

Recycling Markets

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Butler-MacDonald Expands Plastic Processing Facility

by Anna S. Dutko

Butler-MacDonald, an industrial scrap plastics processor based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is a company that is committed to growth. The company recently completed a \$1 million expansion of its industrial plastics recycling, separation, recovery and contamination facility. The new facility has the capacity to process more than 30,000 pounds of plastic annually.

"The recent investments are part of Butler-MacDonald's plan to capture additional market share, explore new avenues for our services and really grow the business. By expanding our facility, increasing production capacity and adding key personnel, we will solidify the company's reputation as one of the world's top plastics processors," said company President Scott Johnson.

The new 80,000-square-foot plant will allow the company to handle a greater variety of polymers and address the recycling needs of many pre- and post-consumer markets: packaging, PVC products (windows, siding and piping), resin-based manufacturing

components (molds), plastic automotive parts (bumpers, interiors), computer/electrical components and music/entertainment (DVDs and CDs).

Retrieving Plastic From Products

Butler-MacDonald works with recyclers as well as manufacturers (OEMs) to recover valuable polymers from pre- and post-consumer plastics so they can be reused in the manufacturing process to make new products.

The Indianapolis facility can sort and process many plastic-based products, including old toner cartridge shells, inkjet printers, computer components, and automotive parts. The company performs quality control testing on samples of plastic products before processing.

processing.

The company's proprietary equipment supports a multitude of processing techniques, including optical separation, size reduction, shredding, granulation, and density separation to recover the plastic. "During these processes, the plastics are recovered from these



Butler-MacDonald, a scrap plastics processor, recently expanded its processing, separation and contamination facility in Indianapolis. The facility has the capability to process more than 30,000 pounds of scrap plastic per year. Above, a partial view of the company's plastics separation line inside the facility.

post-consumer products and are converted into re-grind, flakes or pellets," said Johnson.



Butler-MacDonald's system for separating plastics by using inherent specific gravity.

Butler-MacDonald also offers services for removing contaminants (metal, paper and dirt) and separating commingled plastics. "We've become more of a recycler's recycler, where a large number of our clients are recyclers from across the country who enlist our services to clean and sort out their mixed plastic streams," said Johnson. He said that this particular segment of his business is up.

The Future Of Scrap Plastics

Johnson is bullish on the future of the scrap plastic market. "Our company had a growth rate of 50 percent last year. We see that trend continuing as more and more people are looking to recycle products that they weren't able to about two years ago."

"A large part of our business is being able to look at what we have and find a recycling solution for a particular product. We got involved in recycling toner cartridges as a result of people asking us to enter into the equation," said Johnson.