



RecycleYourPlastics.org helps collection and recycling efforts

Organizations dedicated to increasing plastics recycling have teamed up to create www.RecycleYourPlastics.org, a site that aggregates recycling information. The site is designed to help enable expanded collection and recycling of plastics across the United States.

RecycleYourPlastics.org is intended for community recycling coordinators, solid waste officials and others tasked with helping communities collect and recycle plastics. The site organizes resources on plastics recycling into searchable categories such as consumer education programs, sortation technologies, containers, bags and film and more. RecycleYourPlastics.org gathers information on plastic bottles, rigid containers, film, foodservice and other plastics. It includes user-friendly tips and tools, best practices, ready access to experts and peers in the recycling world and more.

The site offers numerous ways for recycling professionals to connect with others, including Twitter, LinkedIn, news feeds, "ask an expert" and more.

Global demand for plastics processing machinery on the rise

Global demand for plastics processing machinery is projected to rise 6.0 percent annually through 2015 to US\$28.9 billion, according to *World Plastics Processing Machinery*, a study from The Freedonia Group, Inc. Growth will be driven by plastic product manufacturing and a favorable fixed investment environment.

Gains in developing nations will be the driving force. China is predicted to account for more than 40 percent of additional global demand through 2015, with growth stimulated by increases in plastic manufacturing as industrialization continues and incomes rise. Other nations in Asia, such as India, Vietnam and Thailand, will have healthy market gains. In developed countries, demand will rebound, although sales will not be as strong as in developing nations.

Extrusion equipment will post the strongest gains, benefiting from growth in global construction spending. Injection molding equipment will remain the largest segment, accounting for 40 percent of demand in 2015.

The construction market will post the strongest gains through 2015. Consumer/institutional products will also post solid gains, reflecting rising standards of living. The packaging market will post gains due to rising manufacturing output and consumer demand for packaged products. Plastic will continue to gain market share from other materials in applications such as bottles.

World Plastics Processing Machinery is available from The Freedonia Group, Inc., 767 Beta Drive, Cleveland, OH 44143-2326, www.freedoniagroup.com.

SPI to defend plastic bags

SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association and the American Chemistry Council (ACC) are evolving the way the industry defends plastic bags and promotes recycling of all plastic film — including plastic bags, product wraps and commercial packaging such as shrink wrap.

The Progressive Bag Affiliates (PBA), which includes America's largest manufacturers of plastic bags, will transition from ACC to SPI, so the PBA can leverage SPI's national grassroots network. After the transition, the group will be named the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA).

At the same time, ACC will introduce a Flexible Film Recycling Group comprised of resin suppliers, converters, brand owners and other value chain partners who use and/or recover flexible film packaging. Through SPI, the PBA will continue to support expanded recycling efforts for plastic film as a member of ACC's Flexible Film Recycling Group.

Together, these changes are expected to result in additional resources that will benefit this sector of our industry.

"We are excited to welcome PBA into the SPI family," said William R. Cardeaux, president and CEO of SPI. "This sector of our industry continues to face extraordinary challenges, predominantly at the local level — exactly where the SPI grassroots network can make an impact. By aligning our approaches, SPI and ACC can better marshal and utilize our collective resources to defend this important sector and promote film recycling."

"Thanks in part to ACC's and PBA's efforts to date and the growing number of at-store collection points for plastic film — now numbering over 12,000 — opportunities to grow plastics film recycling have never been better," said Steve Russell, vice president of plastics for the American Chemistry Council. "ACC's new Flexible Film Recycling Group will focus on raising recycling rates for plastic film by overcoming barriers and strengthening partnerships throughout the value chain."

Bioplastics industry is booming

Ceresana Research predicts that the global bioplastics market will reach revenues of more than US\$2.8 billion in 2018, an average annual growth rate of 17.8 percent. With a roughly 48 percent share of global demand, Europe was the largest outlet for bioplastics in 2010, followed by North America and Asia-Pacific. Over the next eight years, Ceresana forecasts two regions will influence the bioplastics market: Asia-Pacific, because of dynamic growth in consumption and production, and South America, mainly due to increases in production in Brazil.

Polylactic acid (PLA) demand in North America is projected to rise by 12 percent per year by 2018 and almost 17 percent per year in Asia-Pacific.

In 2010, most demand was accounted for by starch-based plastics, followed by PLA. Other bio-based plastics (PHA/PHB, cellulose, PBS) as well as fossil-based biodegradable plastics accounted for just less than 17 percent of global demand. Biodegradable plastics dominate the bioplastics market with a roughly 92 percent share. Non-biodegradable plastics based on renewable resources are forecasted to increase market share from 8 percent in 2010 to more than 47 percent in 2018.

Technical progress in production and growth in capacities will allow manufacturers to lower prices and increase the competitiveness of bioplastics against conventional plastics. New products provide additional growth potential.

Most important buyers worldwide include manufacturers of bags and sacks. Loose-fill ranks second, closely followed by packaging and films. The automotive and electronic industries as well as other applications (e.g., catering products, hygiene articles, textiles, sports and leisure products) account for just less than one fifth of global demand.

Although bags and sacks as well as loose-fill are expected to grow, packaging and films as well as automotive and electronics will see the biggest gain. Due to an extended range of biodegradable products, these sectors are predicted to record annual increases of more than 30 percent.

www.ceresana.com/en/market-studies/plastics/bioplastics