



NERC-NEWMOA REGIONAL RECYCLING MARKETS COMMITTEE

North American Recycled Plastic Processing Capacity Increases

Published January 17, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The following is a list of increases in North American capacity to process recyclable plastics into products such as plastic lumber, pellets or resins for end-markets. These increases were announced or completed in 2017 or later.

The list covers facilities that have been publicly identified in either the trade or local press. Details of these new plastic processing facilities tend to have less information than similar announcements of expanded recycled end-market capacity in the paper industry. For instance, announcements of projected opening dates have not, in many cases, been accompanied by press releases or news stories confirming the opening. In addition, few of the facilities are taking mixed plastics. Instead, they are relying on MRFs or other processors to do the initial resin sorting.

Each facility listing includes:

- Name and whether new or expanded facility
- location
- projected processing capacity (input) and/or production capacity (output) in tons per year (TPY) ¹
- product
- projected opening date

This list will be updated as new capacity is announced or new information received. If you have information about capacity expansions not listed here or corrections to the information on this list, please contact Chaz Miller, Chair, NERC-NEWMOA Regional Recycling Markets Committee, chazmiller9@gmail.com, 301-346-6507.

List of acronyms

ABS = acrylonitrile butadiene styrene

EPS = expanded polystyrene

HDPE = high density polyethylene

LDPE = low density polyethylene

LLDPE = linear low-density polyethylene

PC = polycarbonate

PET = polyethylene terephthalate

PP = polypropylene

PVC = poly vinyl chloride

RPET = recycled PET

TPM = tons per month

TPY = tons per year

¹ Some facilities reported in metric tonnes per year. For the sake of consistency, those numbers have been converted to tons per year (TPY).

FACILITIES

Avangard - New

Houston, Texas

Process: 50,000 TPY LDPE film from commercial generators

Product: pellets

First quarter 2020

Avangard - New

Mexico

Process: 50,000 TPY LDPE film from commercial generators

Product: pellets

Second quarter 2020

Avangard - New

Nevada

Process: 50,000 TPY LDPE film from commercial generators

Product: pellets

Fourth quarter 2020

Azek - New

Wilmington, Ohio

Process: 50,000 TPY of HDPE, LDPE

Product: plastic lumber

April 2019

CarbonLite - New

Muhlenberg, Pennsylvania

Process: 75,000 TPY PET

Product: food grade PET bottle

First quarter 2020

Ecomelida - New

Orangeburg County, South Carolina

Process: plastic film, food and beverage cartons including aseptic packages

Product: pellets and paper pulp for export to China

Fourth quarter 2020 plastic pellets, First quarter 2022, paper pulp

EFS-Plastics - Expansion

Hazleton, Pennsylvania

Process: plastic film, increased capacity by 40 percent

Product: pellets

2019

EFS-Plastics - Expansion

Listowel, Ontario

Process: mixed rigids and film - increased capacity by 50 percent

Product: pellets

Summer 2019

NOTE: The two EFS-Plastics facilities took in a total of 30,000 tons in 2019

FDS Manufacturing - Expansion

Pomona, California

Process: 2,000 TPY PP & PE

Product: pellets

2020

GDB International - Expansion

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Process: LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE

Product: pellets

First quarter 2019

Green Tech Solutions - New

Blacksburg, South Carolina

Process: 50,000 TPY post-industrial PET, HDPE, PP, and ABS

Product: Pellets for export

Second quarter 2019

Indorama/Loop Partnership - New

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Process: depolymerize 22,500 TPY PE bottles

Product: RPET

Second quarter 2020

MCM Plastic - Expansion

Holden, Louisiana

Process: post-industrial PVC production residue

Product: resin

2020

Merlin Plastics - Expansion

Delta, British Columbia

Process: additional 15,000 TPY of LDPE, PP, PS

Product: resin, pellets

2019

Netafim - Expansion

Fresno, California

Process: tonnage not specified, HDPE irrigation tubing

Product: irrigation tubing

2020

Peninsula Plastics (subsidiary of Merlin Plastics) - Expansion

Turlock, California

Process: additional 20,000 TPY of 1-7 bales

Product: PET food grade pellets and non-food-grade PE and PP flakes

Date not specified

Polywood - New

Roxboro, North Carolina

Process: 15,000 – 20,000 TPY post-consumer HDPE and mixed plastic bales

Product: plastic furniture and lumber

Full capacity First quarter 2022

PreZero Polymers/ACI Plastics - New

Riverside, California

Process: 12,500 TPY of LDPE, LLDPE film from store drop-off, post-commercial sources, etc.

Product: pellets

First quarter 2020

PreZero Polymers/ACI Plastics - Expansion

Westminster, South Carolina

Process: 25,000 TPY of bales of 2-7 and 3-7 MRF processed plastic

Product: pellets of PE and PP

Second quarter 2020

PureCycle Technologies - New

Ironton, Ohio

Process: 59,500 TPY of PP

Product: pellets

2021

Roplast Industries - Expansion

Oroville, California

Process: 2,500 TPY LDPE

Product: film for grocery bags

2020

Roy Tech Environ - New

Grant, Alabama

Process: 22,050 TPY of engineering plastics, including nylon, PC and PC/ABS

Product: pellets for export

Summer 2018

rPlanet Earth - New

Vernon, California

Process: 45,000 TPY PET

Product: 40,000 TPY of RPET bottle preforms, sheet & thermoform packaging

Opened October, 2018, Double capacity in 2020

Sirmax - New

Anderson, Indiana

Process: polypropylene and polyethylene scrap

Product: thermoplastic compounds for a variety of products

Fourth quarter 2022

UPT - New

Montezuma, Georgia

Process: 24,000 TPY of LDPE, HDPE, PC and agricultural plastic from post-industrial and post-consumer sources

Product: pellets

First quarter 2019

Sources: *More Recycling, Plastic Recycling Update, Recycling Today, Resource Recycling, The Recycling Partnership, Waste 360, Waste Dive, company press releases, and local newspaper articles. In addition, the Indiana Recycling Coalition and the Georgia Recycling Coalition.*