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Innovations stimulate glass recycling

by MAURA KELLER

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From artificial intelligence (AI) powered optical sorters to increased recovery rates to mobile recycling efforts, the glass recycling industry is facing a wave of innovative efforts to improve the ongoing stagnant industry.

According to Zeb Parsons, president of Bricolage Dynamics, Inc., a glass recycling company based in Greenville, South Carolina, glass recycling stalled around 2017 but has reported modest growth in the last five years.

"I believe the reported figure is around 33 percent of municipal solid waste (MSW) glass is recycled every year. Personally, I feel this number is high," Parsons said. "I feel we are more stagnant as a whole."

For Parsons, increasing costs are the biggest limiting factor and then there are other off-chute problems like long, archaic supply chains, large facilities sitting on outdated equipment and of course, cross contamination.

"Contending with these subset challenges all lead to a higher cost that private and public entities aren't equipped to deal with, ultimately reducing recycling efficiency," Parsons said.

According to Gaspard Duthilleul, chief operating officer of Greyparrot, there's a clear divide when it comes to glass recycling in the U.S. In the 10 states with a deposit return program, or 'Bottle Bill,' glass is returned separately, creating a clean and valuable stream. In the rest of the country, it's mixed into single-stream bins, and that's a completely different story."

Glass can make up 15 to 20 percent of the total tonnage received by a material recovery facility (MRF). While it's highly recyclable once it reaches a recycling center, operationally, it's often seen as a liability. "Glass frequently breaks during collection and compaction, long before it even arrives at the sorting facility," Duthilleul said. "Those broken shards can damage equipment, pose safety risks for staff and contaminate other material bales. That's why most MRF managers focus first on getting glass out of the system."

According to Duthilleul, the industry accomplishes this using screens that filter by size, but these screens don't only catch glass. They also capture small items, such as bottle caps, bits of plastic and pieces of metal, some of which, like cosmetic packaging, could be valuable if recovered. The result is often a low-value mix of 'fines.'

"So we're not just missing opportunities to recover glass; we're also losing other valuable materials that get screened out alongside it," Duthilleul said.

Some advanced facilities, such as Murphy Road Recycling in Connecticut, for example, show that this problem



The glass recycling industry is facing a wave of innovative efforts to improve the ongoing stagnant industry.

can be solved with secondary cleaning processes that purify the glass stream into a high quality commodity.

"The technology exists, but it requires significant capital investment that many MRFs can't justify, especially without strong local markets for the recovered product. The decision to put glass in single-stream bins at the curb doesn't just affect whether glass gets recycled. It has ripple effects across the entire value chain, impacting the facilities and stakeholders that have to manage the consequences," Duthilleul said.

Parsons says he's not seeing any significant technological innovations that are poised to transform the glass recycling industry.

"I typically don't look for them in an industry where processes need to be innovated first. In the supply chain field you work in order from people to process to tech, I don't think we've reasonably gotten to tech," Parsons said.

That said, if Parsons had to reference an innovation in the glass recycling world, it would be that the general processing equipment has gotten more efficient.

"There's also a large movement to turn glass into sand aggregate with fairly self-contained machines that don't require the capital investment that traditional glass recycling operations used to need," Parsons said. "These machines have led to a tremendous amount of upstarts in the glass recycling world, both private and public. It's important to note that time will tell if all these new recyclers will be able to scale their systems and find the profitability needed to remain open – in municipal cases, cost savings needed to justify acquisition and operating costs. If these operations hold out, glass recycling rates should increase."

Some technology inroads are being created in certain segments of the glass

recycling industry. For example, evolving advanced sorting systems are using AI to improve the accuracy and speed of separating glass from other mixed waste. In addition, glass recycling companies are introducing mobile glass recycling units that can be utilized in more remote areas, capturing glass that may not enter the recycling stream.

From an equipment standpoint, the new electric melting technologies are replacing traditional gas-fired furnaces in the recycled glass packaging industry. Glass laser morphing is the latest technological advancement that uses lasers to melt and shape various types of glass with different melting points. The technology bypasses energy-intensive furnaces and is ideal for recycling mixed-glass waste.

Industry Innovations

A wide range of local and regional initiatives exist for glass recycling, with solutions often tailored to an area's specific needs and infrastructure.

Parsons points to the Glass Packaging Institute, which is working to expand and promote effective glass recycling operations and practices.

"From my perspective, municipalities aren't leading the charge in best future practices in the industry," Parsons said. "They typically are tight on cash and are split in many different directions. However, municipalities do appear happy to adopt efficiencies and promote successful operations and practices. Overall, I'm seeing more innovations come from the private sector with adoptive municipalities being more than happy to promote these programs etc."

Ripple Glass is one example of an innovation program that evolved out of the need for an avenue for glass recycling in the Kansas City region. According to Ripple Glass, in 2009 residents and businesses in Kansas City threw away nearly

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TerraCycle's Loop reaches commercial scale in France

What was once an open question – can reuse work at scale for all consumer packaged goods – has been answered with a resounding “yes” in France. Carrefour, a grocer in France, became the first retailer in the world to launch Loop in-store, following an initial e-commerce pilot initiated in 2019. Since then, the retailer has expanded to 345 stores across France, introducing more than 50 of its own private-label products to the platform alongside over 370 products from national and global brands. Following Carrefour’s success, other leading retailers – including Monoprix and Coopérative U – have joined the platform, helping to drive a national movement toward reuse.

French citizens enjoy a fully functioning, nationwide reuse system offering a wide assortment of everyday consumer products in reusable packaging available at their local supermarkets. This interoperable system allows consumers to buy their favorite products nationally in reusable packaging, pay a deposit, use them as usual and return them without cleaning to any participating retailer. This milestone marks a significant turning point in the global transition from a linear to a circular economy.

“France has shown that reuse can work – not as a concept or a pilot, but at full commercial scale,” said Tom Szaky, Founder and chief executive officer of TerraCycle and Loop. “What made this possible wasn’t consumer demand alone – but the alignment of regulation, funding, and supply chain convenience for all actors. It’s a functioning national system. As other countries face growing pressure

to move beyond single-use packaging, the lesson is clear: if the conditions are right, reuse can become a mainstream way of doing business—not a fringe solution.”

Beyond integrating Loop in-store, the partnership mobilized an ecosystem of major brands—including Ferrero, Danone, Suntory and Coca-Cola—to join the movement. In doing so, Carrefour and Loop catalyzed the creation of the world’s largest reuse coalition, bringing together national brands, private labels and other retailers.

Originally launched in 2019 by TerraCycle in partnership with the World Economic Forum, Loop was designed to accelerate the shift away from disposable, single-use packaging toward a durable, circular model. This led to the creation of the Loop Alliance—a global coalition of brands, retailers, governments, NGOs and service providers committed to advancing reuse.

“Loop’s progress in France shows what’s possible when retailers, brands, policy makers and solution providers move together,” said Christian Kaufholz, Head, Community Engagement and Impact, Global Plastic Action Partnership, World Economic Forum. “At the World Economic Forum’s 2019 Annual Meeting, we convened the Loop Alliance to catalyze this kind of cross-ecosystem collaboration – from product design and safety to logistics, data and common metrics. France’s experience offers practical insights for scaling reuse models that are convenient for people and operationally viable for business.”

While pilots were conducted in the United States, Canada, the United

Kingdom, Japan and France, it was Carrefour – the first retail chain worldwide to commit to Loop – that transformed the concept from experimentation to national scale. Carrefour demonstrated that reuse could be seamlessly integrated into mainstream retail.

“Thanks to Loop, we’ve proven that it is possible to offer consumers everyday products in reusable packaging – without compromising convenience or the in-store experience. This achievement at industrial scale confirms that the right mix of bold regulation, logistical innovation and collective commitment is the key to transforming our distribution model for the long term,” said Carine Kraus, executive director of engagement and member of Carrefour’s Executive Committee.

After years of testing, iterations and lessons learned, France has now emerged as a model for how reuse can function at industrial scale – providing a global blueprint for countries seeking to implement reuse systems that work for all consumer packaged goods.

Loop’s success in France stands in contrast to widespread deregulation and the rollback of voluntary corporate sustainability commitments in other markets. In France, the right mix of regulation, strong retailer leadership from commercial partners, financial incentives and a focus on simplicity and convenience has proven that large-scale reuse is not only possible but also operationally sustainable.

Why reuse works in France

- Strong support and long-term partnership with leading retailers –Carrefour invested to make Loop a success, raised

awareness among French consumers, provided visibility in stores and made the offer appealing.

- Clear regulatory mandates – France’s Anti-Waste Law for a Circular Economy (Loi AGEC) requires retailers to incorporate reusable packaging by 2027, creating clear compliance targets.
- Targeted financial support: French producer responsibility organizations allocate a portion of collected fees toward reuse infrastructure, including collection systems that help retailers and brands defray upfront costs.
- Built for simplicity and convenience – Products come prefilled, require no special equipment or processes and can be returned to any participating location.

Today, French consumers can access more than 370 food and household products in reusable packaging. Participating brands include Ferrero, Danone, McCormick, Cordier Group, William Peel, Suntory, Coca-Cola and several leading private-label lines at major French supermarket chains such as Carrefour, Monoprix and Coopérative U. This achievement was made possible by building the world’s largest multi-stakeholder reuse coalition and collaborating with Circul’R, an international network advancing the circular economy.

The benefits of reuse are clear – from reducing waste and emissions to supporting more resilient supply chains. But the path to scale has been anything but easy. Around the world, pilots have launched with optimism only to fade out, including Loop’s own efforts in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Japan.



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Wakulla County, Florida ends curbside recycling

Wakulla County, Florida advised residents that curbside recycling, previously handled by Waste Pro, ended September 29, 2025. This followed a vote by the Board of County Commissioners in August.

The county will continue to offer free drop-off locations at the Wakulla County Landfill Transfer station. There will not be a cost for recyclable drop-off.

Waste Pro used to provide recycling as a free service because they recouped their costs by selling recycled materials, but that is no longer the case. “The market for recycling has dropped out. It’s actually costing Waste Pro money to get rid of recycling and they were going to have to charge north of \$30 per year per resident to continue recycling,” said David Edwards, county administrator.

Dart Container sponsors Orlando cleanup collecting waste

Dart Container sponsored a recent community cleanup at Eagle Nest Park, organized by the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) and Keep Orlando Beautiful during PLASTICS’ National Plastics Conference. The event brought together 40 volunteers, who collected more than 150 pounds of waste, including recyclable materials, helping keep Orlando’s parks and waterways clean.

The event was a collaboration through the Community Impact Task Group of PLASTICS’ Future Leaders in Plastics Committee (FLiP) – a professional development initiative for plastics industry professionals under the age of 40. The task group’s mission is to foster collaboration, provide an outlet to give back and positively impact the environment and communities in which the plastics industry serves.

“Dart is committed to reducing litter

and advancing a circular economy for plastics, which is why we were proud to sponsor this cleanup that kept more than 150 pounds of waste out of Orlando’s parks and waterways,” said Libby Rice, Sustainability Program Manager at Dart. “Partnerships like this demonstrate how industry can step up and make a tangible impact in local communities. From community cleanups to large-scale sustainability initiatives, Dart continues to invest in projects that protect neighborhoods, waterways and shared spaces—helping ensure a cleaner, healthier environment.”

The event was made possible thanks to logistical support from Keep Orlando Beautiful and the backing of industry partners, including Dart. Together, they supported 40 volunteers who spent the afternoon removing more than 154 pounds of mismanaged waste from Orlando’s parks and waterways.

VLS Environmental Solutions launches breakthrough mercury disposal technology

VLS Environmental Solutions has unveiled a patent-pending technology for the permanent disposal of elemental mercury. This technology is the first and only RCRA-compliant disposal option for elemental mercury in the United States. This innovative solution represents a significant milestone in hazardous waste management and a pivotal shift in how mercury waste should be managed.

Treatment and disposal of elemental mercury will occur at VLS’ Texas Molecular RCRA permitted Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) in Deer Park, Texas. The facility has the capacity and existing infrastructure to safely treat and dispose of elemental mercury in accordance with regulations and existing permits. VLS Texas Molecular is fully permitted by both the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accept and dispose of mercury at this facility. This process ensures safe and permanent disposal, providing a definitive, compliant solution for a previously unresolved environmental challenge.

“This is a watershed moment for mercury waste management,” said John Magee, chief executive officer of VLS Environmental Solutions. “Our process provides the first true domestic solution for mercury disposal since the Mercury Export Ban Act (MEBA) took effect in 2013. Government agencies and industry stakeholders now have a viable, compliant option for final disposal.”

Signed into law in 2008, MEBA prohibited the export of elemental mercury beginning in 2013, leaving industry and government entities without a regulatory-compliant disposal option. VLS Texas Molecular’s technical team has now resolved this predicament, eliminating the need for indefinite storage and reducing risks to public health and the environment.

“Methods like indefinite long term storage, or stabilization and landfill, just delay the problem and can pose potential serious risks,” said Chris Lobue, executive vice president of Hazardous Waste. “There is a reason stabilization and landfill of mercury above the water table isn’t allowed under current EPA regulations. The elegance of the VLS solution is that it fits within existing regulations and uses a proven technology that was originally designed to protect drinking water sources.”

Operating since 1981, the VLS Texas Molecular Deer Park facility is the only site in the nation equipped to deliver this level of mercury waste management. The company’s commitment to environmental leadership is reflected in its record for regulatory compliance and its approach to safety.

“The impact of this technology goes beyond regulatory compliance,” said Keith Cordesman, president of VLS. “It’s about protecting ecosystems, advancing sustainable development and guiding industries toward a future built on responsible innovation.”

Purdue University professor wins AIST grant

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology Foundation (AIST) announced Orlando J. Ugarte as the winner of the 2025–2026 Sustainable Technologies for Steel Manufacturing Grant. This grant was established to challenge university teams from engineering, scientific and mathematical departments at North American universities to submit proposals for grant funding in the theme area of sustainable technologies for steel manufacturing, including decarbonization, CO2 reduction, and carbon capture, utilization and storage, among other related technologies.

The purpose of the \$30,000 award is to support professors in promoting the steel industry to students interested in sustainable manufacturing technologies, provide direct interaction between students interested in sustainable manufacturing technologies and the steel industry and recruit more students interested in sustainable manufacturing technologies for employment in the steel industry.

Ugarte is a research scientist at Purdue University Northwest,

Hammond, Indiana. His steel industry mentor is Joseph Maiolo, Linde. Ugarte’s project proposal is titled “Advancing Supersonic Injection of Oxygen and Soft Oxidizers for Reducing Carbon Emissions in Industrial-Scale EAFs.”

This project advances supersonic injection technology in EAFs by investigating and optimizing the use of soft oxidizers. It examines their injection rate, angle and distance from the bath surface, providing insights into the impact of these operational parameters on refining efficiency and carbon emissions reduction in EAF operations.

“We are incredibly excited to be selected by AIST to receive the Sustainable Technologies for Steel Manufacturing Grant. While supersonic injection has been applied to EAF operations since the 1990s, there are still open questions we aim to clarify. Our goal is to make a significant impact on EAF operational performance and sustainability. Additionally, this project will engage talented students, who we hope will contribute to the steel industry in their future endeavors,” Ugarte said.

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Glass recycling

■Continued from Page A1

150 million pounds of glass. With no glass recycling facility available to process the glass, all of it ended up in landfills.

Ripple Glass constructed a state-of-the-art processing plant and placed large, dedicated bright purple glass recycling bins throughout the Kansas City metro area to collect glass. The glass is then converted by a Kansas City business into fiberglass insulation, and a business in Tulsa turns amber glass back into bottles.

And now Ripple Glass has purple bins throughout cities and towns in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Ripple's original Kansas City facility is processing glass from all over the region, helping over 100 communities across nine states keep glass out of their landfills.

Looking Ahead

From Parsons' perspective, he expects the glass recycling industry to grow but he believes it's going to change considerably from what it is now and there could even be some dips along the way.

"It's in a point of flux," said Parsons, whose glass recycling operation, Bricolage Dynamics, is working to create smaller, regional glass recycling operations that only service a 2.5 hour radius from a processor.

"This helps to keep costs down on transport, to reduce operational size and costs and to ultimately reintroduce more revenue and ultimately profit back into the glass recycling industry," Parsons said. "Personally, I feel you'll see more of these style businesses as the years go by."



He also believes that the older, larger, regional glass recycling institutions that service multiple states, with intake supply chains extending up to seven hours, are going to continue to feel the pressure of increased costs and lack of supply.

"Their large factories require an enormous amount of glass to stay profitable and I think they'll continue to feel the squeeze on staying competitive in this changing industry. As time moves on the smaller, regional operations will most likely cut these larger entities' supply sources as it will be cheaper for communities to process their glass in their own backyards and not seven hours away," Parsons said.

Municipalities will continue to have

to prioritize keeping the system running, doing the best they can with the resources they have available, hopefully innovating if possible.

"I think, more importantly, municipalities should be looking toward public/private partnerships which I believe will accelerate glass recycling numbers via the reduction of costs and the increase in profit," Parsons said. "I think the future is really bright for the industry. We just have to keep in mind that with the way the market shifted post 2017 and then again post COVID, it's still early days to know exactly how the story of glass recycling in the U.S. will unfold. I'm optimistic."

NWRA processing applications for 2026 Driver of the Year awards

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) is examining applications for its Driver of the Year and Operator of the Year awards. The first round of applications were due by October 31, 2025, with additional review and judging to follow in early 2026.

The Driver of the Year awards honor those who operate their vehicles safely and responsibly, maintain outstanding performance records and contribute positively to the image of the industry. Drivers are recognized at the local, regional and national levels, as well as the municipal sector, underscoring the importance of excellence across all company sizes and service areas. Similarly, the Operator of the Year award recognizes heavy equipment operators working in post-collection operations, including landfills, materials recovery facilities and transfer stations.

New for 2026, NWRA has expanded the program to include two additional categories. The Rising Star award, a subset of the Driver of the Year category, highlights drivers with fewer than 10 years in the industry who have already demonstrated an outstanding commitment to safety and performance. The Technician of the Year award, introduced under the Operator of the Year category, recognizes mechanical professionals whose skill, training and safety records keep operations running efficiently. Companies are able to nominate one Technician of the Year. With the

addition of these categories, NWRA has also eliminated the honorable mention designation to place greater emphasis on the winners themselves. Companies are able to nominate one Rising Star if they participate in Driver of the Year and Operator of the Year.

Alongside these program updates, NWRA has revised the pricing structure for submissions. Driver of the Year, Rising Star and Technician of the Year nominations will now be tiered by company size, while Operator of the Year will be tiered per entry for members and the public sector. These changes reflect feedback from recurring participants and ensure consistency across award categories.

"Each year, our Driver and Operator of the Year awards recognize the men and women whose professionalism, skill and commitment to safety set the standard for our industry," said Michael E. Hoffman, NWRA president and chief executive officer. "By introducing the Rising Star and Technician of the Year categories, we are shining a light on the next generation of drivers as well as the skilled professionals who keep our operations running. These changes strengthen the program and ensure that we continue celebrating excellence across every corner of the waste and recycling industry."

For more information about the awards, please visit <https://wasterecycling.org/driver-and-operator-of-the-year>.

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AUTOMOTIVE

GM EV sales jump to highest monthly record

U.S. electric vehicle sales likely set an all-time monthly record in August, as customers rushed to make purchases ahead of the expiration of Federal EV tax credits. For General Motors, that meant sales of more than 21,000 EVs combined from Chevrolet, Cadillac and GMC. GM remains the #2 EV seller, driven by strong demand for vehicles like the Chevrolet Equinox EV, the Cadillac LYRIQ and the GMC Sierra EV.

GM expected strong demand again in September. The question, of course, is what's next? GM commented that the sales of EVs will drop next quarter after

tax credits ended September 30 and it may take several months for the market to normalize.

Finally, road trips are getting easier by the day as GM Energy, EVGo, IONNA and others expand the public fast charging network, which will help drive long-term adoption. By the end of the year, GM customers will have access to more than 65,000 public fast-charging bays across the country. GM expects that will grow to more than 80,000 by the end of next year and 100,000 by the end of 2027 – a more than 50 percent improvement in just three years.

EPR program created by the petroleum and automotive industry approved in Colorado

The Lubricants Packaging Management Association (LPMA) powered by Interchange 360, announced that the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) has approved its Individual Program Plan (IPP), making LPMA the first industry led Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to secure approval under Colorado's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law.

Colorado is the first state to give producers the choice to comply through independent programs rather than a one-size-fits-all PRO. LPMA's approved IPP will manage petroleum- and automotive-related packaging, including oil and antifreeze containers, through a compliance model built by and for the lubricants industry.

"In my experience with EPR, it's quite important that the focus is on results. The law shouldn't prescribe how the results are met, but instead allow industry to be creative and innovative in developing a program that is highly accountable to the results," said David Lawes, chief executive officer of LPMA powered by Interchange 360. "Colorado's EPR approach, allowing independent programs and providing producers with choices on how to comply, is best in the country. It sets the national benchmark for how producer responsibility can be done right."

The approval underscores the value of independent, sector specific compliance

models. Lubricant packaging presents distinct challenges, including residual product and hazardous material handling, that general-purpose packaging programs, such as those serving all consumer packaging, are not equipped to address. LPMA's model ensures compliance solutions that are safe, practical and effective.

LPMA is also active in other states with existing EPR laws, including California, Maine, Minnesota, Vermont, Oregon and is preparing for additional rollouts as legislation expands nationwide.

"Colorado's approval shows what's possible when regulators and industry collaborate," explained Lawes. "By working together, producers can cost-efficiently address our unique packaging needs and develop circular solutions. This approval is a win for producers, for Colorado and for the future of EPR in the United States. Colorado has shown real leadership by giving producers choice and flexibility, and LPMA is ready to prove that industry-led programs deliver the best results through an efficient, science-based and results-driven compliance pathway that also fosters innovation in recycling."

With approval secured, LPMA will begin producer onboarding and operational ramp-up under the approved IPP, supported by transparent reporting, state-aligned performance targets and member engagement.

Ace Green Recycling and Gold Star Metals enter agreement

Ace Green Recycling, Inc., a provider of sustainable battery recycling technology solutions, has signed a multi-year Master Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB) Supply Agreement with Gold Star Metals, LLC, a recycler and aggregator of battery materials in the southern United States.

Under the agreement, GSM will supply Ace with a minimum of 30,000 metric tons of ULAB annually, with the ability to scale volumes up to 100,000 MT per year as Ace expands operations at its planned flagship facility in Texas, which is expected to commence operations in

2026. The ULAB will be sourced from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and New Mexico, and complements Ace's existing supply agreements, providing a strong and reliable pipeline of feedstock for the Company's clean recycling technology.

"This partnership is a major step in securing a stable and sustainable supply chain for our U.S. operations," said Siddharth Roy, Business Director at Ace Green Recycling. "Together, Ace and GSM share a commitment to building a zero-emissions future for the global recycling industry."



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BASF, Porsche and BEST complete pilot project on chemical recycling for ASR

Porsche AG and BASF SE, in collaboration with technology partner BEST - Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies GmbH, have successfully completed a pilot project on recycling mixed waste from end-of-life vehicles. The pilot project demonstrates the recyclability of high-performance plastics from automotive shredder residues (ASR) together with renewable raw materials. This mixture of plastic, film, paint and foam residues is so complex that it can currently only be thermally recycled. The pilot project shows that these automotive wastes can be recycled through gasification, a special type of chemical recycling and returned to the automotive cycle.

This pilot project validates the viability of new sources of plastics and applications for chemical recycling in components. The ultimate goal is to source less primary material in the future and increase the proportion of recycled materials in vehicles. As part of the project, the chemically recycled material was used in the manufacturing process for steering wheels.

"Pilot projects like these allow us to evaluate how we can further develop the circular economy as a sustainability field at Porsche and how we can anchor chemical recycling in our strategy in the long term," said Dr. Robert Kallenberg, head of sustainability at Porsche AG. "We are testing new recycling technologies with our direct partners in order to increase recyclate quotas, gain access to previously unusable recyclate sources and evaluate new processes for waste streams that are currently being thermally utilized."

Porsche aims to use recycled materials in its vehicles and close resource cycles. In this context, the company has set itself the goal of increasing the proportion of verifiable secondary materials in its vehicle production. The pilot project can evaluate the potential of automotive shredder residues as a future recycling source and thus as a secondary raw material. It is thus a complementary alternative to mechanical recycling, which often cannot achieve this high quality. In addition, demand-driven scaling is possible in the future in connection with the so-called mass balance approach.

A combined waste stream consisting purely of automotive waste and biomass

was recycled in a gasification process for the first time. The resulting recycled raw material - the so-called synthesis gas and its derivatives - replaced the fossil raw materials in BASF's integrated value chain. Within its production network, BASF then produces the polyurethane formulation needed for the steering wheel using a mass balance approach.

The recycling innovation uses modern gasification technology from BEST GmbH to convert plastic waste and other residues into synthesis gas at high temperatures.

"In our plant, we have previously converted biomass such as wood or straw into chemical raw materials. In this pilot project together with BASF and Porsche, we have now used this gasification technology for the first time to convert complex plastic waste streams together with biomass into synthetic crude oil, known as syncrude," explains Dr. Matthias Kuba, area manager Syngas Platform Technologies at BEST - Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies GmbH in Vienna. "This form of chemical recycling has great potential for converting complex, mixed waste streams into new, valuable raw materials. It thus represents a sensible alternative to waste incineration."

"At BASF, we coordinate our sustainability efforts on our plastics journey, which consists of three key steps in the product lifecycle: make, use and recycle. For the latter, we offer a wide range of recycling solutions because we are convinced that many methods need to complement each other to achieve recycling goals. We prioritize mechanical recycling and continuously improve its efficiency. At the same time, the type of waste and the degree of sorting determine which technology is best suited. We are convinced that complementary technologies such as chemical recycling, which includes pyrolysis, depolymerization and gasification, are necessary to further promote the circular economy and reduce the plastic waste that still ends up in landfills or is incinerated today," explains Dr. Martin Jung, president of BASF's Performance Materials division. "To optimally utilize the various waste recovery options and further develop all technologies in parallel, the appropriate regulatory framework is essential."

Cox Automotive acquires ownership of AiM

As Manheim - Cox Automotive's flagship wholesale brand - celebrates its 80th anniversary, the company is making a move to shape the future of the wholesale marketplace. Cox Automotive revealed that it has acquired full ownership of Alliance Inspection Management (AiM), a leader in vehicle inspection services and Manheim's long-time wholesale inspection partner. Cox Automotive has held a 50 percent stake in AiM for nearly a decade and, as part of this deal, acquired the remaining 50 percent stake from Nissan Motor Acceptance Corp.

"This is another powerful step in our journey toward reimagining how buyers and sellers connect in today's wholesale automotive marketplace," said Grace Huang, president of inventory solutions at Cox Automotive. "By fully integrating AiM's talent and technology into the Manheim Marketplace, we're making it easier than ever for clients to transact confidently - whether in lane, online, onsite or offsite."

What this acquisition means for Manheim clients:

- **Expanded Offsite Presence:** The acquisition significantly boosts Manheim's offsite capabilities, putting more boots on the ground and extending reach well beyond its traditional locations and reach. This will not only expand Manheim's capacity to serve clients

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better than ever before, but it will also create new opportunities for growth and efficiency.

- **Off Lease Inspections:** For commercial clients, this move catapults Manheim to the #1 position in the industry for off-lease inspections. Leveraging its advanced Next Inspect solution, Manheim will offer clients tech-driven off-lease inspection solutions at an unprecedented scale - delivering greater accuracy, efficiency and confidence throughout the process.
- **More Support for Dealers:** Manheim will now have approximately 300 additional team members visiting dealers across the country - helping drive faster, more effective wholesale vehicle transactions from their lots.

With this acquisition, approximately 700 AiM employees have officially become part of the Cox Automotive family. Their added expertise will be instrumental in the ongoing evolution of condition reporting at Manheim, elevating the seller experience across the country while delivering buyers even more consistency, quality and confidence.



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HEIGHT	9'1"

OVERALL:	
LENGTH	42'
WEIGHT	61,000 LBS.
HEIGHT	13'3"

HYDRAULICS:	
PRESSURE	2,400 PSI
PORT RELIEFS	2,600 PSI
CYCLE TIME	48 SECONDS
CYLINDERS	10" BORE
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SHAFT	4" ROD

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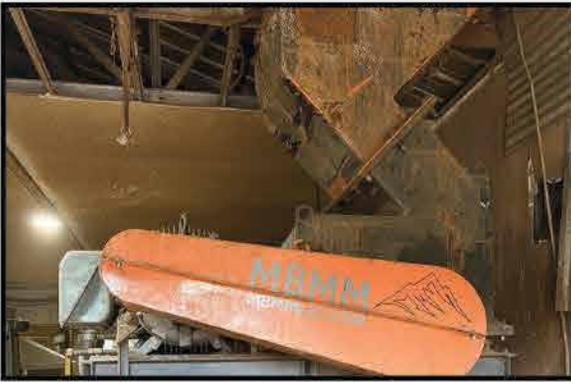
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METALS

Finished metal import share YTD at 20 percent

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 1,864,000 net tons (NT) of steel in August 2025, including 1,402,000 net tons (NT) of finished steel (down 16.8 percent and 16.8 percent, respectively, vs. July 2025). Total and finished steel imports are down 7.0 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively, year-to-date vs. 2024. Over the 12-month period September 2024 to August 2025, total and finished steel imports are down 4.1 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively, vs. the prior 12-month period. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 16 percent in August and is estimated at 20 percent over the first eight months of 2025.

Products with a significant increase in imports over the 12-month period September 2024 to August 2025 compared to the

previous 12-month period include tin plate (up 54 percent), wire rods (up 18 percent), line pipe (up 15 percent) and oil country goods (up 10 percent).

In August, the largest suppliers were Canada (304,000 NT, up 1 percent vs. July), Brazil (269,000 NT, down 11 percent), Mexico (195,000 NT, down 23 percent), South Korea (176,000 NT, down 47 percent) and Japan (128,000 NT, up 82 percent). Over the 12-month period September 2024 to August 2025, the largest suppliers were Canada (5,448,000 NT, down 19 percent vs. compared to the previous 12-months), Brazil (4,266,000 NT, down 8 percent), Mexico (3,456,000 NT, down 1 percent), South Korea (2,778,000 NT, down 4 percent) and Germany (1,202,000 NT, up 19 percent). Below are steel imports by country and estimated finished steel import market share in recent months.

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

COUNTRY	AUG. 2025 PRELIM	JULY 2025 FINAL	% VAR. AUG. VS. JULY	YTD 2025 (8 MON.)	YTD 2024 (8 MON.)	% VAR. 2025 VS. 2024	SEPT. 2024 TO AUG 2025	SEPT. 2023 TO AUG. 2024	% VAR.
Canada	304	301	1.0%	3,412	4,521	-24.5%	5,448	6,687	-18.5%
Brazil	269	301	-10.8%	3,152	3,384	-6.9%	4,266	4,655	-8.4%
Mexico	195	253	-22.9%	2,221	2,282	-2.7%	3,456	3,486	-0.9%
South Korea	176	331	-46.8%	1,958	1,989	-1.6%	2,778	2,898	-4.1%
Germany	75	108	-29.9%	812	684	18.8%	1,202	1,013	18.7%
Taiwan	95	131	-27.4%	838	691	21.4%	1,159	833	39.1%
Japan	128	70	82.1%	730	811	-10.0%	1,099	1,176	-6.6%
Vietnam	93	45	106.3%	612	898	-31.8%	1,078	1,060	1.7%
Netherlands	55	51	8.8%	391	374	4.5%	631	552	14.2%
Romania	44	46	-3.7%	355	345	2.8%	488	451	8.1%
India	42	63	-33.4%	377	145	160.6%	486	224	116.4%
China	27	25	7.6%	307	347	-11.7%	467	489	-4.5%
Turkey	25	28	-8.4%	342	348	-1.6%	425	436	-2.6%
United Arab Emir.	49	48	3.2%	281	263	6.8%	422	374	12.8%
Egypt	31	52	-40.3%	329	261	25.8%	344	346	-0.6%
All Other	254	387	-34.3%	2,613	2,792	-6.4%	3,717	3,964	-6.2%
Total	1,864	2,239	-16.8%	18,729	20,135	-7.0%	27,465	28,645	-4.1%
memo EU-27	304	368	-17.5%	2,916	2,877	1.4%	4,326	4,061	6.5%



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METALS

World crude steel production increased in August

World crude steel production for the 70 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 145.3 million tonnes (Mt) in August 2025, a 0.3 percent increase compared to August 2024.

Crude steel production by region

Africa produced 1.8 Mt in August 2025, down 3.8 percent on August 2024. Asia and Oceania produced 107.7 Mt, up 0.4 percent. The EU (27) produced 8.8 Mt, down 2.8 percent. Europe, Other produced 3.7 Mt, up 2.1 percent. The Middle East produced 3.8 Mt, up 21.5 percent. North America produced 9.1 Mt, up 1.6 percent. Russia & other CIS + Ukraine produced 6.7 Mt, down

4.9 percent. South America produced 3.6 Mt, down 5.0 percent.

Top 10 steel-producing countries

China produced 77.4 Mt in August 2025, down 0.7 percent on August 2024. India produced 14.1 Mt, up 13.2 percent. The United States produced 7.2 Mt, up 3.2 percent. Japan produced 6.6 Mt, down 3.4 percent. Russia is estimated to have produced 5.5 Mt, down 4.6 percent. South Korea produced 5.2 Mt, down 6.1 percent. Turkey produced 3.4 Mt, up 7.9 percent. Germany produced 2.6 Mt, down 10.5 percent. Brazil produced 2.9 Mt, down 4.6 percent. Iran produced 1.6 Mt, up 17.9 percent.

Top steel-producing countries

	Mar 2025 (Mt)	% change Mar 25/24	Jan-Mar 2025 (Mt)	% change Jan-Mar 25/24
China	77.4	-0.7	671.8	-2.8
India	14.1	13.2	108.9	10.2
United States	7.2	3.2	54.6	1.6
Japan	6.6	-3.4	54.1	-4.5
Russia	5.5 e	-4.6	46.1	-4.8
South Korea	5.2	-6.1	41.1	-3.5
Turkey	3.4	7.9	24.9	0.2
Germany	2.6	-10.5	22.4	-11.9
Brazil	2.9	-4.6	22.2	-1.5
Iran	1.6	17.9	19.8	-3.6

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

BIR urges balanced approach as EU proposes new measures to protect steel sector

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), representing the global recycling industry, has taken note of the European Commission’s new proposal for a regulation aimed at protecting the EU steel industry from the impacts of global overcapacity (COM(2025) 726).

The proposal introduces several measures, including limiting tariff-free import volumes to 18.3 million tonnes a year (a 47 percent reduction compared to 2024), doubling the level of out-of-quota duty to 50 percent and introducing a Melt and Pour traceability requirement to prevent circumvention. Once reviewed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, this regulation would replace the EU’s current safeguard on steel, which expires in June 2026.

While the proposal does not, at this stage, impose export restrictions on metal scrap, it introduces a new monitoring

regime that could lay the groundwork for future trade limitations. BIR warns that any move towards restricting exports of secondary raw materials would risk undermining both the recycling industry’s competitiveness and Europe’s circular economy objectives.

“Recycled materials are vital to decarbonizing the metals industry and should be recognized as strategic resources in the circular economy,” says Alev Somer, BIR environment and trade director. “Empowering recyclers with free trade – not constraining them – is key to delivering both climate goals and industrial competitiveness.”

BIR emphasises that the EU should focus on stimulating demand for recycled steel through mechanisms such as recycled content targets, green public procurement and incentives, rather than relying on trade barriers.

METALS

First Star Recycling to install equipment to collect over 3 million beverage cans per year

First Star Recycling is installing new sorting equipment estimated to capture more than three million used beverage cans (UBC) a year that are missorted at its material recovery facility (MRF).

Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) funded the equipment as part of its efforts to capture more beverage cans at MRFs, making progress toward its aluminum beverage can recycling rate targets. Up to one in four UBCs are missorted in a typical MRF, which separates single-stream recyclables, even though UBCs are consistently one of the most valuable commodities in the recycling stream.

CMI has leveraged this high economic value of UBCs to finance can capture equipment while making some or all the money back from the recipient providing a share of the revenue generated from the cans captured.

CMI beverage can manufacturer members Ardagh Metal Packaging (AMP) and Crown Holdings (Crown) provided funding for the first two revenue share agreements. They were Everest-Labs robots installed on the “last chance recovery line,” which is the sorted material destined to go to landfill, at a Lakeshore Recycling Systems MRF in Chicago, Illinois and a Caglia Environmental MRF in Fresno, California. Both MRFs agreed to share 50 percent of the revenue from the cans captured by the robots.

“Investing in can capture equipment is a key component of our broader

commitment to increasing recycling rates and improving the can-to-can loop,” said Sandrine Duquerroy-Delesalle, vice president of global sustainability and external affairs at Crown. “By prioritizing the recovery of infinitely recyclable aluminum, we help reduce unnecessary landfill waste and increase the beverage can’s current average recycled content of 71 percent, ultimately contributing to a lower carbon footprint for the U.S. beverage can manufacturing industry.”

The latest revenue share agreement is for a Green Machine eddy current at First Star Recycling’s Omaha, Nebraska MRF, which serves all of Nebraska and parts of Iowa and South Dakota too.

An eddy current uses magnetic forces to separate out non-magnetic metal like aluminum beverage cans from other recycled materials. This eddy current was paid for with funding from AMP and Crown, as well as the revenue received from the first two revenue share agreements.

“Once the principal is paid back to CMI, no more payments are required, and First Star Recycling will then own the equipment to continue using the eddy current to capture even more UBCs.

The financed eddy current, which is expected to be installed before the end of the year, will be the second in the facility and placed on the fiber line. In some cases, beverage cans are missorted to the fiber line if they are flattened or make it past the fiber line’s optical sorter.

Every Can Counts U.S. celebrates 75,000 cans collected for recycling during festival season

Every Can Counts U.S., a program dedicated to catalyzing away-from-home recycling of aluminum beverage cans, declared a success from its spring and summer festival season.

More than 75,000 aluminum beverage cans were collected and recycled across four major festivals and events this spring and summer. Festivalgoers at some of the largest and most vibrant gatherings proved that every can counts toward recycling:

- SweetWater 420 Fest in Atlanta – In April, 60,000 cans and aluminum cups were collected for recycling over three days during Atlanta’s SweetWater 420 Fest, making this the largest haul. These cans were recycled and redeemed for scrap value.
- iHeartRadio’s Bull Float Trip in Missouri – More than 13,000 aluminum beverage cans were collected for recycling in August during this two-day country music concert and river float, taking place in Leasburg, Missouri. This event also debuted the Every Can Count’s “rock-and-roll amplifier” recycling cage, used to collect thousands of used beverage cans on-site in partnership with Mid-American Clean Future.
- World Pride Street Festival in Washington, D.C. – In June, approximately 1,000 cans were collected in the heart of our nation’s capital during the World Pride Street Festival in partnership with the Capital Pride Alliance.

• SailGP Race in New York City – An additional 1,000 cans were collected in June with the Red Bull Italy SailGP Team, during a two-day sailing regatta around New York City’s Governors Island. The Mubadala New York Sail Grand Prix hosted more than a dozen Every Can Counts volunteers, who collected used beverage cans with Every Can Counts backpacks.

Tim Ebner, vice president of marketing and communications at Can Manufacturers Institute and a lead organizer of the Every Can Counts U.S. chapter said, “Thanks to the efforts of our sponsors, volunteers and festivalgoers, more than 75,000 recycled cans are now on their way back to becoming new cans, in as quick as 60 days or less.”

Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, meaning every recycled used beverage can provides aluminum to keep circulating in the beverage can’s domestic circular economy, saving energy and reducing waste along the way.

In fact, 75,000 recycled cans equals more than \$1,200 in scrap aluminum value and energy savings.

Every Can Counts is committed to making recycling easy, accessible and visible at major events and venues across America. This includes a partnership going on three years with Recycle Dat! at Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Commodity		Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
FERROUS						
#1 Bushelings	per gross ton	\$421.00	\$420.00	\$420.00	\$418.00	\$419.00
#1 Bundles	per gross ton	401.00	400.00	402.00	400.00	410.00
Structural	per gross ton	329.00	329.00	336.00	339.00	345.00
#1 & #2 Mixed Steel	per gross ton	285.00	287.00	289.00	291.00	325.00
Crushed Auto Bodies	per gross ton	207.00	205.00	201.00	205.00	210.00
Shredded Auto Scrap	per gross ton	365.00	352.00	379.00	375.00	379.00
NON FERROUS						
#1 Copper Bare Bright	per pound	4.99	4.51	4.69	4.65	4.95
#2 Copper Wire & Tubing	per pound	4.79	4.31	4.37	4.46	4.76
Aluminum Cans	per pound	.80	.81	.80	.80	.80
Al/Cu Radiators	per pound	2.39	2.35	2.34	2.32	2.36
Aluminum Radiators	per pound	.59	.58	.57	.59	.57
Heater Cores	per pound	1.46	1.48	1.45	1.46	1.49
Stainless Steel	per pound	.61	.59	.59	.61	.60

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

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PAPER

AF&PA releases U.S. paper recycling rates

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced its annual paper recycling rates, with 60 percent-64 percent of paper and 69 percent-74 percent of cardboard available for recovery being recycled in the United States in 2024.

Paper continues to be one of the highest recycled materials in America, supported by successful recycling systems throughout the country. In 2024 alone, 46 million tons of paper was recycled in the U.S., which equates to 125,000 tons of recycled paper being turned into new, essential products like cardboard boxes, paper packaging and toilet paper every day.

2024 paper recycling by the numbers:

- U.S. mills used 1.29 million more tons of recycled paper to make new products in 2024 – that’s 32.7 million tons compared to 31.3 million tons in 2023.
- Recycled paper share of all fiber used at U.S. mills has steadily increased in the last 20 years, from 36.6 percent in 2005 to 37.7 percent in 2015 to 44.4 percent in 2024.
- In 2024, there was a 13.5 percent increase in net containers entering the U.S. More goods with paper-based packaging were imported in 2024 than 2023, which increased the amount of paper available for recycling.
- While U.S. mills consumed more recycled paper in 2024 compared to 2023, the U.S. exported less recycled paper



in 2024, primarily due to decreased demand from Asia.

“Paper recycling works and our success is due in large part to the paper industry’s ownership stake in America’s recycling systems and the millions of people who recycle every day,” said AF&PA president and chief executive officer Heidi Brock.

“The paper industry has prioritized recycling for over 30 years, and we are committed to advancing this progress. AF&PA members are not just participants in the recycling system, we are helping build and improve it through voluntary industry investments that use more recycled paper, create jobs and innovate in our U.S. manufacturing processes.”

PLASTICS

Facility upgrades near Austin, Texas boost polypropylene capture

What was once a small, outdated materials recovery facility (MRF) in Central Texas, the Taylor, Texas site is now a key hub for recovering polypropylene (#5) and other plastics. When Circular Services, formerly Balcones, acquired Wilco Recycling in 2021, the facility lacked the infrastructure to sort polypropylene, a widely used plastic with growing end-market demand. Today, it’s helping close that gap. Early on there wasn’t a good outlet to sell polypropylene,” said Cody Lovas, the facility’s general manager. “As avenues opened up to sell it, we weren’t able to hand-sort enough of it.” The facility serves Travis and Williamson counties – home to nearly 2 million people and the state capital, Austin. Manually recovering polypropylene from the waste stream is “basically impossible,” said Lovas, citing the wide range and small size of items like straws, yogurt cups and lids.

With support from The Recycling Partnership’s Polypropylene Recycling Coalition, Circular Services installed an optical sorter that automatically detects and captures polypropylene. The system came online in September 2024 and by January 2025, was processing over 30

tons per month. The recovered plastic is sold to recyclers and remade into household products and durable goods.

Like many MRF upgrades, the investment in polypropylene capture delivers more than one win. It’s also improving aluminum recovery from used beverage cans. “As polypropylene is sorted out, everything else down the line is easier to sort and clean,” said Lovas.

Boosting capture at the MRF starts at the curb. If residents don’t know polypropylene is recyclable, it won’t make it into the cart. That’s why strong community education is essential – not just from the MRF to households, but also to the municipalities the facility supports. “We are constantly using our social media to help with education,” Alexandra Gyrfas, director of marketing, said. “We also partner with municipalities directly to help with data-sharing and recommending informational campaigns.” Once word gets out about the facility’s upgraded capabilities, polypropylene capture is expected to rise. Gyrfas and Lovas see this as a clear step toward strengthening Texas’s recycling system – keeping valuable plastic in circulation and out of landfills.

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WASTE

McNeilus Volterra ZSL wins 2025 "Coolest Thing Made in Tennessee" competition



McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing, Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation business, announced that its McNeilus® Voltterra™ ZSL™ electric refuse and recycling collection vehicle has been named the winner of the 2025 "Coolest Thing Made in Tennessee" competition.

The contest, hosted by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tennessee Manufacturers Association, and the UT Center of Industrial Services, highlights innovation, craftsmanship and the impact of products made across Tennessee. The McNeilus Volterra ZSL electric vehicle stood out among more than 100 entries, earning top honors through public voting and recognition from across the state, over the nearly three-month voting period.

The McNeilus Volterra ZSL is North America's first fully integrated electric refuse and recycling collection vehicle and is manufactured in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It combines zero-emission operation, a driver-first design, ergonomic cab, outstanding visibility, advanced

safety and productivity features, and proven refuse and recycling collection technology - setting a new standard for the industry and helping communities meet sustainability goals.

"We are incredibly proud to bring this recognition home to Middle Tennessee and our team in Murfreesboro," said Mike Kephart, vice president and general manager of Oshkosh Corporation's Murfreesboro facility. "This award is a testament to the dedication of our team members, the strength of our manufacturing community, and our deep commitment to Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. We are proud to call this region home and to contribute to its growth and success."

With its electrified drivetrain, smart battery system, cooperative regenerative braking, and certification by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) as a zero-emission vehicle, the Volterra ZSL eRCV is built to outperform while delivering all-day route performance on a single charge.

Dart Container sponsors Orlando cleanup collecting 154 pounds of waste

Dart Container sponsored a community cleanup at Eagle Nest Park, organized by the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) and Keep Orlando Beautiful during PLASTICS' National Plastics Conference. The event brought together 40 volunteers, who collected more than 150 pounds of waste, including recyclable materials, helping keep Orlando's parks and waterways clean.

The event was a collaboration through the Community Impact Task Group of PLASTICS' Future Leaders in Plastics Committee (FLiP) - a professional development initiative for plastics industry professionals under the age of 40. The task group's mission is to foster collaboration, provide an outlet to give back, and positively impact the environment and

communities in which the plastics industry serves.

"Dart is committed to reducing litter and advancing a circular economy for plastics, which is why we were proud to sponsor this cleanup that kept more than 150 pounds of waste out of Orlando's parks and waterways," said Libby Rice, sustainability program manager at Dart.

The event was made possible thanks to logistical support from Keep Orlando Beautiful and the backing of industry partners, including Dart. Together, they supported 40 volunteers who spent the afternoon removing more than 154 pounds of mismanaged waste from Orlando's parks and waterways, including over 7 pounds that were recycled.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AMERIPEN appoints Danielle F. Waterfield as policy director and general counsel

■ AMERIPEN has appointed Danielle F. Waterfield, Esq., as policy director and general counsel.

A seasoned policy and legal leader, Waterfield brings more than two decades of experience advancing sustainable packaging, recycling, and materials recovery policy at both the state and federal levels. Her expertise in legislative and regulatory affairs, combined with her legal acumen, positions her to guide AMERIPEN's advocacy during a pivotal time for packaging policy in the United States.

Most recently, Waterfield worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she advanced initiatives supporting domestic manufacturing and critical supply chains, including efforts connected to sustainability and materials management. Prior to her federal service, Waterfield served as chief policy officer and legal counsel for the Recycled Materials Association (formerly the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries), where she directed legislative, regulatory, and legal initiatives that shaped national recycling policy. Her work has consistently demonstrated a commitment to advancing sustainable policy through effective, solutions-oriented approaches that balance environmental priorities with industry needs.

Jeffrey Bailey named vice president of sales at Leadpoint

■ Jeffrey Bailey has been named vice president of sales at Leadpoint. Bailey joined Leadpoint in 2020 as an onsite manager and has since held several key roles within the organization, including positions on the operations support team and as director of sales. Throughout his tenure, Bailey has demonstrated strong leadership, a solid understanding of operational excellence, and dedication to client relationships.

Bailey has over five years of direct experience in waste, recycling and on-route operations, playing a key role in expanding Leadpoint's route helper services. He also has more than a decade of experience in municipal government and operations.

As vice president of sales, Bailey will oversee the company's growth initiatives and work to foster mutually beneficial relationships across the waste, recycling and manufacturing sectors.

AISI adds Worthington Steel and Geoff Gilmore to the board

■ The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) elected Geoff G. Gilmore, president and chief executive officer of Worthington Steel, as a new member to the board of directors and welcomed Worthington Steel as its newest member company. Worthington Steel is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

Novelis names Greg Schlicht executive vice president and president, Novelis North America

■ Novelis Inc. announced that Greg Schlicht has been appointed executive vice president and president, Novelis North America, effective immediately. In this position, Schlicht is responsible for all aspects of the company's business in the North America region, which includes manufacturing and recycling facilities across the United States and Canada.

For the past 16 years, Schlicht has served in leadership positions for Novelis. His most recent assignment was chief commercial officer and vice president of commercial, Novelis North America, where he led all aspects of sales for the region. Before that, he spent four years leading sales for the company's global beverage packaging accounts.

Michael Obertop joins VLS Environmental Solutions

■ VLS Environmental Solutions welcomed Michael Obertop as the new National Rail Solutions sales director. This hire exemplifies VLS' commitment to bolstering its expertise and leadership within the rail industry.

Michael Obertop brings to VLS more than two decades of experience in the rail sector, holding prominent roles at leading companies such as Carboline, Cathcart Rail, and GBW Railcar Services. Obertop has earned a reputation for driving growth, optimizing operations, and delivering innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges of the rail industry.

At Cathcart Rail, Obertop led strategic initiatives as senior vice president of sales & marketing, driving significant growth in service delivery and building strong client relationships. His experience has honed his expertise in sales, operations, and business development across complex industries.

TOMRA acquires C&C Consolidated Holdings

■ TOMRA has entered into an agreement to acquire all of the assets of C&C Consolidated Holdings, LLC, which through its subsidiaries is a provider of "bag drop" solutions for collection and processing of beverage containers in the United States, operating under the CLYNK brand.

Bag drop is a convenient collection method whereby consumers can drop off entire bags of empty beverage containers at collection points and have their deposit refunded. It is a well-established and popular complement to reverse vending machines and redemption centers in North America, with strong growth potential.

Founded in 2006, the acquired group of companies mainly operate in the north-eastern U.S. They supply retail stores with bag drop points and refund customers their deposit through a digital platform that integrates with the retailers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Goldman Sachs Alternatives to acquire Liquid Environmental Solutions

Goldman Sachs Alternatives has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Liquid Environmental Solutions, a provider of non-hazardous liquid waste management services in the United States, from Audax Private Equity.

Founded in 2002, Liquid Environmental Solutions (LES) is a leading national service provider within the circular economy, managing non-hazardous liquid waste for its blue-chip customer base through a high-quality network of scaled infrastructure assets. LES collects, treats and beneficially recovers materials from a variety of liquid waste sources including grease traps, oil water separators, used cooking oil and other non-hazardous liquid waste for the restaurant, grocery chain, hospitality, education and environmental services sectors.

Frontline International names Zack Palazzo vice president

Frontline International has promoted Zack Palazzo to vice president of sales and finance. Palazzo has been with the company for more than a decade, previously serving as director of sales and finance.

A Purdue University graduate with a degree in industrial technology, he earned his MBA from Kent State University. In his new role, Palazzo will continue to lead sales efforts while taking on increased responsibility for the company's financial health. He will focus on driving business growth, supporting customers and developing strategies for long-term success.

Palazzo has deep experience overseeing a range of initiatives focused on developing Frontline's customer base, growing sales enhancing tools and training for the company's sales force.

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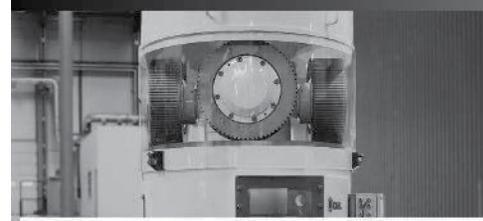
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 **RECYCLING**
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Paper recycling in the U.S. faces challenges

by MAURA KELLER

mkeller@americanrecycler.com

According to the American Forest & Paper Association, in 2024, the U.S. recycled around 46 million tons of paper. That translates to a paper recycling rate of 60 to 64 percent and a cardboard recycling rate of 69 to 74 percent. In fact, the paper industry recycles nearly 60 percent more paper than it did 35 years ago.

This is a good sign as a new global analysis from Issuu sheds light on worldwide paper consumption trends. The report highlights significant disparities in consumption and raises questions about sustainability. According to the report, the U.S. ranks as the world's largest paper importer, having imported 7.8 million tonnes over the past year. In addition, the U.S. ranks 13th globally in per capita paper consumption, with the average American using 168.7 grams per day – more than three times the global average. While American paper consumption per capita isn't as high as other counterparts, the U.S. plays a substantial role in the global paper economy and the environmental implications associated with it.

From an environmental standpoint, paper production is one of the most resource-intensive industries. Research shows that producing a single ton can consume tens of thousands of liters of water. Despite growing digital alternatives, similar studies have predicted that the average U.S. office worker still uses around 10,000 sheets of paper each year, with nearly half of those pages discarded the same day – further stressing the need for the paper recycling industry to continue to grow and evolve.

Julian Torres, vice president of technical training at Junk King said the paper recycling industry remains an essential part of the broader recycling ecosystem. While it's not growing at the rapid pace seen in past decades, demand has remained steady – particularly driven by the ongoing rise in e-commerce and the need for sustainable packaging. Companies like Junk King play a key role in this process by ensuring paper products and other recyclable materials are properly sorted, collected and diverted from landfills.

“One of the most prominent trends shaping the paper recycling industry today is the growing focus on sustainability and circular economy practices,” Torres said. “Businesses and manufacturers are placing increased emphasis on using recycled materials in their packaging and operations, while consumers are becoming more aware of how their recycling habits impact local ecosystems. At the same time, local recycling programs are evolving, with municipalities investing in education, technology and infrastructure to make paper recycling more efficient and accessible.”

At Junk King, they see firsthand how much recyclable material still ends up in the waste stream and the company is committed to changing that. Their mission is rooted in sustainability, with up to 60 percent of every truckload recycled, reused or repurposed.

“We believe that paper recycling is about protecting natural resources, lowering carbon emissions and creating cleaner, more sustainable communities,” Torres said. “The more people understand how their daily recycling habits contribute to these goals, the more progress we can make together.”

Luke England from Enava, a family paper recycling business, said the paper recycling market, specifically in the UK, is a strong but evolving position, with sustained demand for high-quality fiber from domestic mills and overseas buyers.

“The balance of supply has shifted, with less office paper available but continued growth in cardboard from e-commerce,” England said. “The real challenge is producing the right quality material for customers around the world. Stricter regulations in China and across Asia mean UK operators must ensure material is processed to a standard that makes it genuinely usable for export.”

The main challenges currently surrounding the paper recycling market come from contamination in mixed collection streams and the overall decline of traditional print media, which reduces the availability of premium grades.

“At the same time, the growth of online shopping has reshaped the fiber



While the paper recycling industry is not growing at the rapid pace seen in past decades, demand has remained steady – particularly driven by the ongoing rise in e-commerce and the need for sustainable packaging.

mix, creating opportunities but requiring significant investment in processing infrastructure,” England said.

Global markets also present major shifts in demand – with manufacturing directly affected by the geopolitical landscape, recyclers are facing greater price volatility and must pivot more frequently than other commodity traders.

“Despite steady progress, the paper recycling industry continues to face challenges. The most significant remains contamination – when non-recyclable materials, food waste, or coatings are mixed in with paper, it often degrades the quality of the entire batch,” Torres said. “Market volatility can also present difficulties, as the cost of virgin materials sometimes undercuts the value of recycled paper. Additionally, not all regions have access to strong recycling systems or processing facilities, leading to inconsistencies in how effectively paper is recovered and reused across the country.”

So what technological advancements are being made within the area of paper recycling?

Technology has brought meaningful improvements to paper recycling over the past decade. As Torres explained,

advancements in sorting systems, artificial intelligence and robotics have made it easier to identify contaminants and separate recyclable materials more efficiently.

“Pulping and de-inking processes have also improved, allowing for a broader range of paper types to be recycled. These innovations not only boost recovery rates but also help reduce costs and environmental impact,” Torres said. “At Junk King, technology and data tracking are key to ensuring that recyclable materials – paper included – are handled responsibly and given a second life whenever possible.”

England added that significant progress is being made with AI-powered sorting systems, robotics and advanced pulping technologies that allow recyclers to handle more complex packaging materials.

“These innovations are essential for improving fiber yield and maintaining high levels of recycled content, while enabling the industry to meet increasingly ambitious sustainability targets,” England said.

In addition, across the country, municipalities are taking creative approaches. Some are introducing

See PAPER RECYCLING, Page B6

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AIMPLAS develops a project to reduce odors in cars using recycled material



Although many people find the ‘new car smell’ appealing, the reality is that this aroma comes from the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), a mixture of chemicals that can have harmful effects on both health and the environment. In response to this challenge, the H₂ODOR project was created, a cutting-edge initiative led by AIMPLAS, the Plastics Technology Centre, which pursues a twofold solution: reducing these types of odors and, at the same time, promoting the use of recycled materials in the automotive sector.

The H₂ODOR project, funded by IVACE+i and the ERDF funds, focuses on the creation of new thermoplastic materials based on post-consumer recycled polyolefins, free of contaminants and odors, specially designed for use in vehicle interiors. These new materials must not only meet the sector’s strict technical requirements (such as thermal resistance and UV radiation behavior), but must also be sustainable, cost-effective and pleasant for the end user.

To this end, the project will focus on optimizing the pre-treatment of recycled plastic by incorporating advanced water-based decontamination and deodorization technologies, with the aim of significantly minimizing the presence of volatile compounds inside the vehicle.

“Our goal is to demonstrate that it is possible to manufacture high quality recycled materials with low environmental impact and reduced odor that are competitive for use in vehicle interiors. It is a clear commitment to the circular economy without compromising safety and comfort,” said Juan Alfonso Naranjo, researcher in Sustainable and Future Mobility at AIMPLAS.

H₂ODOR involves the participation of Fych Technologies, which specializes in plastics recycling using transformative technologies and will employ its own water vapor-based odor elimination technology and Faperin, a company with extensive experience in the manufacture of parts using plastic injection molding.

Promoting the circular economy in the automotive sector

Beyond the technical aspect, the H₂ODOR project is aligned with the European Commission’s new legislative proposal that seeks to increase the incorporation of recycled plastics in the automotive industry, a sector that represents a great opportunity for material circularity.

The automotive sector is the third largest consumer of plastic worldwide, behind the packaging and construction industries. The increase in the use of plastics in vehicles is closely linked to the reduction of CO₂ emissions, as many components, both interior and exterior, are being replaced by plastic materials. Being lighter, they contribute to lower energy consumption during the vehicle’s lifetime.

The incorporation of 50 percent recycled plastics in the interior parts of vehicles manufactured in Spain will reduce CO₂ emissions by an amount equivalent to that generated by 158,475 vehicles in one year.

“The automotive industry is one of the most demanding sectors, but also one of the most strategic for applying advanced recycling solutions. With this project, we want to offer a sustainable and viable alternative that contributes to the fulfillment of the new European objectives,” said Naranjo.

SDGs and real sustainability

In addition to its technological component, the project has a strong social and environmental impact. It is aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), innovation and sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9), improving sustainability in cities (SDG 11) and promoting responsible production and consumption patterns (SDG 12).

“H₂ODOR is another step towards cleaner, safer and more responsible mobility. It demonstrates that innovation in materials can have a direct impact on people’s health and the sustainability of the environment,” concluded the researcher.

ReCB launches production facility to increase end markets for recycled cartons

ReCB Iowa LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ReCB LLC, is officially up and running, adding a critical domestic end market for post-consumer food and beverage cartons. The facility produces Everboard™, a high-performance building material that helps the construction industry reduce reliance on virgin materials while meeting demand for sustainable alternatives.

After acquiring the facility in early 2025, ReCB LLC invested in technology and equipment upgrades to boost efficiency and capacity. A joint venture of Elof Hansson USA Inc., Upcycling Group and Lisa Tech, the company expects the site to reach full operational status by September. Once working at full capacity, ReCB Iowa LLC, is expected to upcycle approximately 10,000 tons of cartons annually.

“We’re supplying the construction sector with premium, sustainable materials while conserving natural resources, cutting carbon emissions and driving demand for recycled cartons across the U.S. This is how targeted investments in recycling infrastructure deliver scalable, circular economy solutions,” said Jan Rayman, Managing Director at ReCB LLC.

The proprietary process transforms post-consumer gable top and aseptic cartons into premium roof cover board and potentially other moisture-resistant, mold-resistant building materials. This closed-loop system uses no water, formaldehyde adhesives or hazardous



chemicals. Instead, it relies on heat and pressure to produce resilient, high-performance boards that are more durable and sustainable than traditional gypsum products.

In partnership with the Carton Council, Elof Hansson and Upcycling Group, ReCB LLC is also building another production facility in Lodi, California, set to open later this year. Together, these facilities strengthen domestic carton recycling infrastructure and reinforce the critical link between recycling collection programs and viable end markets.

“Continued access to carton recycling is essential. We need people to keep recycling their food and beverage cartons so we can keep them out of landfills and reintegrate them into the market,” said Jordan Fengel, executive director of the Carton Council. “The facility reopening and its expansion underscores the growing momentum behind expanding domestic carton recycling infrastructure and our commitment to helping develop sustainable, scalable end markets.”

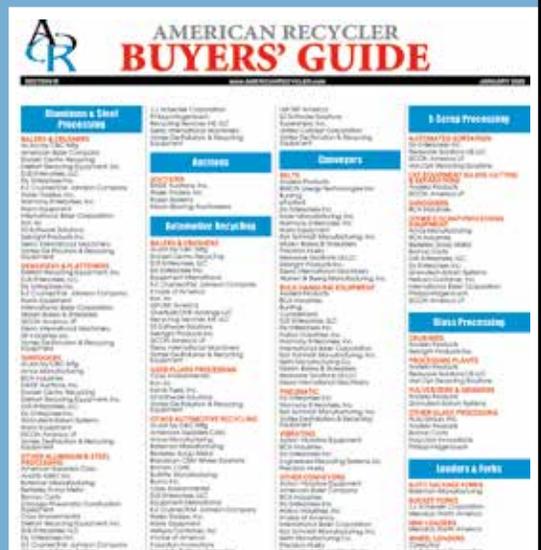
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Starlinger PP cap-to-cap recycling process cleared by FDA



The Starlinger recoSTAR super-cleaning technology turns PP beverage bottle caps into high-quality rPP that can be used at levels up to 100 percent in food-contact packaging. © Starlinger

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released an NOL (No Objection Letter) for the polypropylene cap-to-cap recycling process on the Starlinger recoSTAR dynamic recycling system.

The NOL applies to the manufacture of bottle caps for beverages under Conditions of Use C to H. Bottle caps made of 100 percent recycled post-consumer polypropylene produced on the Starlinger recycling system can thus also be used for hot fill applications.

The machine configuration for the approved recycling process includes a recoSTAR dynamic recycling extruder equipped with a C-VAC degassing module for highly efficient degassing,

as well as the PCUplus unit at the end of the recycling process. The latter ensures permanent odor reduction and completes the removal of VOCs, which are important steps in the production of food-grade recyclates from post-consumer plastics.

“In the beverage industry, PP and HDPE are the materials mostly used for plastic bottle caps,” said Paul Niedl, commercial head of Starlinger recycling technology. “In 2021, we acquired the FDA LNO for our HDPE bottle-to-bottle and cap-to-cap recycling processes. Now we can close the loop for beverage bottle caps made of polypropylene so that they can be returned to the recycling stream and be reused without downcycling.”

Toppoint Holdings reports waste paper the largest revenue and volume driver

Toppoint Holdings Inc., a truckload services and logistics provider focused on the recycling export supply chain, announced financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Second quarter 2025 highlights

- Revenue: \$3.97 million (Q2'25) vs. \$4.70 million (Q2'24).
- Commodity momentum: metals grew strongly year-over-year; imports remained a core contributor with year-to-date growth.

“Waste paper remains a deep rooted revenue stream of our company by both revenue and loads,” said Hok C. Chan, chief executive officer. “In Q2, paper contributed more than half of total revenue and roughly two thirds of loads. We continue to prioritize service reliability, turn times and lane density of the ports.”

“Imports and metals continued to build share and add revenue throughout the route. We maintained a disciplined cost posture,” added John Feliciano III, chief financial officer. “The balance sheet remains solid and we are investing in equipment and technology.”

Waste paper focus

Paper revenue was \$2,082,560 in Q2'25 (-23.2 percent YoY) and \$4,670,575 year to date (-14.4 percent YoY). Paper represented 52.5 percent of Q2 revenue and 60.0 percent year to date. On a volume basis, waste paper accounted for approximately 6,915 loads in the first half of 2025, or 63.8 percent of total loads.

Commodity detail (Q2 and year-to-date)

- Paper: \$2,082,560 in Q2'25 (-23.2

percent YoY), mix 52.5 percent – \$4,670,575 YTD (-14.4 percent YoY), mix 60.0 percent.

- Import: \$1,231,751 in Q2'25 (-16.2 percent YoY), mix 31.0 percent – \$2,102,465 YTD (+1.0 percent YoY), mix 27.0 percent.
- Metal: \$467,353 in Q2'25 (+38.0 percent YoY), mix 11.8 percent – \$680,996 YTD (+23.8 percent YoY), mix 8.8 percent.
- Log: \$130,605 in Q2'25 (+53.5 percent YoY), mix 3.3 percent – \$214,053 YTD (+32.7 percent YoY), mix 2.8 percent.
- Plastic: \$56,655 in Q2'25 (-39.6 percent YoY), mix 1.4 percent – \$112,445 YTD (-37.1 percent YoY), mix 1.4 percent.

Mix & volume metrics (year-to-date)

Loads: 10,836 in the first half of 2025 vs. 11,517 in same period in 2024. Mix by category (YTD25): Waste paper 63.8 percent, Import 25.6 percent, Metal 7.5 percent, Plastic 1.3 percent, Forestry 1.8 percent.

Strategic & operational updates

- Metals platform: Topp Metals Inc. established on June 4, 2025 to support growth opportunities in scrap metals logistics.
- Equipment & technology: Continued investments to enhance fleet capacity and operational systems to serve core commodities.

Second Quarter & Year-to-Date Results

Q2 revenue was \$3.97 million; the year-over-year comparison reflects normalization from 2024's atypical Q2 environment. Year-to-date revenue was \$7.78 million vs. \$8.43 million in the prior year.

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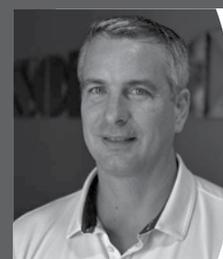
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EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Granulators

by MARY M. THORNTON

maryt@americanrecycler.com

The global plastic recycling granulator market value is expected to reach \$4.5 billion by 2032, according to Dataintelo. The firm also cites the growth will likely be driven by increased demand for sustainable manufacturing practices and increased environmental concerns. For granulator manufacturers like those named in the following, market growth will also flow from plastic waste reduction regulations and technological advancements in recycling processes.

The Amandus Kahl pan grinder mill, unique for processing up to 10 tons per hour, also features gravity fed mechanisms, a horizontal flat-die configuration for size reduction and adaptability to various material types. “A notable example of engineering and innovation in the field of size reduction technology, these mills are renowned for their efficiency, durability, and versatility. Our products embody German engineering excellence and with over 100 years of expertise, Amandus Kahl specializes in providing solutions for size reduction of plastics, paper and other materials,” Mike Curci, Amandus Kahl USA, noted.

Curci said the efficient size reduction technology Amandus Kahl employs addresses several key industry challenges, including energy consumption and material handling. Unlike traditional methods, Amandus Kahl’s size reduction in the pan grinder mill does not require additional air filtering or explosion protection systems (ATEX), making it a safer and more cost-efficient solution. This approach not only facilitates the handling of bulky and fibrous materials by increasing their bulk

density but also enhances the overall energy efficiency of the size reduction process, a critical factor in the recycling industry. As the demand for renewable energy and sustainable recycling methods grow, Amandus Kahl’s innovations, particularly in size reduction and flat-die technology, position the company at the forefront of the industry.

“Our commitment to improving energy efficiency and refining the size reduction process mirrors the global trend toward more environmentally friendly and cost effective size reduction solutions. Amandus Kahl’s developments in size reduction technology reflect a deep understanding of the industry’s future direction, focusing on flexibility, efficiency and sustainability. Our firm’s ambitions stretch far beyond technological advancements. We’re dedicated to playing a pivotal role in the global transition towards sustainable energy and recycling practices. With a particular focus on plastic recycling and through pushing the limits of size reduction technology and prioritizing environmental responsibility, Amandus Kahl is determined to lead the shift toward a more sustainable future,” stated Curci.

Eldan Recycling offers two primary granulator ranges – the Fine Granulator (FG Series), for final material sizing and the Heavy Granulator (HG Series), for primary size reduction. Both series’ provide high-speed, single-shaft designs capable of processing plastics, cables, tires, aluminum scrap, e-waste and more. Capacities range from roughly 2,000 kg/h to 8,000 kg/h, with motor options from 45 kW to 160 kW. Key features include adjustable knife clearance, regrindable knives for longevity, quick-change knives and screens, hydraulic access for maintenance and a variety of screen hole sizes for production flexibility. Eldan clients use these machines to turn waste streams into clean, reusable granules for resale or in-house processing, making them central to efficient circular-economy systems. Their machines are designed for durability, safety and adaptability to diverse input streams, helping operators meet varying market and regulatory demands without frequent equipment changeovers.

While Eldan’s designs aim to reduce downtime, users must still plan for periodic maintenance such as knife regrinding, wear-part replacement and screen changes. Setup and commissioning can

require skilled technicians to ensure optimal throughput and material quality. Also, balancing processing volume with energy consumption and space requirements can be a logistical challenge, particularly in facilities handling multiple material types. Eldan can provide assistance in properly handling any of these tasks.

Carsten Nielsen, product manager, added that “global recycling markets are pushing toward higher material recovery rates, closed-loop systems, and reduced environmental impact, so granulators are increasingly integrated into automated lines that combine shredding, sorting, washing and pelletizing. There is a growing demand for noise- and dust-reduction features, as well as smarter monitoring systems for predictive maintenance. Eldan’s quick-access and wear-resistant designs align with these trends, enabling recyclers to meet stricter quality standards and potential future regulations that may target waste reduction and microplastics control.”

Established in Denmark in 1956, Eldan offers a complete recycling equipment range beyond granulators. Their shredders, separators and fully integrated lines – allow recycling clients worldwide across multiple material sectors, to source turn-key systems.

Vecoplan’s stacked configuration system integrates shredding and granulating in a single unit. Matt Lowman, marketing and communications director, commented, “The effectiveness of any plastics recycling process



Eldan Recycling

ultimately comes down to the quality of the regrind – and that begins with the granulator. Our powerful stacked system processes plastic scrap into uniform particles – typically 3/8 inch or smaller – that can be fed back into production with minimal impact on performance. Consistent granulate ensures stable melt flow during extrusion or molding, reduces defects and helps manufacturers maintain product quality while incorporating recycled content. Our VAZ series shredder sits directly above the granulator, creating a vertical flow of material between stages. This reduces the need for conveyors, minimizes handling and lowers the risk of contamination.

Processing starts in the shredder. See Granulators, Page B5



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Granulators

■ Continued from Page B4

It reduces bulk scrap into smaller, manageable pieces and material and then discharges directly into the granulator. To maintain steady throughput, the Vecoplan system monitors the granulator's amperage. If the load nears capacity, the shredder's ram automatically retracts until conditions stabilize, preventing strain and protecting the cutting chamber. At the second stage, the granulator delivers precision sizing. By refining pre-shredded plastic into clean, uniform particles, the granulator produces high-quality regrind, ideal for in-house recycling. This material can be blended seamlessly with virgin resin, improving efficiency and reducing waste.

The Vecoplan stacked design also provides practical benefits. "With the shredder positioned above the granulator, the system requires significantly less floor space than separate machines. It's an ideal solution for users who intend to expand facility capacity or implement scrap reclaim, but without increasing the footprint of their processing area. By uniting two critical processes, our VAZ Series stacked system ensures reliable performance – transforming plastic scrap into a valuable, production-ready resource," Lowman concluded.



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NO. 1 PREFERRED PUBLICATION



Paper recycling

■ Continued from Page B1



educational campaigns focused on reducing contamination, while others are developing community drop-off hubs and expanding curbside collection options.

“Cities are partnering with local schools and businesses to host recycling drives and teach residents about the importance of proper sorting,” Torres said. “A growing number of communities are even offering incentive-based programs that reward households for consistent recycling participation. These efforts, combined with corporate responsibility initiatives, are helping to increase recovery rates and reduce waste.”

Christophe Girardier, chief executive officer of Glimpact, says the paper recycling landscape varies widely by region and process type. What’s becoming clearer is that measuring success can’t rely on carbon metrics alone. The Product Environmental Footprint, or PEF method, is a science-based framework developed to evaluate a product’s full environmental impact across 16 categories...such as

carbon, water, air quality and resource use.

“This broader view is helping shape more comprehensive approaches to recycling and sustainability overall,” Girardier said. “It’s important that progress in paper recycling be viewed holistically rather than through one lens. Systems thinking – understanding interactions across sourcing, processing and outcomes – is key to avoiding unintended impact shifts.”

For Torres, the future of paper recycling looks promising. As sustainability becomes a core focus for both consumers and corporations, the demand for recycled materials will only grow stronger.

“We expect to see further investment in domestic recycling mills, continued innovation in product design that prioritizes recyclability, and stronger policies that promote circular practices,” Torres said. “The paper recycling industry is evolving toward a model that emphasizes efficiency, education and accountability – factors that will help ensure its long-term success.”

Honda develops new separation technology

Honda R&D Co., Ltd. (Honda) has developed a new “chemical sorting” technology, which sorts and extracts reusable plastics from waste plastic parts that contain solid contaminants unique to automotive waste. Honda will build a pilot facility with a maximum processing capacity of 350 tons per year and verify the technology by the end of 2026, striving to put it into practical use by around 2029.

The solid contaminant separation technology newly developed by Honda uses chemical sorting that dissolves the resin in a solvent to remove solid contaminants and extract high-purity resin. Waste automotive plastic parts generally contain non-plastic solid contaminants such as metal inserts, pieces of rubber hoses and gaskets and reinforcing materials such as glass fiber contained in the resin. To date,

recycling of waste plastic parts containing solid contaminants has been done mostly through “physical sorting” processes, which sort contaminants manually or by machine. However, recycling via physical sorting has various challenges, including an increase in cost associated with the sorting process.

The use of the newly-developed chemical sorting technology enabled Honda to improve the solid contaminant separation rate to more than 99 percent, which previously has not exceeded the range of approximately 80 percent, resulting in the extraction of high-purity plastics. After undergoing mechanical and chemical recycling processes, reusable plastics extracted through the chemical sorting technology with a purity of more than 99 percent, will be reused as automotive materials, enabling closed-loop recycling.



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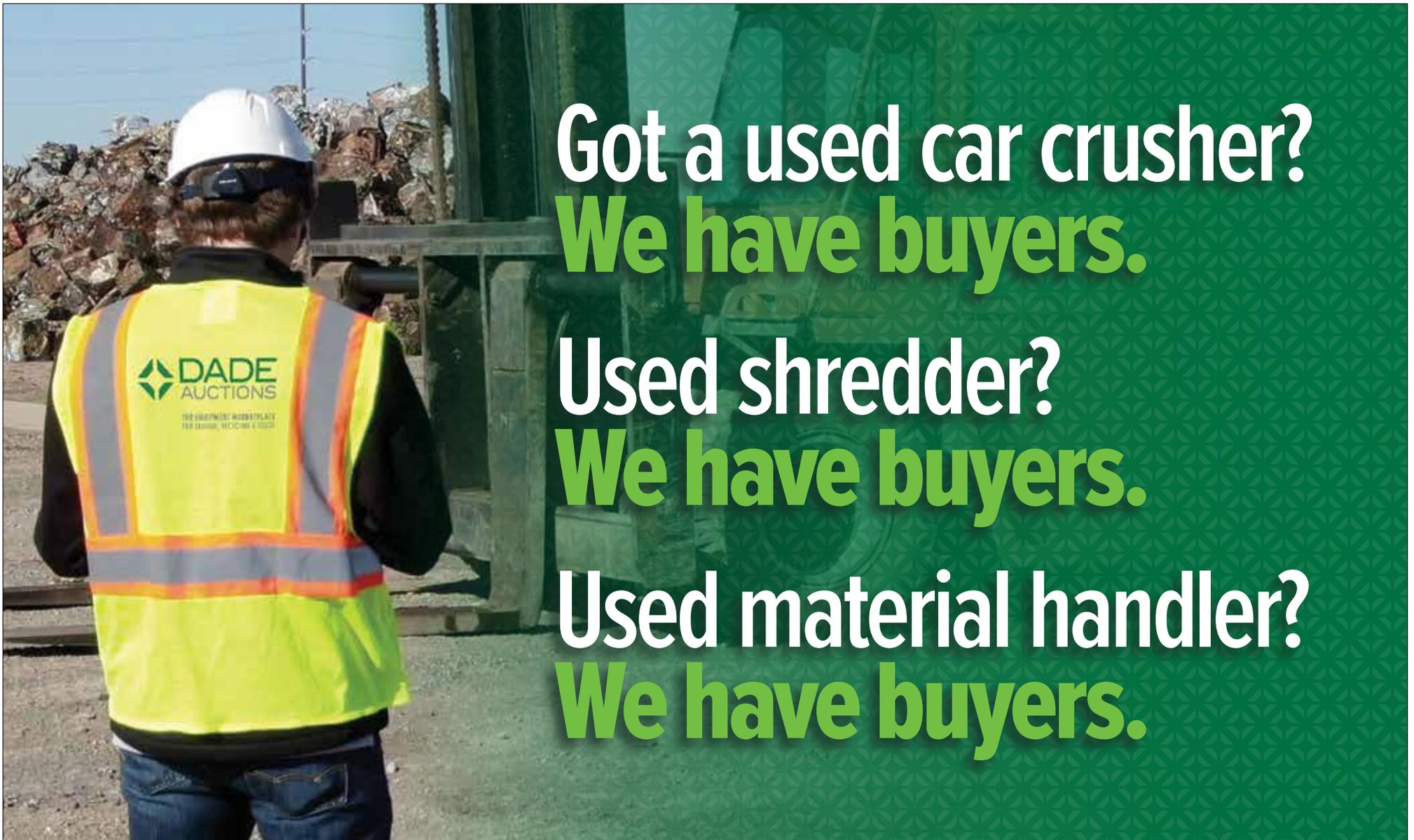
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