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Plastics Engineers Cite Environmental Winners

Products range from pavers made of old tires to an additive that breaks down PVC

Doug Smock, Contributing Editor, Materials and Fastening -- [Design News](#), February 12, 2010

A unique new additive that causes polyvinyl chloride to break down in landfills is one of 10 products that will receive a 2010 Environmental Stewardship Award from The Plastics Environmental Div. of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) at the [Global Plastics Environmental Conference](#) March 8-10 in Orlando, FL.

BIotech Products of Randolph, NJ is being recognized for development of organometallic additives that are said to render PVC and some other plastics biodegradable in biologically active landfills, while retaining or improving normal service life and processing of the plastic materials.

Other winners are:

- Arkema Inc. of Philadelphia, PA for **Pebax RNew**, which is described as the first engineering thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) made from renewable resources.
- **Eco Research Institute Ltd.** of Tokyo for a new technology that pulverizes paper into powders as minute as 50 µm for use as a plastics compounding material.
- **VAST Enterprises** of Minneapolis, MN for production of composite pavers made from a proprietary blend of up to 95 percent recycled car tires and plastic containers.
- AMWAY of Ada, MI for development of the **eSpring System**, a water purifier that incorporates a sustainable design based on life-cycle assessment.
- **Associated Packaging Technologies** of Chadds Ford, PA, which is making a range of thermoformed crystalline PET (CPET) trays that are said to have smaller environmental impacts than traditional CPET products.
- **Mannington Mills** of Salem, NJ for expanding a program for recycling post-consumer carpet to include recycling vinyl composition tile.
- Mack Molding Co. of Arlington, VT and BigBelly **Solar** of Needham, MA for production of a **solar-powered compacting trash receptacle** for large scale, low-cost municipal waste collection. Mack injection molds the **solar** bubble, fabricates the back panel and door, procures more than 150 unique parts, and totally assembles the compactor and optional recycler for direct shipment to BigBelly **Solar's** customers all over the world.
- **Nicos Polymers Group** of Nazareth, PA for a proprietary process for the removal of continuous fiber reinforcement from flexible composites, making possible the cleanest recovery of the polymer substrate.
- **Delta Plastics** of the South of Little Rock, AR for having achieved a goal of reclaiming and recycling virtually 100 percent of its used manufactured LLDPE irrigation tubing.

The GPEC conference takes place at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando. The awards will be presented at a banquet on the evening of Tuesday, March 9.



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