



# American Recycler

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## FOCUS: BUYERS' GUIDE

### ARN Buyers' Guide in a pull-and-keep section



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## Organics waste industry expanding

by MAURA KELLER

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The organic waste industry is experiencing tremendous growth, causing companies and consumers to take notice. According to Organic Waste Market: Global Industry Analysis and Forecast (2023-2029), the organic waste market is anticipated to reach \$51.11 billion by 2029 from \$37.31 billion in 2022 at a CAGR of 4.6 percent during the forecast period.

Lauren Click is the founder and executive director of Let's Go Compost, a non-profit dedicated to making composting free and accessible throughout the U.S. Their mission is to revolutionize waste management, reduce landfill waste, and combat harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Click, the state of the organic waste segment of the recycling industry business is exciting. In recent years, there's been a huge push within the industry, fueled by growing consumer awareness and demand for environmental sustainability with a heightened sense of responsibility towards our planet.

"It's inspiring to see more and more individuals and organizations acknowledging the vital role composting plays in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the burden on our landfills," Click said. "This shift in mindset is not just a trend, but a collective realization of the urgent need to embrace sustainability. By embracing composting and making it accessible to all, we can reduce waste and actively fight against climate change."

The industry growth that Let's Go Compost is seeing is a testament to the power of collective action, starting at the grassroots level.

"This said, I don't believe this change is solely driven by grassroots efforts," Click said. Top-down corporate initiatives focused on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards and meeting Scope 3 emission reduction goals (methane and carbon) are encouraging companies to compost at commercial and industrial levels." Many of these companies understand reducing organic waste and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions are essential business practices, especially for broad stakeholders and investors. This multi-faceted approach has propelled the movement forward from the bottom up and top down.

"Organics recycling activity was quite minimal initially, and only if a business generated a certain percentage or yards of food waste, would it establish organics services," said Melissa Modica, senior director of relationship management at Waste Harmonics, a tech-enabled managed service provider in the waste industry. "However, in recent years, we've observed a big push toward



The organic waste market is anticipated to reach \$51.11 billion by 2029 from \$37.31 billion in 2022 at a CAGR of 4.6 percent during the forecast period.

organics recycling throughout the U.S.. It started in California, but we're now seeing it trickle over more and more to the east coast, with both locations setting strong thresholds and examples for organics recycling." Waste Harmonics creates customized, technology-driven program solutions that address waste generator expectations and requirements, dealing with single-source management of service suppliers, quality of service, reduction of costs, data and reporting analytics, consolidated invoicing and landfill diversion.

Modica said there has been a significant push for these types of programs within the past year, with new organics recycling laws – commercial and residential – being adopted in Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and then later in 2023, we saw similar programs and regulations reaching areas like New York City.

"Organics recycling is booming in a sense and keeps pushing boundaries. It's growing in terms of adoption and popularity," Modica said. "Partners are also beginning to look for better or alternative outlets for diversion of their food waste to mitigate the odds that it will end up in the landfill. The business is trending upward and will continue to grow with the continued push to find alternative outlets through new legislative regulations."

Within the municipality arena, adoption of organics recycling varies, but it is generally on the rise. As Click explained, many municipalities are implementing programs to encourage composting, especially curbside compost collection. Also, the adoption rate is highly influenced by budget constraints, public awareness, and almost always by lack of infrastructure.

"One of the biggest challenges the organics waste industry faces is

accessibility. Making composting accessible to all, irrespective of location or income, remains a significant challenge to overcoming barriers to adoption," Click said. After accessibility, there is a critical need for increased education and awareness to overcome barriers to participation.

Modica added that organics recycling tends to be more challenging for municipalities if they don't have the outlets for organic waste. When they don't have the outlets in place to support organics growth, they then need to find a solution, which could cost more than is budgeted or anticipated.

"However, with more legislation being passed, there's potential for funding to support these programs within municipalities long-term," Modica said.

#### Advancements

Click pointed to the need to build composting infrastructure in the U.S. to manage the surplus of organic waste created in the country. While building this infrastructure, she said we also need to ensure that facility and equipment used are net-zero, affordable, and built to last. After infrastructure, public education will be a key component for the future of the industry.

"I like to remain optimistically realistic," Click said. "I believe the future of the organics waste recycling industry is promising, especially as consumers continue to push companies and municipalities down a more compostable-friendly path."

And while the waste and recycling industry has seen a push for organics recycling in 2023, we can see a new wave coming in 2024 with the potential for new legislation and bills to pass that will make the parameters a bit stricter going forward.

As Modica explained, with diversion  
**See ORGANICS WASTE INDUSTRY, Page A2**

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# Organics waste industry

■Continued from Page A1

trends on the rise and as programs that emphasize the circular economy concept continue to spread from coast to coast, other southern markets like Florida that have been slower to adopt these programs may be next to jump on board. An emphasis on greener purchasing decisions by consumers and companies has also helped spur the growth of this segment in recent years (e.g., recyclable products versus straight-to-landfill).

## Embracing challenges

As with any new industry advancement, organics recycling can be an expensive program. It's not a low-cost alternative to landfill diversion and as Modica said, it's important for companies and consumers to understand the full scope of their goals – namely, to find a proper outlet for the organic materials, and then also ensure the organics vendor accepts those materials, as well.

“Since we're seeing that legislative compliance element start a ripple effect, now many businesses must find space to accommodate an organics retainer or bin, which increases costs,” Modica said.

Education is also crucial to the success of any organics recycling program, whether that involves a municipal-based program or a corporate program.

“It's not a program where you can simply add a bin and let it sit idle with the hope that it's being used properly. Rather, there needs to be a full interior and exterior training element to be successful,” Modica said. Companies, for example, need to consider design and translation elements to ensure signage is



clear and accessible or, depending on the size of the facility, encourage the formation of an internal green team for consistent monitoring and reinforcement of an organics recycling program. This team can be a voice for the program and support semi-annual trainings to foster increased understanding of waste diversion programs like organics recycling.

Modica expects that we'll continue to see organics recycling introduced in more states, so as the boundaries continue to be pushed, this will require deeper reflection from industry partners, businesses, municipalities and managed waste services providers to determine how best to actively be a part of the organics recycling infrastructure.

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# U.S. recycling rates stagnate

U.S. recycling rates are stagnant and participants across the value chain – including brands, packaging manufacturers, and recyclers – collectively need to push recycling further, according to speakers at the Packaging Recycling Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Myles Cohen shared data from Circular Ventures, and others illustrating relatively little change in recycling volumes – for materials overall and for cardboard and plastic bottles specifically – during the last decade. City programs often are viewed as a success if they reach recycling rate percentages in the teens, considering many U.S. cities’ rates are below 10 percent, he said.

In addition, 80 percent of materials collected domestically for recycling are from businesses and only a small proportion is from the residential streams, Cohen said, adding that his data suggests 70 percent of residential cardboard currently goes to landfills.

Jeff Snyder, director of recycling at Ohio-based Rumpke Waste & Recycling, said that “Our landfills are full of recyclables, especially on the plastic side,” and 70 percent of plastic packaging materials with resin codes of one, two, and five go to U.S. landfills. MRF operators want plastics because they’re the highest value material despite making up only 10 percent of the stream, Snyder said, but “we need to figure out the infrastructure” to get those materials back, recycle them, and create value.

Improving processes and recycling rates is too daunting a task for one sector to tackle alone, speakers said.

“Recycling rates have stayed the same. Why? Clearly, we’re doing something wrong,” said Chris Max, research lead of packaging sustainability at Kraft Heinz. “The only way to win is through partnerships.”

Working together across the value chain is especially important because “waste is probably going to get more complex, not less complex” going forward, said Rochelle Bradford, director of sustainable materials solutions at The Coca-Cola Co. She emphasized the company’s reliance on science when making R&D decisions as well as its awareness that “We can’t do it by ourselves.”

Boosting residential recycling rates

requires maintaining and expanding not only consumer access but convenience, numerous speakers said. For instance, drop-off programs – such as store bins for plastic film – improve consumers’ access, but “I won’t say that we believe store drop-off is the end state; we see it more as a step to get to ‘widely recyclable.’ We know our consumers want curbside,” said Patrick Keenan, a packaging engineer focused on sustainability at General Mills.

Spotlighting the interconnectedness of the recycling value chain’s players and the need to advance several fronts at once, he cautioned that curbside film recycling can’t be achieved until MRFs widely accept the material. And that won’t happen without viable, stable end markets for the material. Keenan encouraged brands and packaging companies to design film that is better for end markets because “once critical mass is shifted to the store drop-off stream, we might start to see a couple of MRFs pick up this material.”

Recycling improvements are evident in niche areas. The food and beverage carton recycling rate increased to 20 percent as of 2022 from 6 percent in 2009, when manufacturers Elopak, Pactiv Evergreen, SIG, and Tetra Pak formed the Carton Council. Currently, 62 percent of U.S. households have access to carton recycling, according to Carton Council data.

Better outcomes can result while establishing a recyclable material supply chain by simultaneously addressing multiple parts of the equation, such as MRF acceptance and end-market development, she said. The Carton Council continues to have discussions with MRFs and other recyclers to move the needle further, according to Jason Pelz, Tetra Pak vice president of sustainability for the U.S., Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Influencing consumers’ recycling behaviors is still difficult. Specifically, consumers view recycling as the right thing for the environment, whereas industry puts a notable focus on the economic perspective. Plus, most consumers are confused about how to recycle correctly.

That’s another case for developing strong educational campaigns, a topic numerous speakers mentioned as a way to more effectively engage consumers in recycling and reduce confusion.

# SWACO and Columbus unveil new public recycling convenience centers

SWACO and the City of Columbus has opened two new convenience centers for recycling. The centers will aid the public in the recovery of recyclables and other hard-to-recycle materials such as clothing, batteries, electronics and food waste.

The drive-up, self-service centers provide a convenient and accessible location for central Ohio residents to recycle a wide range of materials, mostly free of charge. They are the first of their kind in Franklin County.

“By providing a comprehensive range of recycling options and promoting responsible waste management practices, these centers will contribute to an increase in the diversion of recyclable materials from

the region’s landfill,” said Joe Lombardi, SWACO’s executive director.

Currently, 76 percent of all landfilled items in Franklin County have the potential to be diverted.

With only 42 years of life remaining for the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill and a steadily growing regional population, the city and SWACO share the goal to increase the diversion of materials from the landfill.

Residents will be able to drive up to the convenience centers and unload their recyclable and other materials from their vehicle and place it in designated bins or areas depending on the item(s). The centers will be staffed to assist residents with dropping off acceptable items and proper sorting.

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# EPA to award approximately \$8 million for tribal recycling



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing nine selectees across the nation's Pacific Southwest region to receive a total of \$7,915,660 in Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia.

EPA's nine selectees are:

- Cher Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (\$950,679) in California will construct a zero waste facility, purchase equipment, hire and train staff, and install and service compost and recycling bins throughout the community. The Trinidad Rancheria zero waste facility will process the Tribe's food waste, green waste, paper waste, fish waste from sport and charter fishers, serve as a transfer station for sorting and backhauling common recyclables, and provide an example for the development of circular economies for tribes and rural communities.
- Gila River Indian Community (\$1,276,606) in Arizona will evaluate its current waste stream for contamination issues and opportunities to create baseline data to track recycling progress and build physical and programmatic capacity to address recycling needs. The purchase of recycling bins and two automated side loader recycling trucks to expand curbside recycling collection, along with community education will increase recycling rates by conducting education for the population of 12,000 residents to maximize community participation and reduce contamination of the recycling stream.
- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel (\$1,500,000) in California will build and staff a small-scale sorting and transfer station and implement

an outreach campaign to manage post-consumer materials and divert waste from landfills. The project will consist of an education and outreach phase, a construction phase, and an operations and data collection phase, with all phases including consistent reporting. The sorting station will divert waste from landfills by recovering, reusing, recycling, repairing, and refurbishing appropriate materials and ultimately assist in creating a circular economy by developing a business model that allows post-consumer products to maintain their highest value for as long as possible.

- Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (\$173,750) in California will procure infrastructure to allow the Tribe to implement its integrated waste management plan to improve collection and materials management infrastructure, increase the reuse of used and discarded materials, reduce contamination in the waste and recycle streams, and identify markets for recyclables.
- Pechanga Band of Indians (\$1,065,473) in California will establish a curbside recycling program for the tribal community on Pechanga Reservation, design and build infrastructure to support a materials recovery facility for the tribal community, and increase diversion of recyclable and compostable materials and household hazardous waste. Funding will be used for equipment and infrastructure, including a designated facility for household hazardous waste, and staff time.
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians (\$1,500,000) in California will expand the materials management infrastructure at the Rincon transfer station to facilitate greater reuse, recycling, composting, collection, and storage of recyclable and organic materials on the Rincon Reservation. The project includes asphalt paving; installation of a filtered drainage system; purchasing

equipment including a tub grinder and a recycling station for plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, and glass; and roofing and secondary containment for tires, composting, hazardous waste, and e-waste collection areas for added safety.

- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (\$406,837) in California will improve solid waste management planning and infrastructure, maximize diversion rates and community participation, and improve zero waste education. The project will develop a tribally approved Integrated Waste Management Plan to serve the community, develop educational programming and an enforceable regulatory framework to enhance residential participation.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (\$653,120) in California will enhance their recycling program to increase recycling self-reliance capacity within the reservation by purchasing improved recycling infrastructure and supplies that will create an updated recycling center on the reservation. The Tribe's Environmental Department plans to recycle all recyclable materials, produced both on and off the reservation, including from the administrative buildings, Tribal membership housing, economic development properties, and the clinic.
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (\$389,194) in Nevada will improve recycling practices for the Tribe by fully staffing their recycling program, purchasing needed recycling equipment including a baler, and improving their education and outreach program. This project aims to expand materials management infrastructure and reduce waste.

These recycling grants will help tackle consumer confusion and outdated recycling infrastructure, the largest barriers to proper recycling.

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## Republic Services opens Polymer Center promoting recycled plastics circularity

Republic Services, Inc. marked the opening of its Polymer Center in Las Vegas, the first-of-its-kind facility in North America, enabling greater circularity for plastics and helping to meet growing demand for recycled material. The Polymer Center expects to produce more than 100 million pounds of recycled plastics each year for use in sustainable packaging and other applications.

"The Republic Services Polymer Center will supply high-quality, domestically sourced recycled plastic to advance a critical need for more sustainable packaging," said Jon Vander Ark, president and chief executive officer. "As a leader in the environmental services industry, it's our responsibility to challenge every truckload of material we collect. The Polymer Center is another example of our commitment to

developing solutions that promote greater circularity and help customers achieve their sustainability goals."

The Polymer Center will process plastic bottles, jugs and containers collected from homes and businesses to produce recycled PET (rPET) flake and color-sorted HDPE and polypropylene ready for use in new sustainable packaging. Until now, the fate of a recycled plastic bottle in the U.S. wasn't a new plastic bottle; instead, it was generally downcycled into fiber for use in carpet or clothing – material that has few options for further recycling. The Polymer Center expects to significantly extend the lifecycle of plastic packaging and help turn plastic bottles into new bottles six to seven times, enabling true circularity.

As brands commit to using more

recycled content in their packaging and more states mandate the use of recycled plastic, supply is struggling to meet the growing demand. By 2030, demand for rPET in the U.S. is expected to total 5 billion pounds, while the supply – based on current processes – will only reach about 2.5 billion pounds. The Polymer Center can help companies fill this urgent gap now.

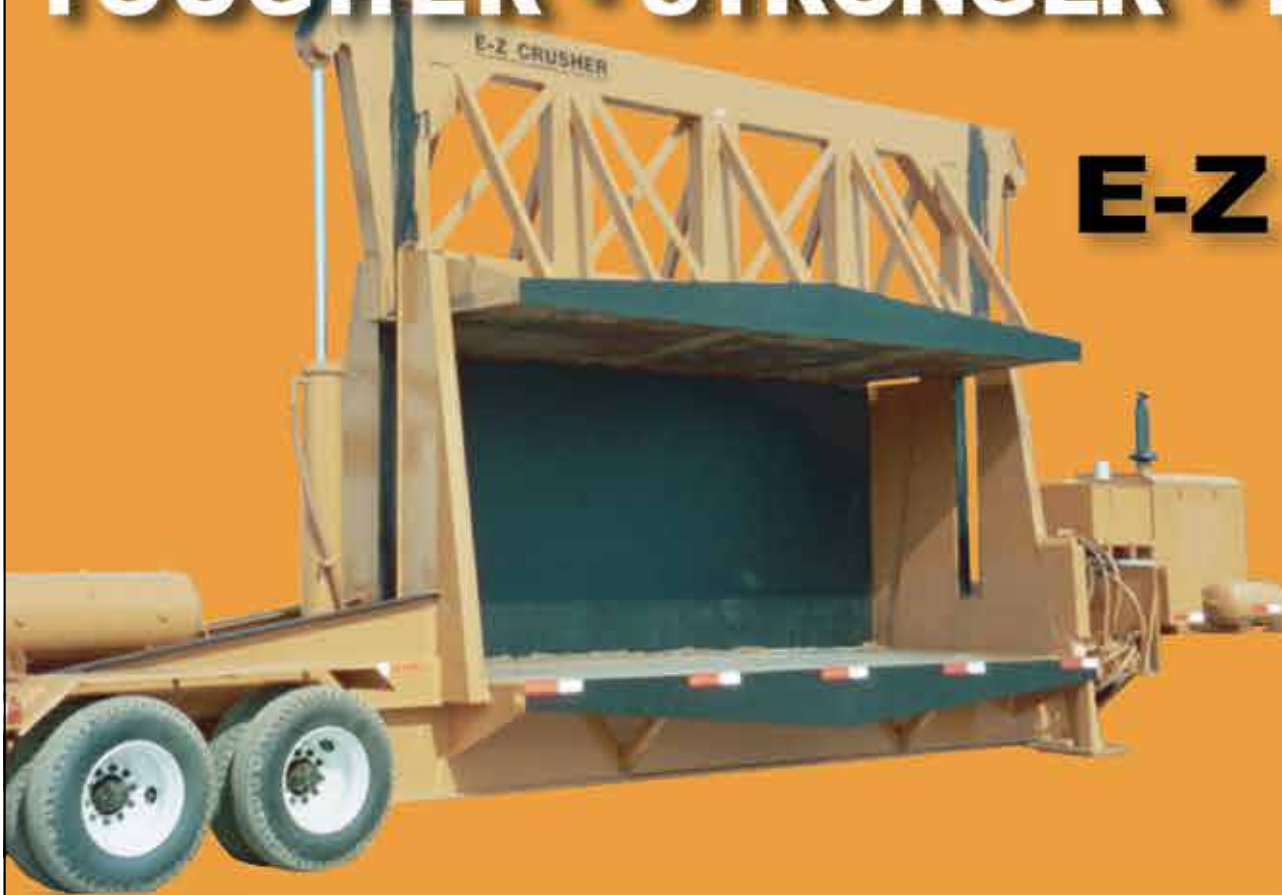
The Coca-Cola Company, one of the first customers of the Las Vegas Polymer Center, has committed to use at least 50 percent recycled material in its packaging by 2030. The Polymer Center began supplying rPET to Coca-Cola, in January.

Plans for a nationwide network of Polymer Centers are underway, with the second facility expected to open in Indianapolis in late 2024.



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# EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Grinders

by MARY M. THORNTON

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The global wood processing market size is expected to exceed the \$302 million mark by 2026, according to Stratview Research. Growth will mainly be due to the demand for ground wood used for paper products, fuel and thermoplastics. Wood grinders are used to further process material that has already broken up – trees, forestry residue, pallets, shingles and more. Grinders can also be used to make chips, mulch, playground surfaces and fine-texture fiber. No matter the application, these manufacturers are eager to assist their clients in acquiring the equipment best suited for the task at hand.

“The Beast” horizontal grinder line “contains the most versatile units available on the market today. Manufactured by Bandit, these grinders are the most efficient way to process wood waste, turning it into a valuable and sellable end product. The heart of each Beast grinder is a unique cuttermill. When processing wood waste, this style of grinding saves time and money,” Jason Morey, marketing manager, noted.

Each cuttermill features cutterbodies that are attached to heavy-duty support arms. The cutterbody utilizes a raker positioned ahead of the tooth regulating the cutting depth. This process correctly sizes material on the initial cut and allows material to immediately pass through the screen and exit the grinding chamber. By grinding this way, each machine relies less on the



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screen and gate to size material, reducing overall wear.

A wide variety of cutting teeth are available to effectively process a diverse range of material. These teeth are either 1” or 2” wide, depending on the mill configuration. “Fan” style teeth are available on select models and assist with pushing material through the screen, increasing production while reducing wear on the cutterbody. Screens and gates are utilized to assist with achieving a desired end product size. Available size ranges include 5/8” to 7” hole sizes and are available in modified diamond, round or square configurations. A hydraulic gate is available on most models and can be opened by the standard remote control, allowing a contaminant to quickly exit the grinding chamber and reducing damage to the mill components.

For processing concrete, tires or light

metal, Bandit also offers a line of dual shaft slow speed shredders. These shredders are available as electric, stationary or track and will effectively reduce material into a manageable size. The dual shafts are easily maintained by a cassette style mounting system.

“Being customer-driven is the basis for all that CW Mill does and has been for over 50 years. That approach is backed with experienced staff, advanced manufacturing equipment, and we will continue to provide products for years to come. After enduring a pandemic, we have adapted to those challenges and now carry a larger inventory to support our customers,” said Brian Bergman, operations manager for CW Mill.

CW Mill’s products include large, industrial, HogZilla® brand grinding machines along with high performance hammer mill cutting and grinding tools. The grinding machine and parts division serves many industries, including the municipal, commercial, agricultural, and industrial material processing industries, through providing whole machines and sub-components to process most organic and some non-organic materials. Special uses within these industries include recycled material processing, organic composting, forestry product grinding, mulch production, forestry derived fuel production, land clearing, scrap tire grinding, tire derived fuel production, waste volume reduction, utility right of way maintenance, disaster recovery and animal food processing.

In the 1970s, CW began manufacturing a PTO driven, tub grinder along with an electric powered grinder that



CW Mill Equipment Co., Inc.

See GRINDERS, Page A7

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## Grinders

■ Continued from Page B4

could be used to grind alfalfa, hay, grain, paper, wood products, and other low-density materials. By the 1980s, a machine built exclusively for grinding wood waste was on the product roster, and that machine was the HogZilla Grinder. The timing was purposeful and opportune as the farm sector was sluggish. Burning had long been the predominant method for wood waste removal in agricultural and land clearing operations, so air pollution and wildfire concerns prompted legislation to curtail the process.

“CW continues to grow and evolve along with advancements in technology. We stay abreast of the changes within the forestry and agriculture industries, focusing on recycling and downsizing material and our innovation continues. Each product that CW Mill has developed, manufactured, and offered for over 50 years has been in large part, customer driven,” Bergman concluded.

Precision Husky Corporation is best known for wood waste and round wood chippers. The company offers six different models of ProGrind Tub Grinders and all are available as trailer mounted, track mounted, or stationary. All also offer the option of a hydraulically operated, thrown object cover. The machines are powered by diesel engines, or can be powered by electric motors, which are becoming more common due to emission regulations.

Models offered include the ProGrind 900 with a 200 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine, the ProGrind 1000 with a 250 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine, the ProGrind 1500 with a 375 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine, the ProGrind 2000 with a 400 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine, the ProGrind 4000 with a 600 to 700 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine, and the ProGrind 5200 with a 875 – 1200 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine. The ProGrind 4000 and ProGrind 5200 are available as a standard unit, which can be loaded with an excavator or



Precision Husky Corporation

rubber tired front loader or tracked front loader. These standard units also include a radio remote control. The ProGrind 4000 and the ProGrind 5200 are also available with a Husky XL 120 Knuckle Boom loader attached. Electric motors for these machines would be a 150 horsepower electric motor for the 900, a 175 horsepower electric motor for the 1000, a 325 horsepower electric motor for the 2000, a 500 horsepower electric motor for the 4000, and the 5200 with a 900 or 1000 horsepower electric motor.

Precision Husky ProGrind also offers three sizes of horizontal style wood waste grinders. The H4060 machine uses an 875 horsepower to 1050 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine. The H3060 machine uses either a 600 horsepower or 755 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine. The H3045 machine uses a 500 horsepower Tier 4 diesel engine. The horizontal grinders are available as trailer mounted, track mounted, or stationary mount, either with diesel engines or electric motors.

“As we move forward with emission controls and regulations by federal, state, and local governments, it is becoming more difficult for new processing facilities to gain permits for operation. Precision Husky ProGrind machines are portable and so provide contractors

more opportunity to secure profitable projects, especially for local governmental entities,” explained Steve Briscoe, ProGrind sales manager. The ProGrind 5200 requires wide load and overweight permits but all other models do not carry travel permit restrictions. “Another option the ProGrind product offers for permitted sites with a static location is our electric motor units. These machines can be set up as stationary units or can remain portable and so can be moved to power sources. This option can also be helpful in areas where air quality permits are required. Contact your state environmental and energy departments for information about grants and loans offered by the Federal Agriculture and Energy Departments,” added Briscoe.

West Salem Machinery (WSM), a leading supplier of stationary electric screening and grinding machinery and systems, offers the ability to deliver complete recycling solutions for organics, green waste, food waste, urban wood waste and other types of biomass materials.

“WSM’s range of machines allows for customized solutions that provide superior processing benefits compared to diesel portable machines, including more up-time, reduced handling and maintenance costs, superior performance, and lower energy costs. This provides a more sustainable way to recover and convert feedstock materials into products such as compost, RNG, SAF, boiler fuel, or landscape/soil products,” stated Mark Lyman, president.

“One machine that stands out and is popular in organics recycling operations is WSM’s vertical feed grinding/crushing machine for converting pre-shredded material into a finished size. These vertical feed machines are low cost and simple to operate and with WSM’s standard infeed and discharge gear allows for controlled material feed. When combined with screening and cleaning equipment, clients can produce a high-quality, sized and cleaned material – a superior product with less handling and lower cost. This is a great ‘win-win’ for our customers and the environment. WSM vertical feed grinders are available in ten different model sizes that can handle from 150 – 1500 HP. With hundreds of machines in service and fully manufactured, sold, and serviced in the USA, WSM delivers on its company motto of ‘tough, reliable, and built to last,’ Lyman said.



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West Salem Machinery is a leading USA manufacturer of high-volume screening, cleaning, and grinding machinery for the recycling industry, with a focus on stationary electric machines and systems. Product offerings include Titan Horizontal Grinders, Vertical Feed Grinders, Re-Grinders, Trommel Screens, Disc Screens, and associated cleaning, conveying, and feeding equipment.



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# METALS

## World crude steel production increases

World crude steel production for the 71 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 150.0 million tonnes (Mt) in October 2023, a 0.6 percent increase compared to October 2022.

### Crude steel production by region

Africa produced 1.9 Mt in October 2023, up 3.5 percent on October 2022. Asia and Oceania produced 108.8 Mt, up 0.8 percent. The EU (27) produced 10.6 Mt, down 7.1 percent. Europe, Other produced 3.6 Mt, down 0.2 percent. The Middle East produced 5.0 Mt, up 5.0 percent. North America produced 9.3 Mt, the same as in October 2022. Russia & other CIS + Ukraine produced

7.4 Mt, up 12.9 percent. South America produced 3.4 Mt, down 8.7 percent.

### Top 10 steel-producing countries

China produced 79.1 Mt in October 2023, down 1.8 percent on October 2022. India produced 12.1 Mt, up 15.1 percent. Japan produced 7.5 Mt, up 2.6 percent. The United States produced 6.8 Mt, up 3.4 percent. Russia is estimated to have produced 6.3 Mt, up 9.5 percent. South Korea produced 5.5 Mt, up 6.5 percent. Germany produced 2.9 Mt, down 8.8 percent. Turkey produced 3.0 Mt, up 4.2 percent. Brazil is estimated to have produced 2.6 Mt, down 10.2 percent. Iran produced 3.1 Mt, up 3.5 percent.

| Top steel-producing countries |               |                    |                   |                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|                               | Oct 2023 (Mt) | % change Oct 23/22 | Jan-Oct 2023 (Mt) | % change Jan-Oct 23/22 |
| China                         | 79.1          | -1.8               | 874.7             | 1.4                    |
| India                         | 12.1          | 15.1               | 116.3             | 12.1                   |
| Japan                         | 7.5           | 2.6                | 72.9              | -3.0                   |
| United States                 | 6.8           | 3.4                | 67.4              | -0.8                   |
| Russia                        | 6.3           | 9.5                | 63.5              | 5.3                    |
| South Korea                   | 5.5           | 6.5                | 55.9              | 0.2                    |
| Germany                       | 2.9           | -8.8               | 30.1              | -4.1                   |
| Turkey                        | 3.0           | 4.2                | 27.5              | -8.8                   |
| Brazil                        | 2.6           | -10.2              | 26.5              | -8.6                   |
| Iran                          | 3.1           | 3.5                | 25.1              | -0.1                   |

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

## Steel Dynamics adds \$1.5 billion share repurchase authorization

Steel Dynamics, Inc. announced that the company's board of directors authorized an additional share repurchase program of \$1.5 billion of the company's common stock. The authorization is effective immediately and is additive to the previous \$1.5 billion program, which had \$278 million remaining authorized and available for repurchase on September 30, 2023. Since 2017, the company has repurchased \$5.2 billion of its common stock, representing 36 percent of its outstanding shares, and has paid cash dividends of \$1.4 billion through September 30, 2023.

"These actions reflect the board's and senior leadership's continued confidence in our ability to consistently generate industry-leading strong free cash flow throughout all market environments," stated Mark D. Millett, chairman and chief executive officer. "We are committed to delivering shareholder value creation through profitable growth. We believe the strength of our operating model, capital structure, and liquidity profile provide us the unique ability to strategically grow, while also returning value to our shareholders."

Under the company's share repurchase program, purchases take place as and when determined by the company in open market or private transactions, including transactions that may be affected pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Pursuant to this program, purchases of shares of the company's common stock, are made based upon the market price of the company's common stock, the nature of other investment and growth opportunities, expected free cash flow, and general economic conditions. The share repurchase program does not require the company to acquire any specific number of shares and may be modified, suspended, extended or terminated by the company at any time without prior notice.

### Dividends

The company's board of directors also declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.425 per common share. The dividend was payable to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 31, 2023, and is payable on or about January 16, 2024.

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**Z** Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the U.S. imported a total of 2,182,000 net tons (NT) of steel in October 2023, including 1,837,000 NT of finished steel (down 0.3 percent and up 16.2 percent, respectively, vs. September 2023). Total and finished steel imports are down 9.8 percent and 14.2 percent, respectively, year-to-date vs. 2022. Over the 12-month period from November 2022 to October 2023, total and finished steel imports are down 12.9 percent and 15.4 percent, respectively, vs. the prior 12-month period. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 19 percent in October and is estimated at 22 percent over the first ten months of 2023. Key steel products with a significant import increase in October compared to September are tin plate (up 124 percent), wire rods (up 81 percent), heavy structural shapes (up 76 percent), hot rolled bars (up 45 percent) and

reinforcing bars (up 45 percent). Products with a significant increase in imports over the 12-month period from November 2022 to October 2023 compared to the previous 12-month period include cut lengths plates (up 18 percent) and oil country goods (up 13 percent).

In October, the largest suppliers were Canada (557,000 NT, up 4 percent vs. September), Mexico (309,000 NT, down 14 percent), South Korea (167,000 NT, down 50 percent), Japan (134,000 NT, up 102 percent) and Germany (125,000 NT, up 164 percent). Over the 12-month period November 2022 to October 2023, the largest suppliers were Canada (6,861,000 NT, down 1 percent compared to the previous 12-months), Mexico (4,311,000 NT, down 24 percent), Brazil (3,421,000 NT, up 23 percent), South Korea (2,600,000 NT, down 11 percent) and Japan (1,247,000 NT, down 2 percent).

| U.S. Imports of Steel Mill Products by Country of Origin<br>(thousands of net tons) |                  |                 |                      |                    |                    |                      |                        |                        |        |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| U.S. Imports of Steel Mill Products by Country of Origin<br>(thousands of net tons) |                  |                 |                      |                    |                    |                      |                        |                        |        |
| COUNTRY   | OCT. 2023 PRELIM | SEP. 2023 FINAL | % VAR. OCT. VS. SEP. | YTD 2023 10 (MON.) | YTD 2022 10 (MON.) | % VAR. 2023 VS. 2022 | NOV. 2022 TO OCT. 2023 | NOV. 2021 TO OCT. 2022 | % VAR. |
| Canada  | 557              | 537             | 3.8%                 | 5,812              | 5,811              | 0.0%                 | 6,861                  | 6,896                  | -0.5%  |
| Mexico  | 309              | 358             | -13.7%               | 3,646              | 4,637              | -21.4%               | 4,311                  | 5,645                  | -23.6% |
| Brazil  | 104              | 452             | -77.0%               | 3,227              | 2,374              | 35.9%                | 3,421                  | 2,775                  | 23.3%  |
| South Korea   | 167              | 333             | -50.0%               | 2,228              | 2,445              | -8.9%                | 2,600                  | 2,909                  | -10.6% |
| Japan   | 134              | 67              | 101.8%               | 1,024              | 1,038              | -1.3%                | 1,247                  | 1,266                  | -1.5%  |
| Germany   | 125              | 47              | 164.4%               | 885                | 927                | -4.5%                | 1,084                  | 1,084                  | 0.0%   |
| Taiwan  | 33               | 38              | -13.4%               | 507                | 915                | -44.6%               | 630                    | 1,096                  | -42.5% |
| China   | 43               | 31              | 40.0%                | 529                | 571                | -7.4%                | 609                    | 685                    | -11.1% |
| Algeria   | 25               | 16              | 55.6%                | 485                | 452                | 7.4%                 | 543                    | 546                    | -0.5   |
| Vietnam   | 46               | 30              | 51.3%                | 474                | 871                | -45.6%               | 539                    | 1,213                  | -55.5% |
| Netherlands   | 60               | 31              | 89.9%                | 421                | 485                | -13.3%               | 530                    | 614                    | -13.7  |
| Italy   | 34               | 10              | 232.3%               | 402                | 346                | 16.3%                | 508                    | 378                    | 34.3%  |
| Romania   | 43               | 3               | 1291.0%              | 315                | 390                | -19.1%               | 409                    | 467                    | -12.5% |
| India   | 31               | 19              | 60.6%                | 305                | 592                | -48.4%               | 398                    | 702                    | -43.3% |
| Australia   | 37               | 2               | 1536.4%              | 305                | 226                | 35.3%                | 379                    | 250                    | 51.1%  |
| All Other   | 437              | 216             | 102.4%               | 3,463              | 4,556              | -24.0%               | 4,175                  | 5,895                  | -29.2% |
| Total   | 2,182            | 2,189           | -0.3%                | 24,028             | 26,634             | -9.8%                | 28,243                 | 32,420                 | -12.9% |
| memo EU-27  | 447              | 164             | 172.8%               | 3,429              | 3,581              | -4.2%                | 4,258                  | 4,257                  | 0.0%   |



# METALS

## Finished import market share estimated at 19 percent

Based on the Commerce Department's most recent Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that steel import permit applications for the month of October totaled 2,123,000 net tons (NT). This was an 8.5 percent decrease from the 2,319,000 permit tons recorded in September and a 3.0 percent decrease from the September final imports total of 2,189,000. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in October was 1,757,000, up 11.2 percent from the final imports total of 1,580,000 in September. For the first ten months of 2023 (including October SIMA permits and September final imports), total and finished steel imports were 23,969,000 NT and 18,485,000 NT, down 10.0 percent and 14.6 percent, respectively, from the same period in 2022. The estimated finished steel import market share in October was 19 percent and is 22 percent year-to-date (YTD).

Steel imports with large increases in October permits vs. September final imports include standard rail (up 11,752 percent), tin plate (up 92 percent), wire rods (up 70 percent), oil country goods (up 49 percent) and hot rolled bars (up 41 percent). Products with significant year-to-date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2022 include standard rails (up 49 percent) and cut length plates (up 22 percent).

In October, the largest steel import permit applications were for Canada (528,000 NT, down 2 percent from September final), Mexico (304,000 NT, down 15 percent), Brazil (169,000 NT, down 63 percent), South Korea (146,000 NT, down 56 percent) and Japan (134,000 NT, up 101 percent). Through the first ten months of 2023, the largest suppliers were Canada (5,783,000 NT, down 1 percent), Mexico (3,642,000 NT, down 22 percent) and Brazil (3,292,000 NT, up 39 percent).

## Nucor to build new mill stand in Alabama

Nucor Corporation's board of directors approved \$280 million to modernize its steel plate mill in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The investment will enable Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa to strengthen its ability to serve key market segments that are part of the overall Plate Mill Group strategy.

Comprised of three production facilities located in Hertford County, North Carolina, Brandenburg, Kentucky and

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Nucor's Plate Mill Group has an annual capacity of approximately 3 million tons of cut-to-length and discrete plate. Nucor produces plate for military applications and for manufacturers of barges, bridges, heavy equipment, rail cars, refinery tanks, ships, wind towers and other items that are primarily used in the pipe and tube, pressure vessel, transportation and construction industries.



| Commodity               |               | Zone 1   | Zone 2   | Zone 3   | Zone 4   | Zone 5   |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>FERROUS</b>          |               |          |          |          |          |          |
| #1 Bushelings           | per gross ton | \$405.00 | \$401.00 | \$425.00 | \$428.00 | \$430.00 |
| #1 Bundles              | per gross ton | 398.00   | 389.00   | 420.00   | 418.00   | 420.00   |
| Structural              | per gross ton | 370.00   | 374.00   | 375.00   | 379.00   | 383.00   |
| #1 & #1 Mixed Steel     | per gross ton | 318.00   | 329.00   | 325.00   | 365.00   | 380.00   |
| Crushed Auto Bodies     | per gross ton | 213.00   | 214.00   | 219.00   | 220.00   | 260.00   |
| Shredded Auto Scrap     | per gross ton | 394.00   | 395.00   | 398.00   | 400.00   | 409.00   |
| <b>NON FERROUS</b>      |               |          |          |          |          |          |
| #1 Copper Bare Bright   | per pound     | 3.48     | 3.49     | 3.45     | 3.59     | 3.75     |
| #2 Copper Wire & Tubing | per pound     | 3.25     | 3.28     | 3.25     | 3.39     | 3.55     |
| Aluminum Cans           | per pound     | .70      | .71      | .69      | .70      | .70      |
| Al/Cu Radiators         | per pound     | 1.71     | 1.73     | 1.74     | 1.75     | 1.81     |
| Aluminum Radiators      | per pound     | .50      | .53      | .54      | .54      | .58      |
| Heater Cores            | per pound     | 1.47     | 1.50     | 1.47     | 1.48     | 1.50     |
| Stainless Steel         | per pound     | .58      | .56      | .57      | .59      | .60      |

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

DISCLAIMER: American Recycler (AR) collects pricing and other information from experienced buyers, sellers and facilitators of scrap metal transactions throughout the industry. All figures are believed to be reliable and represent approximate pricing based on information obtained by AR (if applicable) prior to publication. Factors such as grades, quality, volumes and other considerations will invariably affect actual transaction prices. Figures shown may not be consistent with pricing for commodities associated with a futures market. While the objective is to provide credible information, there is always a chance for human error or unforeseen circumstances leading to error or omission. As such, AR is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information provided, or for outcomes arising from use of this information. American Recycler disclaims any liability to any person or entity for loss or damage resulting from errors or omissions, including those resulting from negligence of AR, its employees, agents or other representatives.

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## WASTE

# Two renewable natural gas facilities operating in Upper Piedmont, Foothills landfills



EVENSOL LLC, a renewable energy project developer focusing on biogas and methane mitigation, has developed two renewable natural gas (RNG) facilities in North Carolina that are now operational. The Foothills Renewables Project in Caldwell County, North Carolina, and the Upper Piedmont Renewables Project in Person County, North Carolina, convert landfill gas from Republic Services' landfills into RNG. They make a meaningful positive environmental impact, taking a natural byproduct of waste and converting it into renewable fuel.

EVENSOL, based in Sisters, Oregon, and its partners invested in excess of \$110 million in the combined projects. Charlotte, North Carolina-based Duke Energy is an equity investor in the two projects. Funding also included nearly \$73 million in loans guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and arranged by Greater Commercial Lending.

Both projects include the development, design, permitting, construction, commissioning and operations of a state-of-the-art RNG facility. Energy-neering Solutions, LLC (ESI) designed, constructed and will operate the facilities. Primary project components include equipment from Air Liquide, Guild Associates, Perennial Energy, and Vilter Manufacturing.

"ESI enjoyed leveraging its many years of experience dedicated exclusively to the biogas industry to design and build these facilities. The real win for ESI and all the stakeholders involved is that ESI will also operate the facilities, relying on the intimate knowledge we have developed through their design and construction," said Benny Benson, president of ESI.

The RNG from the facilities will provide clean transportation fuel to commercial fleet vehicles. Each project will initially produce up to 500,000 dekatherms of RNG each year. The combined 1 million Dth is equivalent to the average annual natural gas use of nearly 17,000 residential customers in North Carolina.

As a leader in the environmental services industry, Republic Services is committed to decarbonizing operations and providing low-carbon solutions to customers. These landfill RNG projects directly support Republic's long-term sustainability goal to beneficially reuse 50 percent more biogas by 2030.

## Veolia North America breaks ground on solar array at waste treatment facility

Veolia North America, a provider of environmental solutions in the U.S. and Canada, has partnered with Today's Power, Inc. to install a five megawatt (MW) single-axis tracking solar energy system at its hazardous waste treatment facility in Gum Springs, Arkansas. The solar array is expected to produce over 250 million kilowatt hours over the next quarter century, making the Gum Springs plant the only one of its kind in the U.S. to capture and generate as much power as it uses on an annual basis.

The solar facility will be operational by the fourth quarter of 2024. The electricity from the solar panels will be used to meet the facility's daily demands, with any excess going to feed the region's main grid, leading to net zero electricity consumption.

The project will make significant contributions to decarbonization, producing over 250 million kilowatt hours of electricity – equivalent to the annual consumption of 25,000 homes – and offset carbon output by 105,000 tons over the next 25 years. Along with the solar installation, Veolia is taking several other initiatives to reduce its impact on

the environment at Gum Springs, including a plan to reforest nearly 1,500 acres surrounding the property to sequester carbon emissions, provide protection for local habitat and prevent erosion.

"This investment to bring clean, renewable power to our Gum Springs operation is a reflection of Veolia North America's commitment to environmental sustainability and leading the ecological transformation," said Bob Cappadona, president and chief executive officer of VNA's Environmental Solutions and Services division, which oversees the Gum Springs project.

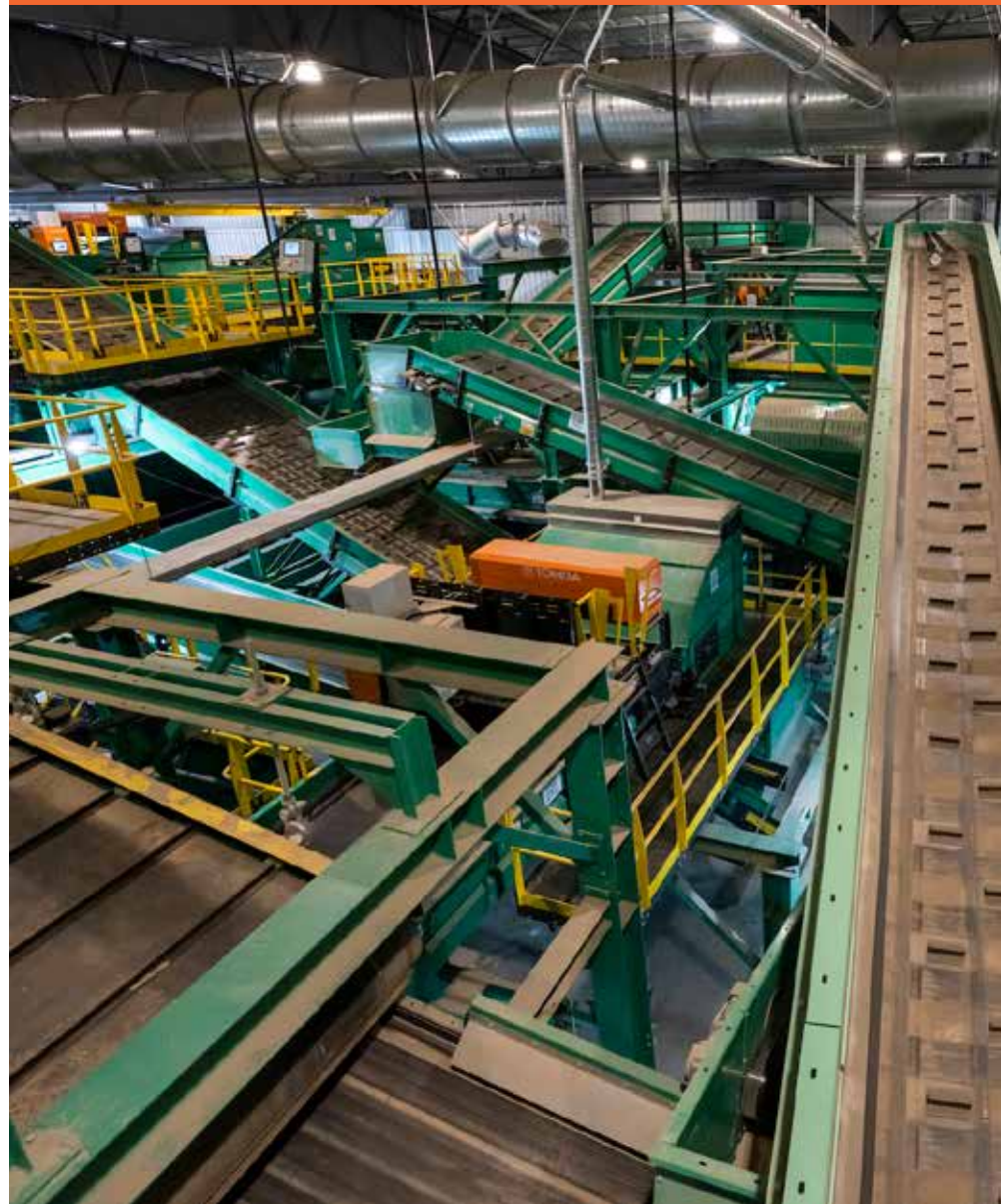
Veolia currently employs 136 people at the Gum Springs facility, an increase from 61 employees when the company began operating in Clark County in 2020. The company expects to employ over 200 people at Gum Springs by 2025.

To make room for the new solar panels, Veolia recently cleared a 30-acre lot across the street from the facility. The cleared timber, amounting to over 4,300 tons of mixed hardwood and pine timber, was harvested for building materials which sequester carbon.

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# RUBBER

## USTMA predicts lower 2023 tire shipments

The U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA) projects total U.S. tire shipments of 327.7 million units in 2023, compared to 332.0 million units in 2022 and 332.7 million units in 2019.

Compared with 2022, Original Equipment (OE) shipments for passenger, light truck and truck tires are expected to change by 7.9 percent, -4.0 percent, and

-1.3 percent respectively, with a total increase of 3.0 million units. Replacement passenger, light truck and truck tire shipments are also projected to change by 0.2 percent, -5.6 percent, and -21.3 percent respectively, with a total decrease of 7.3 million units.

*Note: All shipments in millions. Figures are rounded.*

|                           | 2023% Forecast | 2022         | % vs2022     | Units vs2022 | 2019         | % vs 2019    | Units vs 2019 |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Original Equipment</b> |                |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| Passenger                 | 44.9           | 41.6         | 7.9%         | 3.3          | 46.3         | -2.9%        | -1.3          |
| Light Truck               | 6.0            | 6.3          | -4.0%        | -0.2         | 5.9          | 2.6%         | 0.2           |
| Truck                     | 6.4            | 6.5          | -1.3%        | -0.1         | 6.5          | -1.8%        | -0.1          |
| <b>Replacement</b>        |                |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| Passenger                 | 214.2          | 213.7        | 0.2%         | 0.5          | 222.6        | -3.8%        | -8.4          |
| Light Truck               | 35.2           | 37.2         | -5.6%        | -2.1         | 32.5         | 8.1%         | 2.6           |
| Truck                     | 21.0           | 26.6         | -21.3%       | -5.7         | 18.9         | 10.7%        | 2.0           |
| <b>Total Shipments</b>    | <b>327.7</b>   | <b>332.0</b> | <b>-1.3%</b> | <b>-4.3</b>  | <b>332.7</b> | <b>-1.5%</b> | <b>-5.0</b>   |

## Tire Program grant awarded to University of Tennessee-Knoxville

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced a grant of \$350,197 for the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK) from the state's Tire Environmental Act Program.

UTK will provide matching funds of \$512,793 and use the grant toward a research and development project that will develop multiple sustainable technologies for the application of tire rubber in road construction. The project costs \$862,990 and has the potential to create a vast market for waste tires unrivaled in size by any other use of scrap rubber.

"We are seeing great advances in repurposing tires for environmental benefits, and this grant for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is a great example," said TDEC Deputy Commissioner Greg Young. "Programs like this not only help clean up sites of used tires, they involve innovative new uses for them. We congratulate UT-Knoxville on this project."

UTK is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to

install a series of pavement test sections using the technologies developed from this project. Benefits of including rubber in asphalt pavement mixes include improved skid resistance, cracking resistance, and noise reduction.

The purpose of the Tire Environmental Act Program is to select and fund projects that best result in beneficial uses for waste tires. Projects must qualify for one of three categories: tire processing/recycling, tire-derived material use, or research and development. The program provides grant funding to eligible entities, including local governments, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, K-12 schools, and for-profit businesses.

Tennessee established the Tire Environmental Fund in 2015. Upon the first retail sale of a new motor vehicle to be titled and registered in Tennessee, a flat fee based on the number of a vehicle's wheels is assessed. The fee goes into the fund, which is used for projects creating or supporting beneficial end uses for waste tires.

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## PLASTICS

# APR joins the Canada Plastics Pact

The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) has joined the Canada Plastics Pact (CPP), which aims to eliminate plastic waste and pollution by bringing together businesses, government, non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders in the Canadian plastics value chain. APR and CPP share the common goal of creating a circular plastics economy, where plastic is kept in the economy and out of people, animals, and the environment.

The APR has long recognized that significant, system-wide change is imperative to realize a circular economy for plastics. Through fostering innovation and collaboration, APR joins CPP's 98+ Partners from across the plastics value chain taking meaningful steps to eliminate unnecessary and problematic plastics, redesign packaging and bolstering their usage of recycled plastic.

"The Canada Plastics Pact is helping to shape important discussions on the management of post-consumer plastics and convening leaders across the value-chain committed to solutions," said Steve Alexander, APR president & chief executive officer. "APR's tools and resources are endorsed and aligned internationally.

This partnership is part of larger harmonization efforts across the globe including APR's work to align North America's design for recyclability guidance with Europe's RecyClass. By working together, we will help achieve an effective and robust plastics recycling system in Canada and beyond."

The Canada Plastics Pact is a member of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Plastics Pact Network, a globally aligned response to plastic waste and pollution that enables vital knowledge sharing and coordinated action. Although the CPP is complementary to, and follows the ambitious precedents set by the existing global network of Plastics Pacts, it is tailored to meet the unique needs and challenges of the Canadian market. The Pact reflects Canadian priorities and realities, while still propelling closer to other developed nations in its management of plastic waste.

As a CPP Partner, the APR has agreed to provide its industry perspective and technical expertise to support the CPP in achieving its goals. The APR is also a founding Activator and Advisory Council member of the U.S. Plastics Pact.

# Republic Services opens Polymer Center in Las Vegas promoting plastics circularity

Republic Services, Inc. marked the opening of its Polymer Center in Las Vegas, the first-of-its-kind facility in North America, enabling greater circularity for plastics and helping meet growing demand for recycled material. The Polymer Center expects to produce more than 100 million pounds of recycled plastics each year for use in sustainable packaging and other applications.

"The Republic Services Polymer Center will supply high-quality, domestically sourced recycled plastic to advance a critical need for more sustainable packaging," said Jon Vander Ark, president and chief executive officer. "As a leader in the environmental services industry, it's our responsibility to challenge every truckload of material we collect. The Polymer Center is another example of our commitment to developing solutions that promote greater circularity and help customers achieve their sustainability goals."

The Polymer Center will process plastic bottles, jugs and containers collected from homes and businesses to produce recycled PET (rPET) flake and color-sorted HDPE and polypropylene ready for use in new sustainable packaging. Until now, the fate of a recycled plastic

bottle in the U.S. wasn't a new plastic bottle; instead, it was generally downcycled into fiber for use in carpet or clothing – material that has few options for further recycling. The Polymer Center expects to significantly extend the lifecycle of plastic packaging and help turn plastic bottles into new bottles six to seven times, enabling true circularity.

As brands commit to using more recycled content in their packaging and more states mandate the use of recycled plastic, supply is struggling to meet the growing demand. By 2030, demand for rPET in the U.S. is expected to total 5 billion pounds, while the supply – based on current processes – will only reach about 2.5 billion pounds. The Polymer Center can help companies fill this urgent gap now.

The Coca-Cola Company, one of the first customers of the Las Vegas Polymer Center, has committed to use at least 50 percent recycled material in its packaging by 2030. The Polymer Center is scheduled to supply rPET to Coca-Cola, beginning in January 2024.

Plans for a nationwide network of Polymer Centers are underway, with the second facility expected to open in Indianapolis in late 2024.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Casella Waste hires Brad Helgeson as new chief financial officer

■ Casella Waste Systems, Inc., a regional solid waste, recycling and resource management services company, has added a new member to its senior leadership team. President & chief financial officer, Edmond “Ned” R. Coletta, retained his role as president while Bradford J. Helgeson has been hired to serve as the new executive vice president & chief financial officer.

Helgeson previously served as the executive vice president & chief financial officer of Covanta Holding Corporation from 2013 until 2022. In that role, Helgeson oversaw capital decisions to support growth investments while managing the balance sheet to preserve liquidity and financial flexibility; improved budgeting and long-term planning processes for greater efficiency and to strengthen support across business lines; supported multiple strategic endeavors focused on growth and profitability; and led financial communication efforts to key external and internal stakeholders, among other responsibilities. Previously, he was the vice president & treasurer at Covanta from 2007 to 2013. Helgeson started in the environmental services industry as the vice president at Waste Services, Inc. from 2004 to 2007 after an investment banking career at Lehman Brothers and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette from 1998 to 2004.

### Can Manufacturers Institute promotes Scott Breen

■ The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) has promoted Scott Breen to senior vice president, effective January 2, 2024. Breen, a strong sustainability thought leader and communicator, leads the association’s sustainability and recycling efforts. Upon his promotion, Breen will lead the industry’s sustainability policy, infrastructure and communications efforts as senior vice president.

Breen started with CMI in July 2019 and has elevated the association’s vision for the metal can to be recognized as the superior sustainable package. A sought-after speaker and coalition builder in the sustainability space, Breen has facilitated several initiatives to advance the metal can industry’s sustainability performance. The aluminum can is already the most recycled beverage package in the world with the highest average recycled content. The industry is investing in Breen to improve those key performance indicators for the U.S. market.

Prior to joining CMI, Breen was the associate manager of the sustainability and circular economy program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. He is also the creator and co-host of the Sustainability Defined podcast. Breen began his career as an attorney-advisor at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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