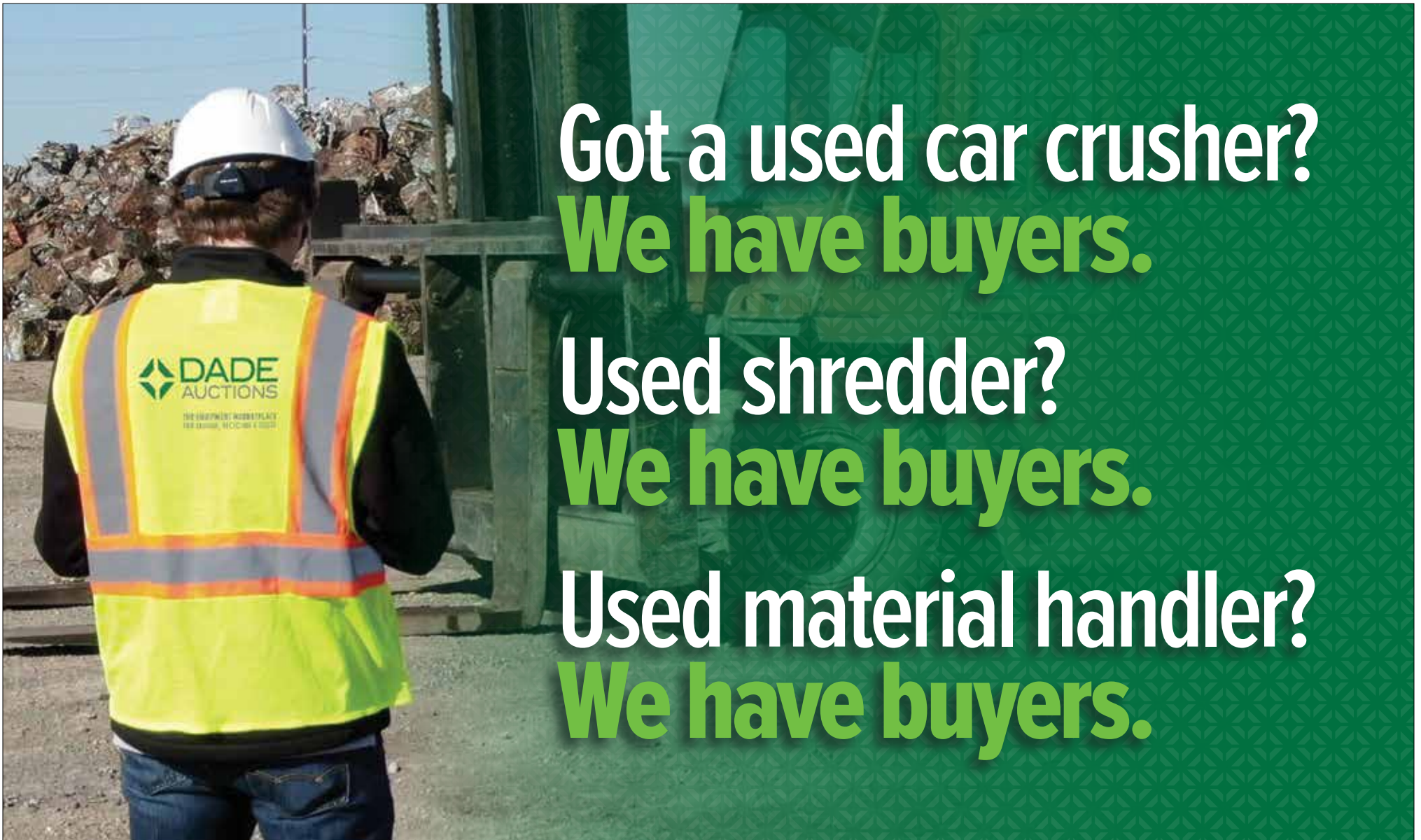


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