

PLASTICS

Trex enters commercial plastics market

Even companies that use recycled materials have materials to recycle at the end of the day. Trex Company, a manufacturer of high-performance, wood-alternative decking and railing, has found a viable way to close the recycling loop by using its excess raw material to produce linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) pellets. Ideal for use in a variety of manufacturing applications, these pellets represent an entirely new business for the Winchester, Virginia based company.

Leveraging its recycling and extrusion capabilities – and using equipment downtime to experiment with and test different solutions – the Trex engineering team ultimately delivered a linear low density polyethylene plastic pellet ideal for use in a variety of products and industries.

Dave Heglas, a chemical engineer with a background in rocket science and missile design, joined Trex in 1996 as an engineer responsible for the raw materials and plastic processing side of the business. After a few years working with recycled materials, he saw opportunities and potential value in using and repurposing recycled plastic. In 2004, Heglas formalized the company's recycling operations, an initiative which has evolved into a com-

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION

Clifton uses concrete crusher to help city save money

The Clifton, New Jersey Department of Public Works (DPW) utilized a crusher to break apart a stockpile of concrete pipes, catch basins and blacktop that had accumulated on the public works property over the past three years.

The debris was pulverized into a fine grained reusable fill. Dennis Markovich, a Clifton public works supervisor said it would have cost about \$18,000 to truck away the 700 tons of debris to an asphalt plant. Instead the city contracted with a Lynhurst company, DAG, for about \$8,000 to pulverize the material. Clifton plans to use the material as a temporary fix for potholes or foundation for new sewer pipes and roads. When factoring in the costs from not having to buy fill material for future products an additional \$25,000 was saved, commented Markovich.

Al Dubois, Clifton public works supervisor, suggested Passaic County officials should coordinate a similar operation for smaller towns that don't build up as much construction debris as Clifton does. Then smaller towns could pitch in for the cost of the contractor and take the fill material as needed.



Hotel installs solar powered compactor and baler

A combination solar powered trash compactor and portable cardboard baler was installed at the LEED Platinum Certified Bardessono Hotel and Spa in the Napa Valley. Completely off the grid, the solar powered compactor packs 16 yards of loose trash into 4 yards, reducing waste pickup to just once per week, slashing hauling costs by 50 percent, reducing CO2 emissions by over 14 tons annually, and limiting garbage truck noise to guests and neighboring residents. The solar cardboard baler fits into a small space, yet crushes 150 to 200 boxes into an easy-to-handle 200 lb. bale making recycling simple and efficient.

Bay Area Trash Compactor's solar combination is the first of its kind to provide waste handling and recycling side-by-side with no wired electrical hook-up.

Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't.

—Pete Seeger