



Plastics Division Monthly Newsletter

March 2017

The latest information on the Plastics Division's work on: [Automotive](#), [Building and Construction](#), [Energy Recovery](#), [Packaging and Marine Debris](#), [Polyurethanes](#), and [Recycling](#). Don't miss our [Upcoming Meetings](#).

Automotive

ACC Highlights Benefits of Automotive Plastics with Engineering Students

ACC collaborated on a polymers and composites engineering course at [Kettering University](#), which highlighted material benefits and capabilities. Auto Team members mentored the students and provided lectures on material properties, applications, and production techniques. The course will enable future engineers to apply plastics knowledge and their hands-on laboratory experience at automotive OEMs. Contact: [Gina Oliver](#), (248) 244-8920.

ACC Comments on Review of Vehicle Fuel Economy and Emissions Standards

ACC issued a [statement](#) following President Trump's decision to withdraw the prior administration's fuel economy and GHG regulations and restore the originally scheduled mid-term review timeline. The administration will conduct a review of the 2022-2025 standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The EPA and Department of Transportation/NHTSA have filed a formal [Notice of Intention to Reconsider the Final Determination](#). ACC will remain actively engaged with Congress, the administration and industry partners as the review process proceeds highlighting the benefits of lightweighting with plastics and composites. Contact: [Gina Oliver](#), (248) 244-8920.

Building and Construction

Movement on Plastic Pipes Legislation for Water Infrastructure in SC; More States to Follow

ACC's state advocacy continues to focus on the benefits of open competition to enable fair treatment for innovative materials such as a new generation of plastic pipes. Water infrastructure is a high priority, and legislation promoting open competition advanced out of the South Carolina House, and is being debated at the committee level in Michigan, Indiana and Arkansas. With new legislation introduced in Ohio and expected soon in North Carolina, momentum is building as state governments look to take advantage of the cost savings from competition. Contact: [David Mann](#), (202) 680-0459.

Energy Codes Transition from Offense to Defense

After another successful development cycle that continued to improve energy efficiency in the model building codes, opponents are seeking legislation to roll back code requirements. The Building &

Construction team is working with ACC's State Affairs team, third-party allies, and member companies to advocate for strong building codes that drive energy efficiency forward. This collaborative approach is proving successful as code roll-back legislation was defeated this week in Iowa, and is stalling elsewhere across the country. Contact: [David Mann](#), (202) 680-0459.

Energy Recovery

ACC Advances Energy Recovery Legislation in MD, FL, IL, MA

ACC is supporting legislation that will reduce barriers to the recovery of energy from post-use plastics. An ACC-supported bill that enables [Maryland](#) to update its recycling regulations has unanimously passed the state House of Representatives. This bill will enable the MD DOE to classify facilities converting post-use plastics to fuels and petrochemicals as recycling facilities. In [Florida](#), legislation has unanimously passed the state House and had its first Senate hearing March 28. In [Illinois](#), ACC and the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois are engaged with the IL EPA regarding potential updates to legislative language before it receives a committee hearing. A similar bill has been sponsored and filed in [Massachusetts](#). Contact: [Craig Cookson](#), (202) 249-6622.

Packaging and Marine Debris

ACC Comments on Draft "Call for Action" for UN's Oceans Conference

Plastics Division staff attended and advocated on behalf our industry at the March intergovernmental consultations on the draft "Call for Action" being developed by the United Nations in advance of its high-level "The Ocean" conference in June. As expected, the draft "Call for Action" includes anti-plastic language and calls for bans on bags and single-use plastics. Division staff is working closely with the U.S. State Department and the Global Plastics Alliance to encourage the UN to focus on supporting investments in waste management as a critical part of solutions. Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

ACC Participates in Review of NOAA's Great Lakes Marine Debris Action Plan

Plastics Division staff participated in the mid-plan review for NOAA's Great Lakes Marine Debris Action Plan. The two-day meeting provided an opportunity to review successes and lessons learned, as well as propose new solutions to address identified gaps, challenges, or barriers to action plan strategies. The meeting also provided an opportunity for dialogue with NGOs and local government agencies regarding potential partnership opportunities in the Great Lakes. In the coming month, NOAA will provide draft revisions to the group for review and approval. Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

ACC Presents on Marine Debris at Plastics Recycling Conference

Plastics Division staff presented industry's solutions to address marine debris during the 2017 Plastics Recycling Conference's closing plenary session "Sea of Challenges." The session emphasized how recycling helps reduce marine debris and noted the need for basic waste management infrastructure in rapidly developing economies, which currently represent primary sources of marine debris. Additional session participants included Ted Siegler of DSM Environmental; Brett Stevens of TerraCycle and Michael Westerfield of Dart Container. Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

Proposed Bills in CA Have Potential to Impact Plastics Foodservice and Plastics in Marine Debris

The Plastics Foodservice Packaging Group (PFPG) is working with ACC State Affairs and allies to oppose two proposed anti-plastic foodservice bills in CA. The bills would mandate extended producer responsibility for plastic foodservice ([AB 1659](#)) and pave the way for a PS foam foodservice foam ban ([SB 705](#)). PFPG and allies including the Plastics Industry, the Foodservice Packaging Institute, and

groups representing restaurants, grocers, and manufactures are working on alternative legislation to the bills or concepts for amendments as these bills go through hearings. Contact: [Mike Levy](#), (202)249-6614.

Polyurethanes

Economic Impact of Insulation Industry Highlighted at Conference and Fly-In

CPI and the Spray Foam Coalition partnered with other insulation trade associations on the first National Policy Conference for the Insulation Industry and a legislative fly-in for insulation manufacturers to meet members of Congress and their staffs on Capitol Hill. For the conference and fly-in, ACC's Economics & Statistics Department created a report that describes the nearly 400,000 jobs with a payroll of more than \$20 billion in the U.S. generated by the manufacture, distribution, and installation of insulation. CPI and allies used the report to demonstrate that insulation plays an important role in energy efficiency while providing jobs and economic benefits. Contact: [Lee Salamone](#), (202) 249-6604.

SPF Product Stewardship Efforts Highlighted at Meeting with Agencies

In March, CPI and industry representatives met with various federal agencies to discuss continued progress toward increasing the understanding of responsible practices regarding use, handling, and disposal of spray polyurethane foam. Agencies included the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission), the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the U.S. EPA. Research by industry and government is underway to support the development of ASTM standards related to indoor environments. Contact: [Heather Palfrey](#), (202) 249-6606.

Recycling

2015 Recycling Reports: U.S. Plastic Film Grows 3%; Rigids Hold Steady

Plastic film recycling grew by 34 million pounds (3%) to reach 1.2 billion pounds in 2015. Film recycling has grown for eleven consecutive years and 84% since the first film recycling report was produced in 2005. The national film recycling rate is currently 15%, according to EPA data, and due in part to the expanding number of WRAP partnerships, the outlook for continued growth remains strong. Despite challenging market conditions for commodities in general, increased competition from virgin plastics, and weakened demand in Asia, recycling of rigid plastics generally held strong, dipping slightly in 2015. The amount of rigids recycling—which nearly quadrupled since tracking began in 2007—slipped 45 million pounds (4%) to 1.24 billion pounds for the year. (See [press release](#), [film report](#), and [rigids report](#).) Contact: [Jennifer Killinger](#) (202) 249-6619.

ACC Engages State Environmental Managers in National Plastic Film Recycling Campaign

ACC hosted a webinar for program managers of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) as part of its new of Sustainable Materials Management work group. The webinar briefed ECOS members on the Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP) and opportunities to become involved as WRAP Champions. ECOS members learned about tools and best practices to use in their public outreach efforts to educate residents on what plastic films can be recycled and how to recycle them. As a lead up to Earth Day (April 22nd), ACC is working with ECOS on a WRAP social media campaign to equip them with messaging to educate their social media followers about plastic film recycling and encourage them to recycle plastic bags, wraps and other film packaging. This WRAP webinar opportunity came from ACC's partnership with the U.S. EPA. Contact: [Shari Jackson](#), (202) 249-6616.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Meeting Dates

Plastics Industry Fly-In (July 25-26)

ACC is once again a key co-sponsor of the plastic industry's joint "Fly-In" to ensure members of Congress understand how policies they enact will impact our industry and related interests in their districts. Also sponsoring the Fly-In are the Plastics Industry Association, the American Mold Builders Association, the International Association of Plastic Distribution, the Manufacturers Association of Plastic Processors, and the Plastic Pipe Institute. We expect to address energy and transportation policy, open competition for plastic pipe materials, and trade. To register, visit: <http://www.plasticsindustry.org/plastics-industry-fly>. ACC members are eligible for a discount. Please use code: ACChill.

PIPS Leadership Group Meeting	April 26	10:00-5:00	ACC HQ
PIPS Resin Work Group Meetings	April 27	8:30-4:30	ACC HQ
Packaging and Consumer Market Issues Team Meeting	May 9	9:00-3:00	ACC HQ
Flexible Film Recycling Group Meeting	May 11	9:00-2:30	ACC HQ
Building & Construction Market Issue Team Meeting	May 12	9:30-4:00	ACC HQ
Automotive Team Meeting	May 17	8:00-3:00	Troy, MI
Plastics Energy Recovery Team Meeting	May 17-18	9:00-5:00	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Plastics Division Operating Committee	June 5	12:30-3:30	Colorado Springs, CO
Foam Sheathing Committee Operating Committee Meeting	June 12	11:00-4:00	ACC HQ
Energy Efficient Foam Coalition Steering Committee Meeting	June 21	8:30-11:00	ACC HQ
Plastic Foodservice Packaging Group Budget Meeting	July 13	9:00-3:00	Lake Forest, IL
Plastics Industry Fly-In	July 25-26	9:00-4:00	Washington, DC