Glass Recycling in New England

NERC Conference

Dave Hudson

11.06.2014
Outline

• Who We Are
• What We Do
• Glass Recycling in New England
• Improving Glass Recycling in New England
Who We Are

• Largest glass recycler in the world

• A top ten plastics processor

• Established in 1896, SMI has experienced over a century of market changes and has been proven and tested with each passing decade
SMI Glass

- The premier North American supplier of recycled glass cullet and specialty powders
- Operates over 40 glass recycling plants across North America
- Recycling over 3.0 million tons of glass each year
  - Largest cullet supplier to the container, fiberglass and specialty markets
- Provide both pre-consumer and post-consumer glass cullet and specialty powders for all types of industry
- Owner and operator of American Specialty glass, producer of specialty glass for:
  - landscapes, terrazzo, swimming pools, fire pits, aquariums, and more
What We Do – Products Using Recycled Glass
Sourcing of glass

• Container Deposit

• Plate Glass

• Curbside Collection
  (Single-Stream Recycling)
Importance of Glass Quality

A Tale of Two Piles…

3-Mix Glass

Deposit-Grade Bottles
Recycled 3-Mix Cullet

Before

After
SMI’s Glass Recycling Operations in New England

- SMI operates three facilities that recycle glass originating in New England
  - Franklin, MA – Container Deposit Glass, Single-Stream Glass
  - Johnston, RI – Single-Stream Glass
  - Guelph, ON – Container Deposit Glass, Single-Stream Glass, Plate
SMI in Rhode Island

- To be built on property owned by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Association
- Will enable increased single-stream processing capability in New England
- Initially a Pre-processing line with more operations to follow
- A production line built for cleaning up glass prior to going through the optical sorting process focused on the removal of:
  - Paper
  - Plastics
  - Ferrous Metal
  - Non-Ferrous Metal
  - Organics
State of the Glass Industry

• Container
  – Lower demand year-over-year
    • Liquor remains strong, Wine is flat, Beer is down
  – Salem, NJ glass plant closure

• Fiberglass
  – Tied very closely with new housing starts
    • Currently below forecasted expectations

• Specialty
  – Leveling off of the counter/flooring business
  – Abrasives remain a huge opportunity, especially in the NE
State of the Glass Industry Cont’d

• Industry Set Goals Remain High
  – Glass – 50%, Plastic – 50%, Aluminum – 75%

• Consumers Demand Sustainable Packaging

• Using Recyclables:
  – Drives Manufacturing
  – Saves Energy
  – Creates Jobs
  – Reduces reliance on foreign-sourced materials & energy
  – Prolongs equipment life
  – Reduces emissions
Improving Supply in the NE

• Continued education around the benefits of recycling
  – Schools
  – Public Space / Awareness Campaigns

• Policy solutions to increase recycling
  – Container Deposit / Extended Producer Responsibility
  – Landfill/Disposal Bans
  – Expansion of Single-Stream Programs
    • Commercial, Multi-Family Growth
  – PAYT Systems
  – Public Space/Event Recycling
THANK YOU
David Hudson

dhudson@strategicmaterials.com
713.443.3519