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The continually changing horizon for EV manufacturing and recycling

by MAURA KELLER

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The electric vehicle (EV) industry is in a constant state of flux. From evolving EV mandates by the U.S. government to the limited raw material supply for EV battery production to the challenges of EV battery recycling, auto recyclers who are gearing up to recycle EVs and their components are facing an ever-evolving future.

In late May, the U.S. Senate passed a measure eliminating California regulations that would have required a 100 percent transition to electric vehicles for new car and truck models in by 2035. As of 2023, 17 states chose to mimic California's standards.

Mike Stonecipher, group manager for strategy and leadership development with Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) at Georgia Institute of Technology, has done extensive work in the EV and auto industries.

In light of the recent EV mandates, Stonecipher said car manufacturers in the U.S. and Europe are backing off from EV production plans due to a slower growth rate than expected, plus a change in EV policies from the new administration. In addition, range anxiety, charging infrastructure availability/reliability, and price remain the top concerns for consumers.

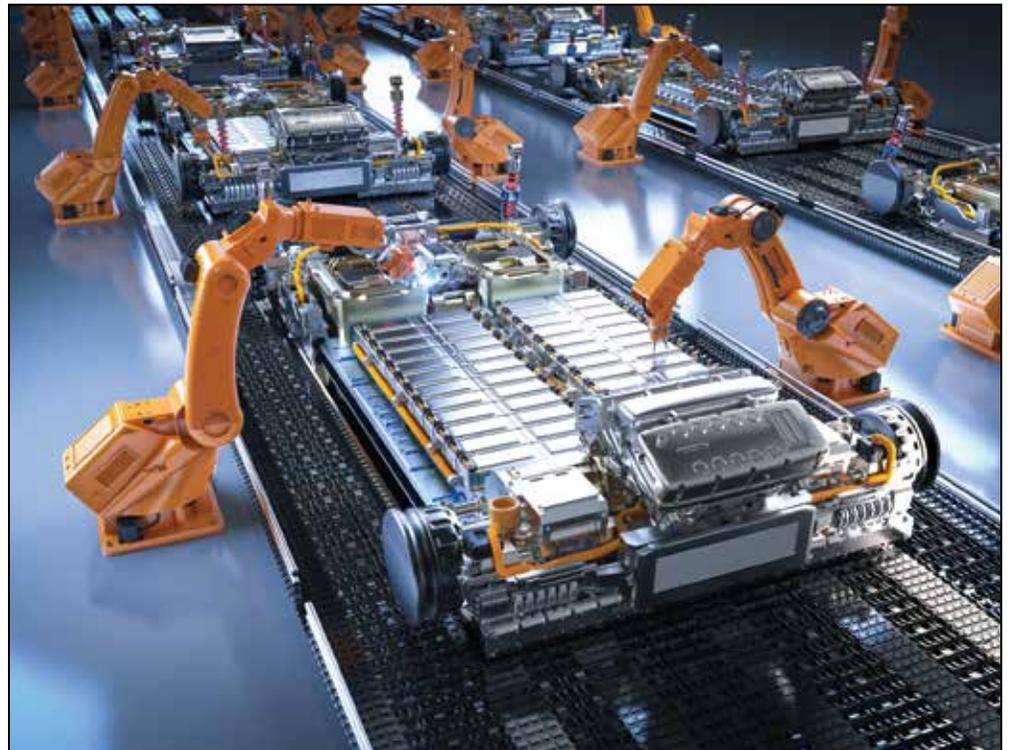
"Material cost, supply chain instability, and the cost to retool for a shaky market are what the OEMs are struggling with to justify additional investments to scale for EV production," Stonecipher said. "Therefore, the consumer trend has shifted to plug-in hybrid electric vehicles that share the benefits of EV and ICE vehicles."

As Stonecipher explained, the current theme for OEMs is reshoring (now called regionalization) and retooling. Recent events, such as tariffs, unpredictable geopolitical pressures, and unreliable sources, have caused OEMs to rethink their supply chain.

However, according to Lea Malloy, assistant vice president of EV battery solutions at Cox Automotive, while tariffs, regulations and the possible elimination of federal incentives could impact EV adoption growth, research indicates that growth will continue, albeit slower than originally anticipated. Cox Automotive estimates a 12 percent increase year over year in new EV sales in 2025.

"In fact, over the next two years, we're expecting to see more than 39 new models launched across thousands of dealers," Malloy said.

While EVs differ from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, they are subject to many of the same



Car manufacturers in the U.S. and Europe are backing off from EV production plans due to a slower growth rate than expected, plus a change in EV policies from the new administration.

challenges as ICE in a new tariff environment including higher prices and ultimately reduced production.

"On the positive side, EVs have fewer parts than their ICE counterparts. However, the most expensive component remains the EV battery pack," Malloy said. "We also know EV price parity with ICE is a signpost the industry is watching to usher in mass adaption – and tariffs can strain that equation if the vehicle is not produced domestically. The good news is we are seeing a growing number of EVs produced domestically."

EV owners tend to be incredibly loyal. Malloy points to a study by the Global EV Alliance that found that 92 percent of EV owners said they wouldn't go back to driving a gas-powered car. This is a strong indicator that the EV market continues to gain momentum – even as overall vehicle production slows.

As auto recyclers continue to gear up and get trained in the nuances of EV recycling, what could a slowdown in EV manufacturing mean for them?

"EV recyclers are in a tough predicament. Battery chemistry continues to

change as OEMs balance material cost, material availability, and battery performance," Stonecipher said. "Power density is better with lithium-ion cobalt technology, but lithium-ion iron technology provides a more economical solution. In addition, we are now starting to see more interest in lithium-ion magnesium phosphate technology. All these batteries use electrolyte technology, which will probably be replaced in the near future with solid state technology. This makes it difficult to make capital intensive investments in recycling."

Malloy added that the EV battery recycling industry is in early innings and volumes are primarily driven by production scrap versus end-of-life EV batteries. "Continued innovation and patience is required to test and commercialize optimal ways to safely recycle EV batteries for the creation of new EV battery cells. Government funding and regulation can be the industry's biggest accelerants, even if we experience a potential slowdown in EV manufacturing," Malloy said.

Grant Ray, vice president of global
See EV RECYCLING, Page A4

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Ecogensus acquires two recycling facilities

Ecogensus, a leader in sustainable waste-to-value solutions, has acquired two advanced materials recovery facilities (MRFs) in high-value, growing U.S. markets. This strategic move marks a pivotal step in Ecogensus' U.S. expansion, positioning the company to operate and enhance these facilities as fully integrated recycling hubs.

The facilities historically generated over \$14 million annually in revenue, but Ecogensus is implementing structural and operational improvements expected to double processing capacity. In addition, new Rhino Recycler 5000 Series units will be deployed to supercharge the operations by eliminating a large cost center (residual waste disposal) and converting it to an additional revenue generator (Rhino output products).

The acquisition serves as a launchpad for Ecogensus' ambitious U.S. Phase 1 deployment, which consists of 1,500

Rhino Recyclers to be deployed in the mainland U.S. (many projects are underway globally by third-party customers, licensees and developers).

Structured as an asset purchase, the transaction includes critical operational infrastructure including buildings, advanced recycling machines, and various wheeled assets. Ecogensus will retain existing staff and leverage the facilities' operational expertise and prime location to kickstart its nationwide rollout. While specific locations and historical names remain undisclosed, the facilities' modern design and capacity support Ecogensus' technology-driven recycling model. The company is committed to setting new industry standards for efficiency and sustainability.

This milestone underscores Ecogensus' transition into the facility development phase, positioning it to reshape the U.S. recycling landscape.

NJ DEP accepting nominations for recycling and sustainability leader awards

People and organizations that go above and beyond to advance recycling and sustainability are eligible to be nominated for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) annual recycling awards program, commissioner of Environmental Protection, Shawn M. LaTourette, announced.

The DEP, in partnership with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR), is accepting nominations for awards in 11 categories. Those interested in submitting a nomination may view the 2025 Nomination Packet for more information about the awards program, which includes nomination applications. Nomination forms may be emailed to njrecycles@dep.nj.gov through Friday, July 25.

"New Jersey's longstanding recycling success is due to the hard work of many volunteers, students, stakeholders, businesses and government agencies, who work hard to make our state more sustainable," Commissioner LaTourette said. "The DEP encourages the public to nominate those whose recycling endeavors not only keep our environment clean, but enhance public health, benefit our economy and create a better New Jersey for all."

How to Nominate Recycling Leaders

Nominations will be accepted in categories including Institution, Business, Retail Merchant, Government, Leadership, Rising Star, Recycling Industry, Outstanding Educator/Educational Program, Volunteer Citizen, Waste Reduction/Resource Management/Sustainability, and Recycled Products Procurement Star.

A panel of judges from DEP's Air, Energy & Materials Sustainability Program and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers will review nominations based upon criteria including the nominee's ability to demonstrate

measurable outcomes, commitment to education and outreach, replicability of their efforts, innovation, and going above and beyond compliance requirements. Those chosen for an award will be notified in September and honored at a recognition ceremony this fall.

"We encourage people and organizations throughout New Jersey to nominate those in their communities who make recycling a priority, have helped educate residents and businesses on the importance of reducing waste and keeping our recycling stream free of unacceptable items and are committed to keeping our environment clean and healthy," said Paul Baldauf, assistant commissioner for air, energy & materials sustainability. "The results of their efforts should be highlighted to demonstrate to others how they are making a difference across the state."

A History of Recycling Success

The 2024 award winners included a business that recycles or reuses 96 percent of the waste it generates; a non-profit organization that fights food insecurity and the environmental impacts of food waste by recovering and delivering healthy meals in local communities; a middle school that implemented a highly successful recycling collection program for plastic bags, plastic case and product overwrap and plastic pallet wrap; and a textile recycling and reuse business that has kept millions of pounds of old clothing out of landfills.

New Jersey has long been a national leader in recycling, becoming the first state in 1987 to pass legislation requiring recycling. Since then, recycling has become routine for residents, businesses, and institutions, and has proven over the years to be an environmental and economic success story.

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Liberty Tire Recycling releases 2024 Sustainability Report

Liberty Tire Recycling, North America's leading provider of tire recycling services, has released its 2024 Sustainability Report, highlighting another year of progress toward its vision of a more sustainable, circular economy. In 2024, Liberty collected more than 215 million end-of-life tires and reclaimed over 4.7 billion pounds of rubber – creating innovative, high-value recycled products that support infrastructure, manufacturing, and energy recovery.

“At Liberty, we don’t just recycle tires, we partner with others to build a better future,” said Thomas Womble, chief executive officer of Liberty Tire Recycling. “Whether it’s a global manufacturer, local retailer, or city government, our partners trust Liberty to help them meet their sustainability goals and do right by their communities. This report is a reflection of what responsible growth looks like – when innovation, impact, and partnership work hand-in-hand.”

The report reflects Liberty’s growing impact and outlines progress in key focus areas:

- A 1.5 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions year-over-year, even amid company growth and acquisitions.
- An 81.1 percent end-market utilization

rate, a 2.7 percent increase over 2023, moving more material into sustainable and innovative uses like rubberized asphalt, molded goods, and sports and playground surfaces.

- A 23.87 percent improvement in Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and a 29.25 percent improvement in Preventable Vehicle Accident Rate (PVAR) from 2023 to 2024, reflecting a stronger, safer culture across operations.
- Over \$150,000 donated to charities and more than 75 community projects completed, including 5,250 meal kits packed for children through Liberty’s partnership with Blessings in a Backpack.

“Our work is grounded in action and accountability. As the only North American tire recycling company to publish a sustainability report, we’re setting the standard for transparency in our industry,” said Amy Brackin, senior vice president of sustainability. “From emissions management to zero-waste goals, we’re proving that it’s possible to grow responsibly – moving more material up the value chain, investing in our people, and rethinking how tires can create value long after they leave the road.”

Atlas Iron and Metal Corp. shut down permanently due to hazardous waste violations

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman announced that Atlas Iron and Metal Corp. has pleaded no contest to five felony counts of hazardous waste disposal at an unpermitted site, resulting in the immediate and permanent closure of all operations on its premises.

“This outcome shuts down a dangerous facility that has threatened this community for more than 75 years. Today, Watts is safer and the children and educators at Jordan High School can breathe easier – literally and figuratively,” Hochman said.

The closure of Atlas Iron and Metal Corp. marks an important step toward justice for the Watts community, which continues to endure negative impacts from the company’s environmental violations, said Katherine M. Butler, director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC): “DTSC played a key role in holding this company accountable and remains committed to ensuring the site is cleaned and that the community of Watts is protected.”

The agreement mandates that Atlas pay \$1 million in restitution to the Los Angeles Unified School District; \$850,000 to be distributed among the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Los Angeles County Fire Health Hazardous Materials Division; and \$150,000 in fines and penalties.

Company owners Gary Weisenberg of Encino and son Matthew Weisenberg of Los Angeles each pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor counts of unlawful disposal of hazardous waste and one misdemeanor count of public nuisance.

Both are expected to be sentenced to two years of probation, ordered to complete 200 hours of community service, and fined \$10,500 each plus penalty assessments. Sentencing will be set for a later date.

As part of the agreement, Atlas must:

- Permanently cease all operations at its Alameda Street property.
- Fulfill DTSC mandated remediation requirements and ensure thorough site cleanup.
- Relinquish all rights under the Jordan Downs Urban Village Specific Plan or any similar entitlement for operating a recycling materials processing facility.
- Immediately remove the container wall on its property in a manner approved by LAUSD, minimizing disruption to school operations.
- Execute a land use covenant restricting the site from being used for recycling, industrial, metalworking or similar activities.
- Give LAUSD and the City of Los Angeles the right of first refusal on the sale of the property.

The privately held metal recycling facility had been in business since 1949 processing scrap metal, as well as electronic waste. The facility’s operations had increasingly violated environmental and safety regulations as far back as 2017.

Soil samples taken from an area of the high school showed excessive concentrations of lead and zinc. Additional samples taken at Atlas found excessive concentrations of seven metals. Metal debris allegedly from Atlas has been found at the high school.

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EV recycling

■ Continued from Page A1

market strategy at Group14, an American manufacturer and supplier of technology for rechargeable lithium-silicon batteries, said that while there is a level of uncertainty in all global manufacturing right now, we're still bullish on EVs.

"For example, according to the latest IEA report, electric car sales in 2025 are expected to exceed 20 million globally. That's more than one-quarter of cars sold worldwide," Ray said. "We see the global EV market is still growing, not slowing down. The early recyclers will be better positioned to lead as volume continues to ramp up, especially when second-life use cases for battery storage at both cell and EV pack levels become more standardized."

The EV Battery Conundrum

Production and manufacturing issues aside, EV batteries and their recyclability are still creating a myriad of issues for automotive recyclers. Electrical hazards and fires are the main concerns, as damaged batteries can create a short circuit, which become a fire hazard.

"The battery chemistry which uses organic solvents is also highly volatile and can easily ignite," Stonecipher explained. "Special controls and fire protection are needed to prevent fires and to extinguish a fire. If not fully discharged, these batteries can be lethal. Same safety precautions should be taken as if one is working on a powerline."

Jenny Houlroyd, occupational health group manager for the Safety, Health, Environmental Services (SHES) program at Georgia Institute of Technology, agreed that by far, the biggest challenge that auto recyclers of EV batteries will face is controlling the risk of ignition and fires.

"This risk increases on the recycling side because of the variability in EV batteries from different manufacturers and the potential damage that may have occurred to the batteries from use, exposure to extreme temperatures, exposure to extreme moisture, or automobile accidents," Houlroyd said. "When storing large amounts of EV batteries awaiting recycling, the damage from any thermal runaway – where a battery can experience uncontrolled increases in temperature and pressure – could lead to exponential expansion of the event if the batteries are not appropriately isolated from each other."

Beyond this primary risk, as with any battery recycling that is being conducted to recover precious metals, Houlroyd said auto recyclers working in and around these processes have an increased risk of exposure to metals in the form of dust and fumes. In particular, the release of cobalt and nickel in EV batteries can lead to asthma, pulmonary fibrosis and cancer. Additionally, exposure to manganese in the form of fumes can lead to neurological disorders, with symptoms like Parkinson's disease.

"Controlling these hazards will require excellent housekeeping procedures, ventilation systems that control exposures and extensive industrial hygiene programs (air sampling, training,

respiratory protection, medical surveillance) to monitor and control exposures," Houlroyd said.

Houlroyd stressed that the most significant need right now is for safety and health professionals and auto recycling industry experts to work together to develop different types of training about hazards related to the recycling of EV batteries for the various stakeholders and come up with strategies, following the hierarchy of controls, to ensure that workers are protected long-term from chronic health risks.

"I learn something new about the health and safety risks of recycling every time I conduct an industrial hygiene survey at a recycling plant. These collaborative conversations and partnerships are necessary to approach the challenges with curiosity and a proactive approach," Houlroyd said. "All parties need to be involved in the conversation – from the EV owner, the dealerships selling new and used cars, the maintenance shops working on the batteries, and waste management services that may receive the batteries to be sent to recycling plants."

Performing EV battery recycling in a manner that protects the workers, and the environment will be an expensive investment. Houlroyd often reads that mining is still cheaper than recycling.

"Economic comparisons of the costs associated with EV battery recycling versus the cost of mining virgin materials often do not incorporate the societal costs associated with workers developing a range of types of pneumoconiosis from mining these metals, or the long-term environmental consequences," Houlroyd said. "One policy recommendation would be to find ways to fund research into improving the efficiency and safety surrounding the recycling of batteries, and then financially support the investment in the construction and maintenance of recycling plants designed to protect workers' safety and health."

In 2023 the EU passed a rule targeting the efficiency of recycling of EV batteries. This regulation EU 2023/1542 could serve as a model for the U.S.

"The biggest challenge here is that the European Union has this falling under its broad 'European Green Deal,' which, given the political climate here in the U.S. and the optics of the Green New Deal stateside, I am not sure how receptive looking at this rule as a model would be in the U.S.," Houlroyd said.

While batteries used in EVs can come in several chemistries, sizes and packaging formats, Group14 doesn't make batteries – the company manufactures and supplies advanced silicon battery material for battery applications ranging from EVs and BEVs, to AI-enabled smartphones, data centers, and eVTOLs.

"We're excited about the arrival of 'forever batteries' – high-performing, long-lasting and capable of multiple lives across applications," Ray said. "Longer lasting, higher performing batteries remain viable longer in vehicles and retain more value when repurposed for stationary storage, expanding the possibilities for reuse."

As Malloy further explained, when charged, EV battery packs store a significant amount of energy, making it essential to remove and store them in a secure location before any processing can begin.

"In many cases, batteries must be transported and depowered prior to recycling – steps that add both cost and logistical challenges, especially when the battery's condition is unknown," Malloy said. "Additionally, EV battery packs and cells vary widely in design, requiring specialized knowledge for safe removal and disassembly. This variability increases the risk for processing teams and underscores the need for targeted training and safety protocols."

Due to the industry's lack of standardization, training, processes and preparation for EV battery recycling can vary significantly.

"Regulatory frameworks are still evolving – both in the U.S. and internationally," Malloy said. "Different regions are adopting distinct approaches to handling, transporting, and processing EV batteries, which adds complexity to compliance and training efforts."

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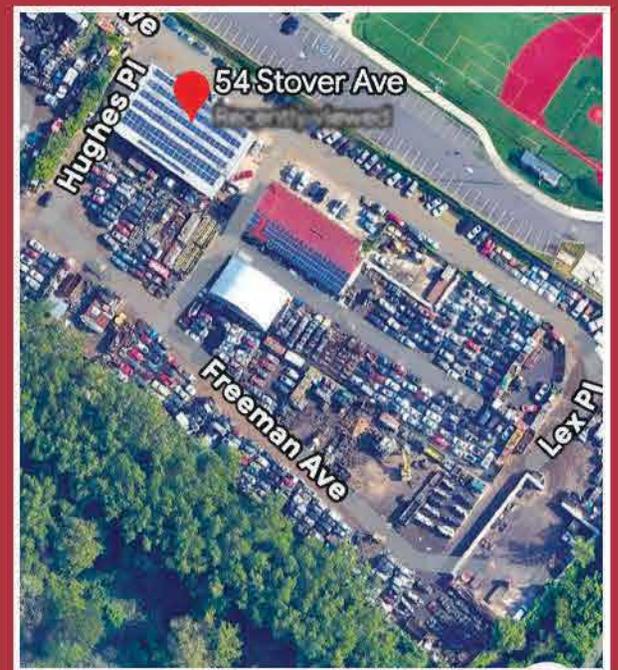
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Grand Teton National Park encourages recycling



Visitors and staff at Grand Teton National Park now have more ways to recycle – and an easy way to reduce litter, thanks to a collaboration between Keep America Beautiful, TerraCycle, and Grand Teton Lodge Company.

Visitors and staff at Grand Teton National Park now have more ways to recycle – and an easy way to reduce litter, thanks to a collaboration between nonprofit Keep America Beautiful®, sustainability solutions innovator TerraCycle®, and hospitality provider Grand Teton Lodge Company®. With a grant from the National Park Foundation, the group is introducing new recycling infrastructure at the park to make waste disposal simpler, smarter and more accessible.

The centerpiece is a newly installed 20 foot recycling station at the busy Colter Bay Campground, which welcomes up to 4,000 overnight guests a night during peak season. This bear-resistant structure features 12 clearly marked slots and easy-to-read signage, making it simple for campers to sort traditional recyclables like aluminum cans, glass bottles, and cardboard – materials that will be recycled through Grand Teton National Park’s municipal recycling service. It also includes designated spaces for hard-to-recycle items

such as snack and candy wrappers, rigid plastic, and flexible plastic packaging, which will be collected and recycled by TerraCycle through its specialized recycling solutions.

The upgrades don’t stop there. Anglers will now find three dedicated bins near fishing access points to safely dispose of used fishing line – a small change that helps protect the park’s waterways and wildlife. And 30 new cigarette butt recycling receptacles have been added to help tackle one of the park’s most common sources of litter.

“This collaboration with Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton Lodge Company, and Keep America Beautiful brings real-world recycling solutions to one of the most iconic natural settings in the U.S.,” said Tom Szaky, founder and chief executive officer of TerraCycle. “Together, with the support of the National Park Foundation, we’re demonstrating how well-designed infrastructure can make recycling more intuitive and accessible – even in remote, natural settings like Grand Teton.”

Reconomy reports sustainability progress

Reconomy published its 2024 Annual Sustainability Report reflecting a year of significant progress against its sustainability targets.

As a business focused on advancing circularity and creating a more sustainable, waste free world Reconomy was keen to measure the overall circularity of its business operations to gain a clearer picture of its impact and to see how to drive greater circularity progress. In 2024, Reconomy physically managed 2.3 million tonnes of its customers’ material – including returns – and virtually managed a further 4.2 million tonnes of materials such as packaging and batteries, with 45 percent going to closed loop recycling.

This represents a circularity gap of 55 percent, calculated using Reconomy’s own methodology based on the global circularity gap of 93.1 percent. Reconomy is actively working to reduce the gap through improved processes, innovative service models and a dedicated “Close the Gap” campaign, focused on collaborating with customers and partners across the value chain.

Reconomy also tracks its contribution to shifting the Earth Overshoot Day – the point at which global resource consumption exceeds the Earth’s ability to regenerate those resources. In 2024, Reconomy measured and estimated that its 2024 activities shifted the Earth Overshoot Day by 12 minutes.

In creating environmental and sustainable value – key achievements in 2024 were:

- 13.9 percent absolute (market-based) decrease in Scope 1 and 2 combined emissions from 2023 – an absolute decrease of 6.3 percent from 2021 baseline
- 95.6 percent of global electricity use from renewable sources
- 98.5 percent of all waste diverted from landfill
- 36.2 percent increase in electric vehicles (EVs) in the Reconomy fleet from 2023 to 2024

Reconomy achieved a number of awards, including an overall EcoVadis Gold certification in 2024, with two brands – Valpak by Reconomy and RLG by Reconomy – receiving platinum scores. EcoVadis is the world’s most trusted business sustainability ratings agency and this certification places Reconomy brands in the top five percent of companies globally for sustainability management. Additionally, Reconomy was awarded the Sustainable Business of the Year award at the Lloyds Bank British Business Excellence Awards and Impact Business of the Year at the City AM Dragon Awards.

Reconomy is committed to leading by example and was an early adopter of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework to help measure and disclose nature-related risks and opportunities.



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METALS

Steel import permit applications increase

Based on the Commerce Department's most recent Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that steel import permit applications for the month of May totaled 2,377,000 net tons (NT). This was a 4.9 percent increase from the 2,266,000 permit tons recorded in April and a 14.5 percent increase from the April final imports total of 2,077,000. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in May was 1,746,000, up 8.4 percent from the final imports total of 1,611,000 in April. For the first five months of 2025 (including May SIMA permits and April final imports), total and finished steel imports were 12,267,000 NT and 9,113,000 NT, down 7.0 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively, from the same period in 2024. The estimated finished steel import market share in May was 20 percent and is 21 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Steel imports with large increases

in May permits vs. April final imports include plates in coils (up 50 percent), hot rolled sheets (up 44 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coating (up 38 percent), blooms, billets and slabs (up 36 percent) and reinforcing bars (up 24 percent). Products with significant YTD increases vs. the same period in 2024 include tin plate (up 77 percent), stainless pipe and tube (up 62 percent), line pipe (up 35 percent), oil country goods (up 13 percent) and wire rods (up 11 percent).

In May, the largest steel import permit applications were for Canada (382,000 NT, down 12 percent from April final), Brazil (346,000 NT, up 16 percent), Mexico (276,000 NT, up 77 percent), South Korea (266,000 NT, up 44 percent) and Germany (112,000 NT, down 7 percent). Through the first five months of 2025, the largest suppliers were Canada (2,439,000 NT, down 17 percent), Brazil (2,106,000 NT, down 5 percent) and Mexico (1,572,000 NT, down 10 percent).

Crude steel production drops

World crude steel production for the 69 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 155.7 million tonnes (Mt) in April 2025, a 0.3 percent decrease compared to April 2024.

Crude steel production by region

Africa produced 1.9 Mt in April 2025, up 6.3 percent on April 2024. Asia and Oceania produced 115.0 Mt, up 0.1 percent. The EU (27) produced 11.1 Mt, down 2.6 percent. Europe, Other produced 3.4 Mt, down 0.5 percent. The Middle East produced 5.2 Mt, up 2.2 percent. North America produced 9.0 Mt, up 0.2 percent. Russia & other CIS + Ukraine produced 6.9 Mt, down 4.4

percent. South America produced 3.3 Mt, down 2.4 percent.

Top 10 steel-producing countries

China produced 86.0 Mt in April 2025, the same as in April 2024. India produced 12.9 Mt, up 5.6 percent. Japan produced 6.6 Mt, down 6.4 percent. The United States produced 6.6 Mt, down 0.3 percent. Russia is estimated to have produced 5.8 Mt, down 5.1 percent. South Korea produced 5.0 Mt, down 2.5 percent. Turkey produced 3.0 Mt, up 7.0 percent. Germany produced 3.0 Mt, down 10.1 percent. Brazil produced 2.6 Mt, down 3.1 percent. Iran produced 3.3 Mt, up 4.6 percent.

Top steel-producing countries

	Mar 2025 (Mt)	% change Mar 25/24	Jan-Mar 2025 (Mt)	% change Jan-Mar 25/24
China	86.0	0.0	345.4	0.4
India	12.9	5.6	53.2	6.9
Japan	6.6	-6.4	27.0	-5.3
United States	6.6	-0.3	26.4	0.0
Russia	5.8 e	-5.1	23.4	-4.5
South Korea	5.0	-2.5	20.5	-3.4
Turkey	3.0	7.0	12.3	-1.0
Germany	3.0	-10.1	11.4	-11.9
Brazil	2.6	-3.1	11.0	-0.3
Iran	3.3	4.6	10.6	-8.0

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



MarketWatch



Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
FERROUS						
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$400.00	\$410.00	\$400.00	\$412.00	\$418.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	380.00	391.00	380.00	392.00	392.00
Structural	per gross ton	325.00	322.00	320.00	325.00	340.00
#1 & #2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	285.00	285.00	290.00	289.00	295.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	205.00	207.00	206.00	201.00	210.00
Shredded Auto Scrap	per gross ton	379.00	380.00	375.00	379.00	380.00
NON FERROUS						
#1 Copper Bare Bright	per pound	4.71	4.26	4.25	4.25	4.35
#2 Copper Wire & Tubing	per pound	4.50	4.06	4.05	4.06	4.13
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.75	.76	.75	.76	.77
Al/Cu Radiators	per pound	2.10	2.09	2.01	1.85	1.89
Aluminum Radiators	per pound	.56	.57	.59	.58	.59
Heater Cores	per pound	1.43	1.48	1.47	1.49	1.50
Stainless Steel	per pound	.59	.57	.56	.55	.57

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

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METALS

Steel imports down 17.1 percent

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 2,073,000 net tons (NT) of steel in April 2025, including 1,607,000 NT of finished steel (down 17.1 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively, vs. March 2025). Total and finished steel imports are down 4.4 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively, year-to-date vs. 2024. Over the 12-month period May 2024 to April 2025, total and finished steel imports are down 0.7 percent and up 1.1 percent, respectively, vs. the prior 12-month period. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 20 percent in April and is estimated at 22 percent over the first four months of 2025.

Key steel products with a significant import increase in April compared to March are tin plate (up 43 percent), oil country goods (up 26 percent) and wire rods (up 14 percent). Products with a significant increase in imports over the 12 month period May 2024 to April 2025 compared to the previous 12-month period include tin plate (up 73 percent), wire rods (up 14 percent), sheets and strip all other metallic coated (up 14 percent), line pipe (up 14 percent) and heavy structural shapes (up 11 percent).

In April, the largest suppliers were

Canada (433,000 NT, down 13 percent vs. March), Brazil (299,000 NT, down 30 percent), South Korea (185,000 NT, down 60 percent) and Germany (120,000 NT, up 5 percent). Over the 12-month period May 2024 to April 2025, the largest suppliers were Canada (6,266,000 NT, down 9 percent vs, compared to the previous 12-months), Brazil (4,506,000 NT, up 5 percent), Mexico (3,379,000 NT, down 15 percent), South Korea (2,828,000 NT, down 1 percent) and Vietnam (1,201,000 NT, up 57 percent). Below are charts on steel imports by country and estimated finished steel import market share in recent months.

In April, the largest suppliers were Canada (433,000 NT, down 13 percent vs. March), Brazil (299,000 NT, down 30 percent), South Korea (185,000 NT, down 60 percent) and Germany (120,000 NT, up 5 percent). Over the 12-month period May 2024 to April 2025, the largest suppliers were Canada (6,266,000 NT, down 9 percent vs, compared to the previous 12-months), Brazil (4,506,000 NT, up 5 percent), Mexico (3,379,000 NT, down 15 percent), South Korea (2,828,000 NT, down 1 percent) and Vietnam (1,201,000 NT, up 57 percent).

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

COUNTRY	MAR. 2025 PRELIM	APR. 2025 FINAL	% VAR. MAY VS. APR.	YTD 2025 (5 MON.)	YTD 2024 (5 MON.)	% VAR. 2025 VS. 2024	APR. 2024 TO MAR 2025	APR. 2023 TO MAR 2024	% VAR.
Canada	433	495	-12.5%	2,057	2,348	-12.4%	6,266	6,848	-8.5%
Brazil	299	429	-30.3%	1,759	1,752	0.4%	4,506	4,275	5.4%
Mexico	156	389	-59.9%	1,295	1,433	-9.6%	3,379	3,991	-15.3%
South Korea	185	253	-26.9%	957	939	2.0%	2,828	2,857	-1.0%
Vietnam	66	70	-5.4%	235	397	-40.8%	1,201	768	56.5%
Germany	120	115	5.0%	420	294	43.0%	1,200	962	24.8%
Japan	71	90	-20.3%	373	396	-5.9%	1,157	1,148	0.8%
Taiwan	103	117	-12.2%	386	318	21.4%	1,079	611	76.5%
Netherlands	56	35	60.2%	181	165	9.6%	629	540	16.5%
China	47	28	72.2%	170	136	24.5%	541	505	7.0%
Romania	82	2	4889.3%	177	175	1.2%	480	406	18.3%
United Arab Emir.	26	23	10.2%	123	117	5.1%	410	335	22.5%
Turkey	8	39	-78.8%	156	199	-21.5%	388	379	2.4%
India	64	46	38.3%	172	71	142.7%	354	292	21.2%
Italy	24	41	-42.8%	112	134	-16.5%	314	369	-14.7%
All Other	333	331	0.8%	1,312	1,464	-10.4%	3,685	4,325	-14.8%
Total	2,073	2,501	-17.1%	9,886	10,337	-4.4%	28,419	28,611	-0.7%
memo EU-27	404	371	8.7%	1,539	1,358	13.3%	4,468	3,928	13.7%

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PAPER

Smurfit Westrock to close two U.S. facilities

Smurfit Westrock will permanently close its coated recycled board (CRB) mill in St. Paul, Minnesota and will discontinue production at its containerboard mill in Forney, Texas. The specialty coating facility at Forney will not be impacted. As a result, the company's containerboard and CRB capacity is expected to reduce by over 500,000 tons.

Smurfit Westrock has also initiated consultations with local works councils in Germany with a view to permanently closing two converting facilities there.

Approximately 650 employees in the U.S. and Germany will be impacted as a result of these closures. "We recognize the impact this has on our employees and the communities involved. We will provide

support to employees during this transition including career transition assistance and relocation opportunities where possible. The impacted employees will receive local severance in accordance with Company policy, as well as works council and labor union agreements.

"While closing facilities is never an easy decision, it is based on a realistic expectation of current and future capacity needs, operating costs and an unrelenting focus on improving our business," said Tony Smurfit, president & group chief executive officer, Smurfit Westrock. "We are very grateful for the significant contributions made by the teams at these locations over the years and we will do all we can to support them throughout this process."

AF&PA releases paper reports

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) released first quarter reports.

Boxboard

Total Boxboard production in Q1 decreased 1 percent compared to Q1 2024. The boxboard operating rate was 87.8 percent, up 1.6 points from the same quarter last year.

- Solid Bleached Boxboard production in Q1 increased 1 percent compared to Q1 2024.
- Solid Bl. Folding – Export production increased 14 percent compared to Q1 2024.
- Uncoated Recycled Boxboard production decreased 3 percent compared to Q1 2024.

Containerboard

According to the report, total Containerboard production in Q1 remained essentially

flat (-0.4 percent) compared to Q1 2024.

- The operating rate for Unbleached Kraft Liner decreased compared to Q1 2024, while rates for all the other grades increased. The rates for all 4 grades were above 90 percent for the first time in over a year.
- Production for export increased in Q1 after 2 consecutive quarterly declines in the 2nd half of 2024, but it was still 7.7 percent lower than Q1 2024.
- Domestic new supply for Q1 increased 1.0 percent from the same quarter last year, but declined 3.8 percent from Q4 2024, which had been the strongest quarter since 2022.
- Inventories at mills at the end of Q1 declined 4.2 percent from their December 2024 levels. They were nevertheless 6.8 percent higher than the average mill inventories for the last 15 months.

Industry publishes updated voluntary standard for recycling cardboard

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) and Fibre Box Association (FBA) announced an update to their "Voluntary Standard For Repulping and Recycling Coated or Treated Corrugated Fiberboard and its Equivalents in the Old Corrugated Containers (OCC) Recycling Stream." The Voluntary Standard provides an industry supported set of test protocols that evaluate whether products such as coated or treated cardboard packaging are repulpable and recyclable.

"Our industry is committed to continuous improvement and capturing as much paper-based material from the waste stream as possible," said vice president, industry affairs, Terry Webber.

"This Voluntary Standard will help our industry develop innovative coatings and treatments for cardboard

packaging to meet customer needs, while also ensuring they can be validated as repulpable and recyclable."

A joint committee of AF&PA and FBA members developed the update to the Voluntary Standard. It is aligned with current mill technology and manufacturing practices. Coated or treated cardboard packaging is a practical and cost-effective way to ship products like produce, meat or seafood. The Voluntary Standard aims to help the industry evaluate their coatings and treatments to ensure their packaging can be repulped and recycled using common mill technology.

"The repulpability and recyclability test procedures in the revised Voluntary Standard deliver results that are valid, reliable and repeatable," said president and chief executive officer of the Fibre Box Association, Bob McIlvaine.

PLASTICS

Bottled water growth rate outperforms all other packaged drinks, by volume



Bottled water had the highest volume growth rate of all other beverages in 2024, the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) reported, according to new data from the Beverage Marketing Corporation (BMC). Nearly all other drinks had negative growth in 2024, reaffirming that bottled water's robust performance is the result of consumers making the wise switch from less healthy packaged drinks to bottled water.

For the ninth consecutive year, bottled water is the number one beverage, by volume, in the U.S. Bottled water's total consumption volume in 2024 was 16.4 billion gallons, with a growth rate of 2.9 percent. Carbonated soft drinks (11.9 billion gallons) grew by a mere 0.2 percent and energy drinks by 1.6 percent, while sports drinks fell by -2.7 percent, ready to drink coffee by -2.3, fruit beverages by -2.5 percent, and both value-added water and ready to drink tea fell by -1.3 percent.

"Though sometimes regarded as competing with tap water, bottled water actually achieved its position as the biggest beverage category by enticing consumers away from other packaged beverages. Some consumers may have transitioned away from regular, full-calorie sodas in favor of their diet (or 'zero-sugar') iterations, but many others opted for bottled water instead. And as some consumers grew leery of artificial sweeteners, they moved away from diet sodas as well as regular versions," said John G. Rodwan, Jr., BMC's editorial director.

"Bottled water's zero-calorie status and its lack of artificial ingredients appeal to many consumers. Even where tap water may be safe and readily

available, people may prefer bottled water," said Rodwan. "The availability of packaged water wherever beverages are sold also differentiates bottled water from tap."

"Whether consuming refreshing, high-quality water from a 3- or 5-gallon jug and watercooler or picking up a convenient, resealable, grab-and-go PET container, bottled water offers a healthy and smart choice," says Jill Culora, IBWA's vice president of communications. "Consumers who choose bottled water know both options can lessen their personal environmental footprints when they choose water over other packaged drinks. Watercoolers provide water from 3 and 5 gallon containers that are collected, cleaned, sanitized and reused 35 plus times before being recycled. And the market's most popular, individual-sized PET plastic bottle is not only the most recognized as being recyclable but also the most common item in curbside bins (53 percent), making it easy for consumers to make the right choice and recycle rather than trash empty bottles."

PET bottled water containers are also ultralight in weight, using nearly 1/3 less plastic than PET soda bottles, which require thicker plastic due to carbonation.

Increasingly, bottled water companies are using post-consumer recycled plastic to make new bottles, instead of using virgin plastic, which drastically reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Bottled water's volume surpassed soft drinks for the first time in 2016 and has done so every year since. Americans consumed, on average, 47.3 gallons of bottled water in 2024.



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WASTE

Michigan State University leads anaerobic digestion innovation



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As conversations continue to build among policymakers and industry leaders on how to best address nutrient runoff, energy transition and sustainable waste management in the Great Lakes region, Michigan State University scientists are pioneering solutions that transform organic waste into a public asset.

George Smith, director of MSU AgBioResearch, and Wei Liao, director of the MSU Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center (ADREC), testified in front of the Michigan House Agriculture Committee that through cutting-edge anaerobic digestion research and deployment, MSU researchers are demonstrating how agricultural and food waste can be harnessed to produce clean energy, recover valuable resources and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Wei Liao, professor in the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and director of the MSU Anaerobic Digestion Research and Extension Center.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural biological process in which microorganisms break down organic materials – such as livestock manure and food waste – in the absence of oxygen. The result is the production of biogas, primarily composed of methane and carbon dioxide, and a nutrient-rich byproduct known as digestate.

The biogas can be used to generate electricity and thermal energy, or it can be refined into renewable natural gas for transportation or grid injection. Meanwhile, digestate, which compared to raw manure gives off less odor and greatly reduces pathogens (such as E. coli, salmonella and listeria, originating from the digestive systems of animals or food wastes), can be further treated to produce stabilized organic fertilizers and recover clean water that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and recommendations for reuse.

Established in 2008, ADREC has become a national model for applied anaerobic digestion research, education and industry engagement. Since 2013, MSU has also operated a full scale anaerobic digestion facility on its South Campus, processing approximately 15,000 gallons of diverse animal and food wastes, including dairy manure, swine manure, fats, oils, grease, depacked food waste, and milk and egg processing waste. From these wastes, the facility generates 6,500 kilowatt-hours per day of renewable electricity and produces 15,000 gallons of digestate daily.



Turning 15,500 tons per year of manures, food processing waste, FOG, and cafeteria food waste...

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Photo courtesy of American Biogas Council

The digestate is land-applied across 1,000 acres of university farmland under Michigan's Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices. Application is guided by soil test data to ensure that nutrients – particularly nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium – are applied in controlled amounts tailored to crop needs. This precision nutrient management helps optimize soil fertility while minimizing the risk of nutrient runoff to surrounding ecosystems.

Over 15 years of continuous land application at MSU, regular monitoring has shown no evidence of groundwater contamination at any of the 15 on-site type I water wells south of the main campus – a compelling validation of anaerobic digestion's environmental safety when properly implemented, according to Liao.

According to recent estimates from the American Biogas Council (ABC), widespread deployment of anaerobic digestion infrastructure could catalyze over \$1.27 billion in capital investments, generate more than 12,000 construction jobs and sustain over 1,000 long-term operational positions, with additional indirect job creation across the supply chain.

At MSU, to advance knowledge on how organic waste can play a part in energy production and nutrient recovery through anaerobic digestion, the university is building a state-of-the-art Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center with a \$30 million investment from the State of Michigan. Supported by MSU's anaerobic digester, the new dairy center will expand MSU's research capacity for transforming agricultural waste into renewable energy and resources.

Undertakings such as these, Smith said, are helping MSU position itself as a worldwide expert in the implementation, data collection and advancement of anaerobic digestion, which also make the university a leading institution developing science-driven, scalable solutions for a sustainable future.

"With sustained investment and cross-sector collaboration, MSU has and will continue to conduct research and provide information on anaerobic digestion that could make it a cornerstone of Michigan's strategy to build resilient

communities, clean energy infrastructure and protected water resources – setting an example for the entire Great Lakes region and beyond," Smith said.

Michigan's organic waste streams – including over 11 million annual dry tons of livestock manure and more than 3 million annual dry tons of food waste, as documented by ABC – represent untapped feedstock for energy and nutrient recovery. With full utilization, these wastes could generate 2 percent to 4 percent of Michigan's total electricity needs or supply 10 percent to 15 percent of statewide gasoline demand in the form of renewable natural gas, contributing to energy independence and decarbonization goals, according to Liao.

Beyond energy, MSU's next-generation anaerobic digestion technologies are focused on maximizing nutrient and water recovery from organic waste streams. Advanced processes are being developed to extract and reuse nitrogen and phosphorus – critical nutrients that, if improperly managed, contribute to harmful algal blooms and water pollution in the Great Lakes. At the same time, MSU researchers are actively addressing growing concerns about emerging contaminants in digestate, such as PFAS, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals and microplastics, while also devising best management practices to minimize risks.

"By stabilizing and concentrating nutrients in forms that match crop needs, and reclaiming water for agricultural or industrial reuse, anaerobic digestion systems offer a closed-loop strategy to enhance soil health, reduce chemical fertilizer dependence, mitigate the spread of emerging contaminants and protect Michigan's freshwater resources – including the Great Lakes, which supply drinking water to over 40 million people," Liao said.

"Anaerobic digestion is a tool for simultaneously cutting greenhouse gas emissions, recovering nutrients and water, and revitalizing rural economies. We at ADREC welcome policymakers, industry leaders, philanthropists and the general public to join us in supporting this transformative work."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nucor executive vice president retires

■ Nucor Corporation announced that Chad Utermark, executive vice president of new markets and innovation, has retired.

Utermark began his Nucor career in 1992 as a utility operator at Nucor Steel Arkansas and has worked in various positions and businesses, including as hot mill manager at Nucor Steel Arkansas; roll mill manager at Nucor Steel Texas; vice president and general manager of Nucor Steel Texas and vice president and general manager of Nucor-Yamato Steel Company. He was promoted to executive vice president in 2014.

Worldsteel welcomed new members

■ The board of members of the World Steel Association (worldsteel) has welcomed the following steel producers as regular members:

- AL-ITTEFAQ Steel Products Company (Saudi Arabia), represented by Sharjeel Azhar
- Daehan Steel Co., Ltd (South Korea), represented by Kyung-Baek Lee
- Diaco S.A. (Colombia), represented by Mauro De Castro
- SteelAsia Manufacturing Corporation (Philippines), represented by Sean Andre Sy
- VAS Group Nghi Son Joint Stock Company (Vietnam), represented by Bao Khanh Nguyen

VLS Environmental Solutions acquires Samex Environmental

■ VLS Environmental Solutions, a leader in environmental services and compliance, has acquired Samex Environmental, a San Diego based provider of hazardous waste fuel blending and recycling services. With state-of-the-art processing facilities in Tijuana, Mexico, and fleet of transportation assets, the acquisition of Samex strengthens VLS' presence on the West Coast and enhances its portfolio with Samex's industry expertise and innovative solutions.

For over 30 years, Samex has been known for its solvent distillation and fuel blending programs. The company's innovative transborder recycling program, which leverages a network of cement kilns, reduces carbon emissions by keeping waste processing local.

By integrating Samex, VLS now offers one of the most comprehensive waste management portfolios in the region, serving industries ranging from petrochemicals to pharmaceuticals.

The combined company has over 1,400 employees and 50+ locations nationwide. The acquisition of Samex Environmental is the fourteenth acquisition by VLS Environmental Solutions. VLS is actively pursuing both organic and inorganic opportunities to continue to expand its environmental solutions capabilities to support the sustainability goals of its clients.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Meridian Waste acquires Waste Away Dumpster Service

Meridian Waste Alabama, LLC, a non-hazardous, integrated solid waste services company, announced the asset acquisition of Waste Away Dumpster Service, LLC.

The acquisition expands Meridian Waste's operational footprint within the greater Huntsville marketplace, adding both commercial frontload and permanent and temporary roll off hauling routes to the company's Alabama portfolio. Additionally, Meridian Waste will assume Waste Away's existing hauling facility located in Huntsville, Alabama, where the company will house the administrative and maintenance functions servicing both existing and the newly acquired commercial customers and accounts.

The Waste Away assets add significant densification to Meridian Waste's Huntsville commercial collection footprint including Madison, Limestone, Marshall and Morgan Counties. Additionally, the acquisition will generate greater internalization of non-hazardous waste volumes at Meridian Waste's Noble Hill Landfill located in Etowah County which was acquired September 2024 as part of the purchase of Evergreen Environmental Partner, LLC (EEP).

EPA appoints Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey as regional administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Lee Zeldin announced that Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey has been appointed as EPA's Mid-Atlantic (Region 3) regional administrator. Regional administrator Van Blarcom-Lackey will oversee the implementation of federal environmental laws and priorities of the administration's agenda in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia and of EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program. She is the first woman appointed to lead the EPA Mid-Atlantic Region in the agency's history.

Van Blarcom-Lackey has a distinguished history of service, having been appointed as the first agricultural ombudsman in the state of Pennsylvania where she served as a crucial link to agriculture communities, addressing conflicts related to agriculture, land use, and environmental planning. She brings more than a decade of experience as a lobbyist for both state and federal agricultural interests and over 20 years of experience in finance and business management.

Van Blarcom-Lackey resides in Philadelphia with her family.

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Imposed tariffs could mean gains for metal recyclers

by MAURA KELLER

mkeller@americanrecycler.com

Visit any news site and you'd be hard pressed not to find information about the recent imposed tariffs by President Donald Trump. With considerable volatility around these tariffs at the moment, leaders across all industry segments are paying close attention to this evolving landscape. For metal recyclers, these fluctuating tariffs are keeping them on their toes, unsure of what the metal recycling landscape may look like in the near future.

As of June 4th, the administration imposed 50 percent tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum from all countries. With other products, the administration has changed or lowered rates after setting an initial percentage tariff, so it's still to be determined how long the 50 percent tariff will last.

"Because of this, manufacturers lack the certainty around rates to take decisive action on their sourcing strategies," said Bill Graca, director of global manufacturing strategy at Slalom Consulting. "Tariffs will raise costs, causing financial strain for almost all manufacturers using imported metals. Because of increased costs, we can reasonably assume that there will be an increase in manufacturers leveraging recycled materials to secure source material."

Graca further explained that manufacturers will have to find reliable domestic sources for recycled metals that can meet their supply needs.

"There are domestic partners in this space that could potentially fill sourcing gaps. The challenge right now is that this space is highly fragmented, so we could see some investment and rapid industry consolidation in this space," Graca said. "The steel industry is resilient. Domestic players have weathered storms in the past, so despite current uncertainties or temporary slow-downs, the industry remains strong."

Dale Crawford is the executive director for Steel Tube Institute, an organization that brings together producers in the steel industry to advance the use of electrical steel conduit. Crawford pointed out that Section 232 tariffs remain in place

and continue to serve as a critical safeguard for U.S. steel producers.

"However, despite these measures, illegal dumping of steel has persisted through tariff circumvention tactics such as transshipment and misclassification," Crawford said. "This highlights a key challenge – while the policy itself is sound in intent, its impact is undermined by inconsistent enforcement and loopholes exploited by importers. As a result, domestic manufacturers have not seen the full benefits of the protections envisioned under the original framework, and the steel market remains vulnerable to unfairly priced imports."

Crawford explained that one of the primary concerns is uneven enforcement, which has historically allowed some importers to circumvent tariffs through misclassification or transshipment. This undermines the intended protections for domestic manufacturers. Another key issue is uncertainty, both around how new tariffs might be implemented and how they could affect pricing, input availability and long-term investment planning.

"While the industry broadly supports measures that level the playing field, it also calls for clarity, consistency and effective oversight to ensure the rules are applied fairly and transparently," Crawford said.

If enforcement remains inconsistent, the biggest challenge will continue to be unfair competition from illegally dumped imports, even under a tariff regime. Crawford said that this puts legitimate U.S. metals manufacturers at a disadvantage and creates pricing instability that makes long-term planning and investment more difficult.

"Additionally, companies may experience increased administrative and compliance burdens as they navigate a complex import environment," Crawford said. "The tariffs must be paired with robust oversight and importer accountability to be effective. Without adequate enforcement, these challenges can ultimately outweigh the intended benefits."

Craig Powell, president, North America, head of BU Steel North and South America for RHI Magnesita, said that one of the main concerns for the metals



One of the primary concerns with tariffs are uneven enforcement, which has historically allowed some importers to circumvent tariffs through misclassification or transshipment.

industries and their suppliers is how they will manage to cover or find solutions to mitigate the increased cost created by the tariffs.

"Refractories are critical for all kinds of high temperature manufacturing processes – be it steel, cement, aluminum, glass or any nonferrous metals making," Powell said. "However, we are now facing import tariffs on critical raw materials and finished goods."

Powell said that raw material onshoring is more challenging, as certain materials like magnesite/ magnesia are not available in North America.

"Refractory recycling is one way that can partially resolve the raw material imports challenge. Spent refractories can be crushed and used as secondary raw material in place of virgin raw material, thus reducing dependence on raw material resources outside of the region," Powell said. "However, with the currently available technology, a maximum of 30 percent of used refractories can be recycled to produce secondary raw materials. Until these solutions are put into place, we are compelled to pass on 100 percent

of the tariff cost as a surcharge to our customers in the U.S. This would potentially increase the cost of production for metals producers."

Powell further pointed out that tariffs are likely to cause metals producers and their suppliers to do what they can to continue onshoring production and supply chains. While this may ultimately be positive for the industry, the path to get there is not clear cut and takes time.

"Suddenly, manufacturers who were previously relying on imports are going to have demands for local resources, from materials to labor to transportation," Powell said. "With a rapid increase in demand, metals producers and their suppliers will face constraints. In the immediate term, this may lead to production delays and struggles with supply chain availability, and in the end, will impact day-to-day consumers and metal recyclers."

Being in the industry for over 30 years, Powell has seen the market ebb and flow.

See METAL RECYCLING, Page B6



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Nucor reports reduced earnings in the first quarter

Nucor Corporation announced consolidated net earnings attributable to Nucor stockholders of \$156 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2025. Excluding certain one-time charges taken during the quarter, Nucor's first quarter of 2025 adjusted net earnings attributable to Nucor stockholders was \$179 million, or \$0.77 per diluted share. By comparison, Nucor reported consolidated net earnings attributable to Nucor stockholders of \$287 million, or \$1.22 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2024 and \$845 million, or \$3.46 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2024.

Reflected in the first quarter of 2025 losses and impairments of assets are certain one-time charges totaling \$29 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, related to the closure or repurposing of certain facilities.

"Despite recent financial market volatility, Nucor is seeing solid demand for the steel and steel products we manufacture. Our healthy balance sheet and diverse product portfolio position us well, even in uncertain times," said Leon Topalian, chair, president and chief executive officer. "Our investment strategy continues to position Nucor as the premier North American steel producer, creating long-term economic value for our customers and shareholders."

Nucor's consolidated net sales were \$7.83 billion in the first quarter of 2025, an 11 percent increase compared to \$7.08 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024 and a 4 percent decrease compared to \$8.14 billion in the first quarter of 2024. Average sales price per ton in the first quarter of 2025 decreased 2 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 and decreased 12 percent compared to the first quarter of 2024. A total of 6,830,000 tons were shipped to outside customers in the first quarter of 2025, an increase of 13 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 and an increase of 10 percent compared to the first quarter of 2024. Total steel mill shipments in the first quarter of 2025 increased 14 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 and increased 10 percent compared to

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the first quarter of 2024. Steel mill shipments to internal customers represented 19 percent of total steel mill shipments in the first quarter of 2025, compared to 19 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024 and 21 percent in the first quarter of 2024. Downstream steel product shipments to outside customers in the first quarter of 2025 increased 8 percent from the fourth quarter of 2024 and increased 9 percent from the first quarter of 2024.

The average scrap and scrap substitute cost per gross ton used in the first quarter of 2025 was \$394, a 3 percent increase compared to \$381 in the fourth quarter of 2024 and a 6 percent decrease compared to \$421 in the first quarter of 2024.

Pre-operating and start-up costs related to the company's growth projects were approximately \$170 million, or \$0.56 per diluted share, in the first quarter of 2025, compared with approximately \$164 million, or \$0.53 per diluted share, in the fourth quarter of 2024 and approximately \$125 million, or \$0.39 per diluted share, in the first quarter of 2024.

Overall operating rates at the company's steel mills were 80 percent in the first quarter of 2025, compared to 74 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024 and 82 percent in the first quarter of 2024.

Commitment to Returning Capital to Stockholders

During the first quarter of 2025, Nucor repurchased approximately 2.3 million shares of its common stock at an average price of \$133.17 per share. As of April 5, 2025, Nucor had approximately \$806 million remaining authorized and available for repurchases under its share repurchase program. This share repurchase authorization is discretionary and has no scheduled expiration date.

On February 18, 2025, Nucor's board of directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.55 per share. This cash dividend was payable on May 12, 2025 to stockholders of record as of March 31, 2025 and is Nucor's 208th consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

AISI applauds steel tariff increase



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Kevin Dempsey, president and chief executive officer of the American Iron and Steel Institute, applauded the announcement by President Trump that he was increasing the existing steel tariffs from 25 percent to 50 percent:

"AISI welcomes President Trump's

announcement that he is increasing steel tariffs to 50 percent. Led by China, global steel overcapacity and production continues to grow, even as overall global steel demand is being impacted by the sharp downturn in the Chinese construction sector. As a result, Chinese steel exports to the world have more than doubled since 2020, surging to 118 million MT in 2024 – more than total North American steel production. Given these challenging international conditions that show no signs of improvement, this tariff action will help prevent new surges in imports that would injure American steel producers and their workers. AISI applauds the President's bold action today to increase the tariffs on foreign steel and keep the American steel industry strong."

American aluminum supply chain resilience requires all-of-the-above approach to metal supply

The Aluminum Association released a new white paper developed in collaboration with Wittsend Commodity Advisors, Powering Up American Aluminum: A Roadmap for Next Generation Supply Chain Resilience, outlining pathways to move the United States industry toward greater self-sufficiency in its domestic aluminum supply. The U.S. aluminum industry has evolved over the last quarter century and shifted its business to become a global powerhouse in mid-and-downstream aluminum production and recycling – investing more than \$10 billion in U.S. operations over the past decade. At the same time, steady demand growth and a declining primary aluminum production footprint within the U.S. has led to a gap of around 4 million metric tons of raw (or unwrought) aluminum that the industry must import – today largely from long-time trading partner Canada.

"Aluminum is a critical material for our nation's economic and national security – found in everything from cars and cans to fighter jets, tanks and the electric grid," said Charles Johnson, president & chief executive officer of the Aluminum Association. "Even if we could flip a switch and turn on every idled aluminum smelter tomorrow, the U.S. industry cannot currently produce nearly enough metal to make the products that Americans rely upon. This new research shows us that greater self-sufficiency will require an all-of-the-above approach to energy, trade and recycling policy to ensure that U.S. manufacturers have abundant, affordable metal."

Achieving U.S. aluminum self-sufficiency will require time, money and commitment from both the public and private sector to build new smelters and recycle more aluminum. The white paper focuses on three main pathways to address industry metal supply:

Build new or restart idled primary aluminum smelters.

- **New** – There are undoubtedly opportunities to build new aluminum smelting capacity in the U.S., including two projects currently under discussion. Building such facilities will take time (five to six years), significant capital investment (\$4 – \$6 billion/facility) and long-term, competitive power contracts and the equivalent annual electricity usage of the city of Boston or Nashville. To fully meet current metal needs, the U.S. would need to build around five 750,000 metric ton smelters. The largest fully operational smelter in the U.S. right now is 220,000 metric tons.

- **Restart** – Slightly less than half of installed U.S. primary aluminum capacity is currently in operation. Bringing this metal back online from 4 existing smelters would require long-term, competitively priced power contracts and still significant capital investment. Restarting all idled smelters would only meet around 15 percent of the current 4 million metric ton metal supply gap.



Recover and recycle more domestic aluminum scrap.

- While domestic primary production has declined over recent decades, recycled (or secondary) aluminum production has grown, hitting record levels in 2024. Recycling aluminum is about 95 percent less energy intensive than primary production and relies largely on scrap aluminum as an input material. Building aluminum recycling facilities is also far less capital intensive. New sorting technologies could unlock even more available scrap aluminum. Collecting and recycling the estimated 1 to 2 million MT of usable scrap currently landfilled or exported would meet 25 percent to 50 percent of the existing U.S. metal supply gap.

Import metal from trusted partners, especially Canada.

- As the industry works to produce more domestic aluminum, access to affordable, reliable Canadian primary aluminum is a vital bridge for metal supply and a good deal for America. The aluminum the U.S. imports from Canada is equivalent to more than four Hoover Dams worth of energy each year – often at a significant discount from direct electricity imports. Aluminum smelters in Canada typically pay \$25 to \$40 per MWh of electricity vs. \$60 to \$80 per MWh in the U.S. Further, every one aluminum smelter job in Canada supports about 13 U.S. aluminum jobs further downstream.

Enormous electricity requirements for primary aluminum production poses a unique challenge for industry self-sufficiency. A single new aluminum smelter uses 11 TWh – a similar amount of electricity used by a major U.S. city like Boston or Nashville each year. Furthermore, to be economically competitive, a smelter requires a 10 to 20 year contract with electricity costs ~\$40/MWh. Technology companies are currently committing upward of \$115/MWh for power at AI data centers. The Energy Information Administration estimates that the U.S. will have an energy deficit ~ 50 TWh by 2035 on current trendlines.

The Aluminum Association is calling on policymakers to support the Aluminum Agenda on areas like energy, trade and recycling policy to increase American self-reliance in this critical sector of the manufacturing economy.

Metso divests its ferrous business to SMS group

Metso has signed an agreement to sell its ferrous business to SMS group, a global company providing technology and services in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the metals industry. The businesses to be divested include, for example, traveling grate pelletizing and Circored™ direct reduction process, as well as the related service business. Approximately 180 employees, primarily based in Germany, India and China, are planned to join the SMS group at the closing of the transaction.

The closing of the transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2026. The above-mentioned businesses, excluding the related services, are part of the businesses that have been reported as discontinued operations in Metso's financial reporting since October 2023. The parties have decided not to disclose the value of the transaction. The transaction has no material profit and loss impact on Metso.

"SMS group is a great home for the ferrous technologies. It can offer both focus and scale for these businesses

and hence capitalize on their full potential together with the strong team that is committed to further develop these technologies for the benefit of the customers," says Pii Karhu, president of the minerals business area.

SMS group

"We are very pleased to add these future technologies to our product portfolio including the respective know-how carriers. The intention is for the Circored technology to help us pursue our ambition to be a leading partner in the green transformation of the metals industry," said Thomas Hansmann, chief technology officer of SMS group.

Metso has also made additional decisions related to the rest of the ferrous and heat transfer and metals and chemical processing businesses that have been reported as discontinued operations. Metso will retain the businesses that have a positive market outlook and strong synergies with the company's offering to the copper and battery minerals industries. Planning of wind down will be initiated for the rest of the businesses. The retained businesses will be reported as part of the Minerals segment.

*Why don't eggs tell any jokes to one another?
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Nippon Steel and U. S. Steel finalize partnership

Nippon Steel Corporation, together with its wholly owned subsidiary Nippon Steel North America, Inc. and United States Steel Corporation (U. S. Steel), announced they have finalized their historic partnership.

Together, Nippon Steel and U. S. Steel will be a world leading steelmaker, with best-in-class technologies and manufacturing capabilities. The partnership will protect and create more than 100,000 jobs through unprecedented massive investments in steelmaking in the U.S. that will be unleashed across U. S. Steel's footprints, including in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Arkansas, Minnesota and Alabama. This partnership ensures that U. S. Steel will retain its iconic name and headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and that it will continue to be mined, melted, and made in America for generations to come.

Eiji Hashimoto, Nippon Steel's representative director, chairman and chief executive officer, said, "I am very pleased that the partnership between Nippon Steel and U. S. Steel has been realized thanks to President Trump's historic and visionary decision. I would like to thank the wide range of stakeholders in the United States and Japan, including U. S. Steel employees, local communities, government officials, elected officials, and business leaders, for their endorsement and support of this partnership. Nippon Steel is excited about opening a new chapter of U. S. Steel's storied history. Building on our investment, the transfer of our advanced technologies, and the unwavering efforts of management and the employees of both companies, Nippon Steel is committed, together with U. S. Steel, to solidifying its position as the world's leading steelmaker."

Takahiro Mori, Nippon Steel's Representative director and Vice Chairman, and who will serve as chairman of the board of U. S. Steel said, "Since announcing our deal, I have engaged in extensive dialogue with many stakeholders, including the employees of U. S. Steel, government officials and community leaders, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them for their tremendous cooperation and support for this partnership. I am delighted that we have made this day a reality."

The companies have now completed the transaction as contemplated by their merger agreement. The companies have also entered into a National Security Agreement (NSA) with the U.S. Government, and U. S. Steel will issue a Golden Share to the U.S. Government.

Under the NSA, the U.S. Government and the companies have agreed to measures to protect U.S. national

security, including, among others, the following commitments by the companies:

- Investment – Nippon Steel will make approximately \$11 billion in new investments in U. S. Steel by 2028, which includes an initial investment in a greenfield project that will be completed after 2028;
- U.S. headquarters – U. S. Steel will remain a U.S.-incorporated entity and will maintain its headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;
- U.S. Board – A majority of the members of U. S. Steel's board of directors will be U.S. citizens;
- U.S. Management – U. S. Steel's key management personnel, including its chief executive officer, will be U.S. citizens;
- U.S. Production – U. S. Steel will maintain capacity to produce and supply steel from its U.S. production locations to meet market demand in the U.S.
- U. S. Steel Autonomous Trade – Nippon Steel will not prevent, prohibit, or otherwise interfere with U. S. Steel's ability to pursue trade action under U.S. law

Pursuant to the NSA and through the ownership of the Golden Share, the U.S. Government will have certain rights, including, among others, – the right to appoint one independent director and consent rights of the President of the United States, or his designee, on specific matters, including:

- Reductions in the committed capital investments under the NSA;
- Changing U. S. Steel's name and headquarters;
- Redomiciling U. S. Steel outside of the United States;
- Transfer of production or jobs outside of the United States;
- Material acquisitions of competing businesses in the United States; and
- Certain decisions on closure or idling of U. S. Steel's existing U.S. manufacturing facilities, trade, labor, and sourcing outside of the United States.

This framework will enable Nippon Steel to secure management flexibility and profitability at U. S. Steel while protecting U.S. national security.

With this partnership, the Nippon Steel Group's annual crude steel production capacity is expected to reach 86 million tons, bringing it closer to Nippon Steel's global strategic goal of 100 million tons of global crude steel production capacity.

The total number of jobs that will be created and is referenced above is based on a study done by Parker Strategy Group, commissioned by U. S. Steel. Total jobs figure includes direct, indirect and induced jobs.



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EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Aluminum Processing

by MARY M. THORNTON
maryt@americanrecycler.com

Spherical Insights LLP expects that the global aluminum scrap recycling market will reach a value of \$25.12 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 8.16 percent between 2021 and 2030. After silicon, aluminum is the world's second most abundant resource, and it has been utilized commercially for over a century. Scrap aluminum is recycled via processes such as melting, sorting, purifying, and solidifying the scrap. In recent years, various technological advancements in scrap metal recycling processes have aided in the sorting and processing of the material. There are many environmental problems related to the recycling of scrap aluminum which, in turn present major challenges for those involved in this market.

For over 20 years, Aljon's 580 CL baler, a portable unit, has been used by many for processing high volumes of material, including nonferrous materials like aluminum. Other machines that may bale have been adapted for performing various functions and may be mounted on flat bed trailers. This may result in a scale weight that prevents them from being transported legally in many states. In contrast, the 580 CL can be legally transported in all 50 states. Over 800 580 CL units have been sold globally. "We design and manufacture all products in the U.S. and we sell directly to you, the end user. Ergonomic cabs are the standard today and the key to maximized production. Our cabs are large, comfortable and offer climate and other controls that are easy to reach. These benefits are far more desirable over products that offer no means of cooling the baler cab and/or those with a heat source that is fueled by a plastic kerosene tank, hung outside the cab. Even

access to the cab has been maximized, to insure operator safety and features a stairway with guard rails vs merely a ladder, as seen with some other products. We recommend taking the time to look at cab configuration for access to controls and other elements, as well as operator comfort. It won't take you long to see what conditions will make your operators more productive," stated Curt Spry, sales manager.

Applied Recovery Systems (ARS), a manufacturer of scrap metal briquetting presses, offers a large selection of product options, which offer output ranging from 1/2 ton per hour, up to 15 tons per hour. "We're the largest, most reliable briquetting partner in North America, supplying presses for aluminum turnings for scrap metal recyclers, secondary mills and primary mills. We have been in business for 25 years and our main focus has always been manufacturing reliable briquetting equipment for the scrap metal recycling industry," said Steven Vejil, vice president of sales.

"Utilizing an ARS briquetting press, low density aluminum turnings can be converted into near solid briquettes that are suitable for every type of melting furnace. Our unique design creates output densities that rival even solid varieties, yet also provide exceptional melt yields. Because of the low density of loose, aluminum turnings, briquettes make it possible to ship truck loads at maximum weight, as opposed to partial weight truck loads. Depending on how global market activity may affect exports, aluminum briquettes may be in high demand domestically at any given time. If exporting options don't happen to be as profitable for some, it may result in new opportunities for scrap recyclers," explained Vejil.

He added that ARS is doing well,



Aljon

with a healthy backlog of orders and new inquiries that arrive on a weekly basis. "We pride ourselves in being flexible and able to meet most challenges, whether a situation involves lead time, customized equipment, or even unique materials that need briquetting," he concluded.

TOMRA Recycling has expanded its portfolio of advanced metals recycling with a groundbreaking AI-based solution to upgrade wrought aluminum scrap. New GAINnext™ leverages deep learning-based sorting technology to upgrade wrought aluminum scrap. The process produces exceptionally high purity fractions by instantly recovering low alloy cast from the wrought fraction and reducing alloying elements such as silicon.

GAINnext complements TOMRA's X-TRACT™, which features X-ray

Transmission (XRT) technology and sorts aluminum from heavy metals based on atomic density. X-TRACT initially sorts shredded mixed nonferrous metals (Zorba) to produce high-purity aluminum scrap (Twitch), and then removes high alloy aluminum cast and high-density wrought aluminum to further refine the Twitch. This process yields a high quality fraction, containing both wrought aluminum and minor amounts of low alloy cast, which other currently available sorting methods cannot fully separate.

Post X-TRACT, GAINnext produces a pure wrought fraction using RGB cameras, to rapidly process tens to hundreds of thousands of images per millisecond. GAINnext perceives and classifies materials by shape, size and dimension with exceptional accuracy at high throughput speeds of up to

See Aluminum Processing, Page B5



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Aluminum Processing

Continued from Page B4

2,000 ejections per minute. By precisely detecting and removing low alloy cast from the wrought fraction that TOMRA's X-TRACT produces, GAINnext delivers high purity wrought that commands premium market prices.

To achieve even higher granularity levels in aluminum sorting, the wrought fraction recovered by GAINnext can be further refined using TOMRA's AUTOSORT™ PULSE system, which employs dynamic laser-induced plasma spectroscopy (Dynamic LIBS) for precise identification and sorting of different alloy types. "This combination of X-TRACT, GAINnext and AUTOSORT PULSE represents the pinnacle of sorting innovation, delivering the highest levels of material separation available on the market today. TOMRA metals recovery solutions in North America can be tested by and are made available through our exclusive metals partner, WENDT CORPORATION," noted Giuseppe Pietro Granara, area segment manager, metals.



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Applied Recovery Systems is a premium manufacturer, supplier of metal briquetting machines for aluminum, copper, titanium, high temp alloys and more. Sizing, blending, washing is our forte and our installations sit in Africa, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore Spain, South America, Turkey, the U.S and U.K.



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8/13-8/15
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Metal recycling

Continued from Page B1



“It’s intense in the moment but always critical to look toward the future,” he said. “Steel and metal producers are looking into innovative technological solutions to increase safety and efficiency while reducing negative impacts on the environment. I look forward to seeing the continued transformation of the industry as a whole.”

Impact on Metal Recyclers

As manufacturers look for cost-effective solutions, it is expected that recyclers will see renewed demand for recycled metals. That’s why supply chain transparency will be crucial for all parties so that organizations can make more informed sourcing decisions and rapidly develop and run scenarios that might inform how and where they partner to secure critical supply.

“This comes through data transparency and intelligence,” Graca said.

Crawford added that metal recyclers play a critical role in the domestic steel ecosystem. If tariffs are properly enforced and reduce the flow of illegally dumped steel, domestic production stands to increase, which directly supports greater demand for scrap and recycled materials – particularly from electric arc furnace (EAF) steelmakers, who rely heavily on scrap as a raw material.

“However, when tariffs are circumvented and imported steel floods the market at artificially low prices, it suppresses domestic output and hurts demand for U.S.-sourced scrap, impacting pricing and material flow,” Crawford said. “For the recycling industry, consistent enforcement is key. Without it, the benefits of trade protections won’t reach the broader supply chain, including those who play a crucial role in the circular economy.”

Broadly speaking, Crawford stressed that the U.S. steel industry remains resilient and globally competitive, thanks to decades of innovation, modernization and a highly skilled workforce. Still, real challenges persist.

“Illegal dumping continues to

undermine fair competition, even with tariffs in place, and global overcapacity distorts market pricing. The industry also faces increasing pressure to decarbonize, align with evolving customer standards and navigate policy uncertainty around infrastructure and trade,” Crawford said. “Despite these headwinds, domestic producers remain committed to competing at a high level, provided the market is governed by clear, enforceable rules. Effective trade enforcement ensures the stable foundation needed for continued investment, innovation, and leadership in the global steel market.”

Nicole Sweet, head of end-to-end recycling in North America at RHI Magnesita, added that refractories are a critical part of steel and metals production. Refractory producers are facing tariffs on finished goods and raw materials.

“At RHI Magnesita, following the recent acquisition of Resco Products, we are focusing on localizing production while developing additional solutions to revolutionize the recycling of spent refractory material in North America,” Sweet said. “These actions decrease the reliance on imports thus reducing tariff costs that would ultimately trickle down through the industry. By utilizing locally produced, recycling containing refractories, metals producers are not only shortening their supply chains and decreasing their carbon footprint, but also reducing cost by avoiding import tariffs.”

That said, tariffs are incurred on those refractory materials that cannot be sourced within North America. The tariff cost is passed on as a surcharge to metal producers, increasing their production costs.

“This negative cost impact may cause increased steel prices which we will see in end-user applications such as vehicle manufacturing and construction,” Sweet said. “Scrap prices may also rise, impacting the margins of recyclers across the U.S. However, in the mid-to-the-long term this may largely be offset by higher volumes of local production and consumption.”

Steel Dynamics’ Mark Millett receives award



Steel Dynamics, Inc.®

Steel Dynamics, Inc. congratulated Mark D. Millett for receiving Harbor Aluminum’s Gene Greenberg 2025 World’s Aluminum Executive of the Year Award. Harbor’s Gene Greenberg World’s Aluminum Executive of the Year Award honors leaders with integrity who have made significant contributions to technically improve and/or disrupt the aluminum industry for the better.

“Throughout his career, Mark has led transformational strategic growth within the steel industry and at Steel Dynamics,” said Theresa E. Wagler, executive vice

president and chief financial officer. “Most recently, Mark has led Steel Dynamics strategic growth into the aluminum industry with our investments in a state-of-the-art recycled aluminum flat rolled products rolling mill and in two aluminum recycling slab centers. Mark has driven innovation, while creating an entrepreneurial, passionate team that drives toward excellence in all that they do. We are grateful to Mark for his leadership and his unwavering dedication to the Steel Dynamics team. We are incredibly proud of him as he receives this peer recognition regarding his contribution to the aluminum industry so far, and for what lies ahead.”

Millett co-founded Steel Dynamics in 1993 and has been instrumental in building Steel Dynamics from its inception to its status as a leading industrial metals solutions company.

Steel shipments down 1.9 percent

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that for the month of April 2025, U.S. steel mills shipped 7,580,635 net tons, a 3.1 percent increase from the 7,356,130 net tons shipped in April 2024. Shipments were down 1.9 percent from the 7,725,314 net tons shipped in the previous month, March 2025. Shipments year-to-date in 2025 are 29,777,940 net

tons, up 2.1 percent vs. 2024 shipments of 29,176,345 net tons for 4 months.

A comparison of shipments year-to-date in 2025 to the first four months of 2024 shows the following changes: corrosion resistant sheet and strip, down 1 percent, cold rolled sheet and strip, down 2 percent and hot rolled sheet and strip, down 2 percent.

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Latest News

North American aluminum demand continues to decline

According to Aluminum Association preliminary estimates, aluminum demand in North America (U.S. and Canada) declined 4.4 percent through the first three quarters of 2023. As of the first half of the year, demand had decreased by 4.5 percent.

Proposed new legislation aims to restrict plastic foam foodware

The Food and Drug Administration has introduced legislation that would restrict the sale and use of foam foodware, foam packing peanuts, and single-use foam coolers beginning in 2026.

The Government of Canada is seeking feedback on developing a federal plastics registry

The Government of Canada is taking action to reduce plastic pollution in the environment and move it toward a circular economy to address the entire lifecycle of plastics.

BF Goodrich inflation system wins new product

BF Goodrich ActivAir is a Popular Science 2023 “Best of What’s New” award winner in the automotive category. ActivAir allows off-road drivers to adjust tire pressure to fit the terrain without leaving their vehicle.



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This is the third consecutive year the rate has dropped for the industry, while the national rate has increased over the same period.



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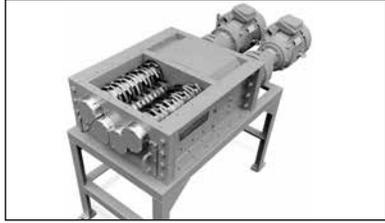
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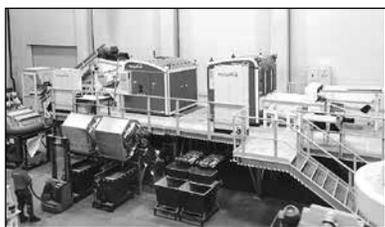
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REDWAVE XRF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMS THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY

The integration of REDWAVE Spectral Analysis into the REDWAVE XRF sorting system offers a multitude of benefits for companies in the metal recycling sector. By combining Spectral Analysis with REDWAVE's XRF fluorescence technology in one REDWAVE sorting system, a broader spectrum of material composition can be analyzed. Individual element signals (peak-based analysis) are detected, and the entire spectrum is utilized to enable more precise alloy separation.

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VELUX Group signs agreement with Novelis to supply low carbon aluminum

The VELUX Group has entered a multi-year commercial agreement with Novelis, the world leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, for the supply of high recycled content aluminum. This means flat-rolled aluminum made from more than 70 percent recycled content will be used to manufacture VELUX roof windows and accessories to further reduce carbon emissions.

It follows an initial letter of intent between Novelis and VELUX Group entered in 2022. Now, a long-term commercial agreement replaces this and confirms the goal to reach a level of 3 kg CO₂eq/kg flat rolled aluminum or below by 2030.

"This agreement really demonstrates our strong commitment to reach this very ambitious goal within just five years," said

Klaus Lorentzen, senior vice president products and innovation for the VELUX Group. "It also secures the steady supply for several years of a key roof window material with a desirably low carbon footprint. With more than 70 percent recycled content, this Novelis aluminum is key for our efforts to decarbonize VELUX products."

Novelis is a leader in driving low-carbon aluminum solutions and has been a supplier to VELUX for more than 40 years. Since 2022, the companies have been collaborating closely to reduce the carbon footprint of the aluminum used in VELUX products. To date, more than 50 percent of the aluminum supplied by Novelis to VELUX has been replaced with high recycled content.

AIST appoints new members to foundation board of trustees

Terry G. Fedor II, executive vice president, operations, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., West Chester, Ohio and AIST Foundation board of trustees president, welcomed new officers to the AIST Foundation board of trustees at the organization's annual conference and exposition.

The AIST Foundation officers include:

- Past president: Glenn A. Pushis, senior vice president, special projects, Steel Dynamics Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana
- President-elect: Mark R. Olson, vice president of mill operations, Pacific Steel Group, San Diego, California
- Treasurer: Mark L. Fedor, president and chief executive officer, Morgan Engineering, Alliance, Ohio
- Executive director and board secretary: Ronald E. Ashburn, executive director, Association for Iron & Steel Technology, Warrendale, Pennsylvania

New Trustees include:

- Daniel Keown, vice president, Steel Dynamics Inc., and general manager, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Columbus Division, Columbus, Mississippi

- Maxine Stankich, head of human resources and communications, ArcelorMittal North America, Schererville, Indiana

Trustees include:

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- Jennifer J. Durbin, senior vice president, chief human resources and communications officer, CMC, Irving, Texas
- Joseph Dzierzawski, vice president, sales and strategy, Primetals Technologies USA LLC, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
- Benjamin E. Kowing, vice president, chief technical officer, SSAB Americas, Muscatine, Iowa
- Francesco Memoli, president and chief executive officer, Tenova Inc., Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
- Lee P. Morgan, president, The Systems Group, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Lauren Russell, manager, corporate communications and philanthropy, Nucor Corp., Charlotte, North Carolina

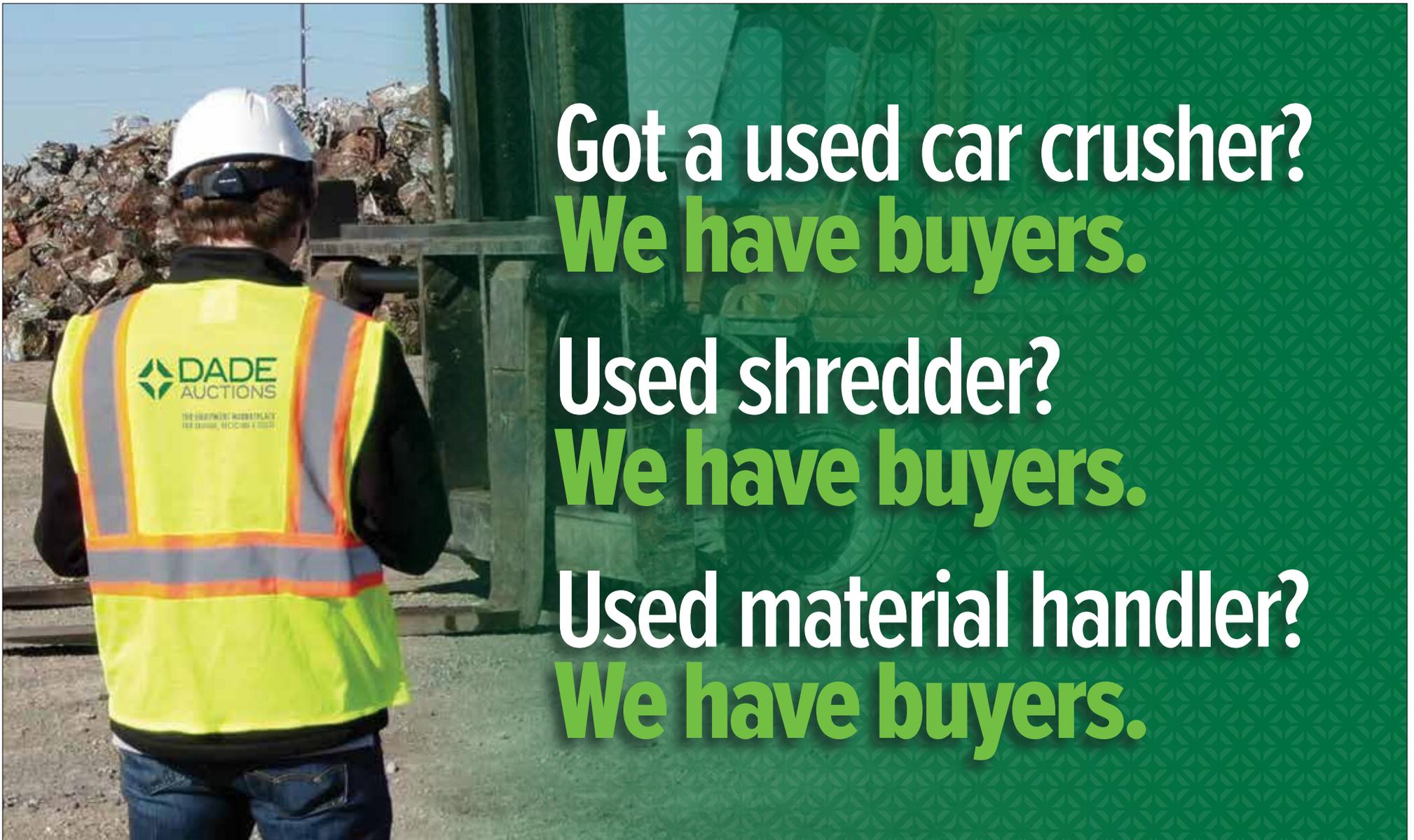
Scrap Management Industries expands with dual recycling center acquisitions

Scrap Management Industries (SMI), a leading ferrous and nonferrous metal recycling company, has acquired two established recycling facilities, 12th & Haskell Recycle Center in Lawrence, Kansas and East Wilson Recycle in Ottawa, Kansas. This expansion marks SMI's eighth and ninth locations overall, further strengthening the company's ability to serve residents and industrial and commercial recycling needs across the region.

Operating under the new name Scrap Management Industries – Lawrence and Scrap Management Industries – Ottawa, both facilities will continue providing

comprehensive metal recycling services for both ferrous and nonferrous materials. With a history spanning 20 years, 12th & Haskell Recycle Center and East Wilson Recycle have been a respected authority in the area's recycling industry. Now under SMI's ownership, the locations will enhance their capabilities to support industrial scrap management services, offering tailored solutions to businesses of all sizes.

The 15-employee team will continue serving existing customers while benefiting from SMI's extensive network of industrial suppliers and dealers.



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