



Plastics Division Monthly Newsletter

May 2017

Register Now: Marine Debris Dialogue (June 19-20)

Join us for our Marine Debris Dialogue on June 19-20 in Newport, Rhode Island. The Dialogue will bring together plastics industry leaders, brand owners, retailers, NGOs, scientists, government officials, and others for a conversation on solutions to marine debris. [Click here to register.](#)

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

Automotive

Congress Validates Importance of Automotive Plastics in Lightweighting and Safety

The House ([page 41](#)) and Senate ([page 56](#)) Appropriations Committees recognized plastics and polymer composites' role in reducing vehicle weight, developing safety-centered approaches for future automotive design, and providing highly-skilled jobs. The Committees directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to accelerate advancement for computer modeling of advanced plastics in structural automotive applications in FY 2017. The omnibus spending bill provides NHTSA with Congressional direction on spending in FY 2017. ACC's Federal advocacy encourages continued support for plastics and composite research priorities that help remove market barriers and increase plastics opportunities. Contact: [Gina-Marie Oliver](#), (248) 244-8920.

Auto Team Highlights Innovations in Engineering Plastics at AutoEPCON

The Auto Team was well represented during this year's [SPE AutoEPCON](#), the premier technical conference showcasing innovative developments in the use of engineering plastics for the global automotive industry. Member companies presenting at the conference included BASF, DSM, DuPont, LANXESS and Solvay. ACC's participation supports key [Roadmap](#) priorities to advance market opportunities for plastics and polymer composites and remove barriers to lightweighting. Contact: [Gina-Marie Oliver](#), (248) 244-8920.

Building and Construction

Ohio Supporters Testify for Open Competition for Pipe Materials

On April 25, the Ohio House of Representatives' Committee on State and Local Government held a hearing on legislation (HB 121) to advance open competition in water infrastructure projects. ACC submitted testimony and helped coordinate a diverse coalition of proponents to speak at the hearing. Testimony and a speaker list are available [here](#). A hearing for bill opponents was held on May 9, with testimony available [here](#). The bill will likely see a third hearing for further testimony in the coming weeks, and the Ohio State Senate recently introduced a companion bill (SB 95). Contact: [David Mann](#), (202) 680-0459.

Update of Product Category Rule for Insulation Moves Forward

A Product Category Rule (PCR) for insulation is being updated. The PCR, which was the product of an across-the-industry effort in 2011, is maintained by UL and is due to expire. ACC is helping organize the foam insulation industry to help ensure that the PCR remains current, balanced, and material agnostic. The PCR will have two parts, one for building thermal insulation and one for mechanical insulation. Contact [David Mann](#), (202) 680-0459.

Energy Recovery

Florida Legislature Approves First-in-the-Nation Plastics Energy Recovery Legislation

With ACC support and engagement, the Florida State Senate and House of Representatives unanimously approved [HB335 Resource Recovery and Management](#), which the governor is expected to sign into law. The bill sets a fair and supportive regulatory approach for these technologies by removing them from being regulated as waste facilities and ensuring that the products of conversion are counted towards Florida's 75% state recycling goal. (See [press release](#).) Contact: [Craig Cookson](#) (202) 249-6622.

Department of Energy Lab Determines Fuels from Plastics have Benefits

Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) has [determined](#) that using pyrolysis to convert non-recycled plastics into ultra-low-sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions and saves water and energy when compared to ULSD derived from conventional crude oil. ANL based the analysis, "[Life-Cycle Analysis of Fuels from Post-use Non-recycled Plastics](#)," on its well-known [Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions and Energy use in Transportation](#) (GREET®) model, using data provided by five companies. (See [press release](#).) Contact: [Craig Cookson](#) (202) 249-6622.

Packaging and Marine Debris

Join the Marine Debris Dialogue

The Plastics Division is hosting a Marine Debris Dialogue on June 19-20 to bring together plastics industry leaders, brand owners, retailers, NGOs, scientists, government officials, and others for a conversation on solutions to marine debris. For the Dialogue to be successful **we need strong participation from Plastics Division member companies** as well as from your packaging converter customers. **If you have not done so already, please register for the Dialogue [here](#), and please encourage your packaging customers to register as well.** Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

Preparation Underway for U.N. Oceans Conference

The United Nations released an updated draft "Call for Action" in the lead up to its high-level "The Ocean" conference in June. While improved, the draft continues to call for a reduction in the use of plastics, with a focus on bags and "single-use" plastics. We are working with the U.S. State Department to encourage the U.N. to shift its focus toward supporting investments in waste management, and supporting plastics associations around the globe in working with their governments. The Division is

participating in the U.N.'s final round of consultations May 22-25 to support the U.S. position. Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

ACC Presents Industry's Marine Debris Efforts at Great Lakes Conference

Division staff will present at the 60th International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) conference in Detroit this month. The presentation will report on actions taken by the Division and the 69 Global Declaration signatories to address marine debris. Staff will discuss ACC's involvement in the Great Lakes, such as engagement with the International Joint Commission and support for NOAA's Great Lakes Marine Debris strategy, and will engage with participants regarding research and project needs in the Great Lakes. Contact: [Stewart Harris](#), (202) 249-6626.

G20 to Consider Marine Debris

Division staff are engaged in G20 preparations to address marine debris. We're working with Plastics Europe and the U.S. State Department to encourage the G20 to follow the lead established by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to prioritize investments in waste management infrastructure. The G20 is chaired by Germany this year and will meet May 30 to June 2 in Bremen, Germany. Contact: [Keith Christman](#), (202) 249-6610.

ACC Testifies in Support of Curbside Polystyrene Foam Recycling in New York City

ACC joined a coalition led by the Restaurant Action Alliance, New York State Business Council and small business owners on May 12 to urge the New York City Council to pass legislation that would amend the NYC code and expand curbside recycling to include polystyrene foam. The bill has more than 20 co-sponsors and broad support from industry, restaurants and bodegas, clergy members and community leaders. The bill would also help the city meet its goal to achieve zero waste by 2030. The Department of Sanitation and the Administration are still supporting a PS foam foodservice ban. The Committee will deliberate on the testimony and make a decision in the June/July timeframe. Contact: [Mike Levy](#), (202) 249-6614.

Plastics Make it Possible®

New Video: Mini Horse Overcomes the Odds with Help from Plastic Prosthesis

The *Plastics Make it Possible®* campaign introduced a new [video that tells the story of a miniature horse](#), who is benefitting from a plastic prosthesis. The video, which was viewed more than 200K times in its first ten days, builds on an earlier video that featured Hudson, an injured dog, who is living a happy, active life with the help of a plastic paw. The Hudson video was viewed more than eleven million times and received seven awards for outstanding public relations. Users can [learn about other animals that are benefitting from plastic prosthetics](#) on our website. Contact: [Jennifer Killinger](#), (202) 249-6619

Polyurethanes

Final Call for 2017 Polyurethanes Innovation Award Entries

The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) is accepting nominations for its highly coveted Polyurethane Innovation Award, which recognizes the most inventive commercial technologies in the polyurethanes industry. The award highlights the role of innovation in the polyurethane industry and recognizes companies and individuals whose vision and perseverance bring new products, technologies and initiatives to the marketplace. Nominations for the award will be accepted through June 17, and the winner will be announced at the 2017 Polyurethanes Technical Conference. Contact: [Lee Krinzman](#), (202) 249-6605.

Future Webinars and On-Demand Offerings Part of Expanded CPI Education Center

The CPI Education Center is hosting numerous webinars in the coming months. These and other offerings educate industry professionals on the latest regulations and trends, and provide professional development opportunities for the entire value chain. To see additional educational offerings, visit the [CPI Education Center](#). Contact: [Lee Krinzman](#), (202) 249-6605.

CPI Will Participate in OSHA's Upcoming Safe + Sound Week

OSHA's Safe + Sound Week (June 12-18) is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of workplace safety and health programs. Throughout this week, workplaces and organizations host events and activities that showcase key elements of effective safety and health programs: management leadership, worker participation, and finding and fixing workplace hazards. CPI will participate in Safe + Sound Week by highlighting our commitment to safety and health and our extensive multilingual library of guidance documents, training programs, and videos. Contact: [Heather Palfrey](#), (202) 249-6606.

Recycling

ACC Presents at Brand Company Forum in CA to Advance Plastic Film Recycling

ACC participated in a Berkeley-Haas Innovation Lab forum to devise methods to motivate consumers to recycle more plastic film packaging. The forum focused on findings from a Kimberly-Clark-sponsored case study on methods to incentivize consumers to recycle film. These methods included the How2Recycle label and ACC's Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP). Representatives from trade associations, brand companies, manufacturers, NGOs, city government, and academia participated. K-C and the Haas School of Business are reviewing the key findings from the forum and will release a follow-up report and next steps. Contact: [Shari Jackson](#), (202) 249-6616.

How Much Capital Is Needed to Grow the Recycling Industry? Take the CLF Survey

Closed Loop Foundation, an independent 501c3 organization supported by the investment platform Closed Loop Partners, is conducting a study on the capital landscape in recycling and the circular economy in North America. Supported by grants from Goldman Sachs Center for Environmental Markets and Wells Fargo Foundation, the [Capital Landscape Study](#) will contribute timely data for capital seekers, investors, private industry, local governments, and brand owners. The Foundation is seeking perspectives on recent trends across the value chain, focusing in particular on investment in post-consumer/municipal solid waste management and recycled content in product and package manufacturing. CLF is asking **private companies with recycling interests** to complete this brief survey about your experience. All data provided to us will be treated confidentially, to be shared in aggregate or anonymously in a public report later this year. **Survey Link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HVMHZR>. Contact Ellen Martin at ellen@closedloopfoundation.org with questions.

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 help ensure members of Congress understand how policies they enact 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. Primary topics include 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.

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| 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 |
| Marine Debris Dialogue | June 19-20 | 9:00-5:00 | Newport, RI |
| 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-to-Fuel and Petrochemistry Alliance Meeting | July 18 | 11:00-5:00 | ACC HQ |
| Joint PFPA-PERT Meeting | July 19 | 9:00-4:00 | ACC HQ |
| Plastics Energy Recovery Team Meeting | July 20 | 9:00-1:00 | ACC HQ |
| Plastics Industry Fly-In | July 25-26 | 9:00-4:00 | Washington, DC |
| Foam Sheathing Committee Operating Committee Meeting | August 11 | 1:00-3:00 | ACC HQ |
| Flexible Film Recycling Group Meeting | August 14 | 12:00-5:00 | ACC HQ |
| Packaging and Consumer Products Market Issues Team Meeting | August 15 | 9:00-3:00 | ACC HQ |
| Auto Team Budget Meeting | August 16 | 8:00-3:00 | Troy, MI |
| PIPS Leadership Group Meeting | August 29 | 10:00-4:00 | Philadelphia, PA |