

Reclaimer in Focus

CarbonLite Industries

CarbonLite Industries doesn't mess with HDPE, PP, PS or PVC.

The Los Angeles-area plastics reclaimer deals strictly in PET beverage containers. Lots and lots of them. In fact, the company's 220,000-square-foot facility in Riverside, Calif. produces about 72 million pounds of food-grade PET pellets each year, said Leon Farahnik, company founder.

That makes it one of the largest producers of food-grade, post-consumer recycled PET in the world, according to CarbonLite.

"We are dedicated in producing FDA food-grade pellets for the beverage industry," Farahnik said, "which requires a tremendous amount of investment in equipment and in quality control."

CarbonLite's pellets are used to create the 100 percent recycled content water bottle recently unveiled by Nestle Waters North America. The "resource" brand water bottle is one of the first to have 100 percent recycled content (excluding the cap and label, which are virgin content). Pepsi uses 100 percent post-consumer material from CarbonLITE in its Naked Juice bottles

"Currently under one-third of PET materials in the U.S. are recycled



Technical Specifications

CarbonLite Industries

Location:

Riverside, Calif.

Start-up date:

January 2012

Annual capacity:

100 million pounds

Materials handled:

Post-consumer PET containers

Member associations:

Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)





and brands such as resource, with their commitment to 100 percent rPET packaging, represent a pivotal shift in the industry to improve recycling standards among corporations and consumers,” Farahnik stated in a press release.

Nestle Waters North America also works closely with CarbonLite to bring post-consumer material into bottles used for other Nestle-owned brands. For instance, the opening of CarbonLite in 2012 allowed Nestle to bring significant amounts of rPET into 16.9 ounce bottles of Arrowhead water, and last year Nestle announced it would increase the use of rPET in all sizes of single-serve Arrowhead bottles.

CarbonLite sources its material from MRFs around California, and it only processes post-consumer material, both from curbside and container deposit redemption sources. Its \$60 million Riverside facility utilizes mainly Sorema, Erema and Pelletron equipment.

The company is strictly aligned with end users and does not sell on the open market.

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