Dow Statement on GAIA Claims

For: Jared Paben, *Resource Recycling*
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Dow has a vital interest and responsibility in making plastic materials beneficial throughout their lifecycle. We are working to improve the *entire* system where our products are used in order to maximize resource efficiency and the benefits derived from using our products.

The Hefty® EnergyBag™ program complements mechanical recycling by providing a much-needed solution for plastics that currently cannot be mechanically recycled, such as multilayer flexible film packaging. The program enables curbside pick-up and conversion into valuable energy resources. This is a significant step forward in achieving positive long-term environmental and economic advantages, including more alternative energy resources and fewer tons of valuable plastics ending up in landfills.

We are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of the communities participating in our programs. Risk assessments have shown that the regulated use of co-processed materials as fuel in cement kilns poses no increased risk to human health and the environment. All cement plant emissions in the U.S. are regulated under the Clean Air Act (CAA) in addition to any local air quality requirements that protect human health and the environment. Further, all energy recovery facilities that are approved to receive Hefty® EnergyBag® program materials must undergo a strict vetting process, which includes an assessment of environmental compliance and permits, air pollution controls, and facility operational practices. Communities participating in the program have the option of using various viable energy recovery technology methods, where available, such as pyrolysis, gasification and cement kiln facilities, each of which divert resources from landfills.

In certain parts of Europe, collection systems and treatment technologies for plastics are well-established and enable the integration of mechanical recycling with energy recovery. While recycling is the preferred solution to plastic waste, some plastics cannot be readily mechanically recycled. In this case, energy recovery is the next best sustainable alternative. These options complement each other and help realize the full potential of plastic wastes. For example, in 2014, plastics recycling and energy recovery reached an average of 69.2 percent in the EU28, Norway, and Switzerland. Countries such as Switzerland and Austria are leading the way with the high recycling and energy recovery rates over 95 percent, thereby minimizing the amount of plastics going to landfills (PlasticsEurope).

We strive to provide educational information about the Hefty® EnergyBag™ program to the public in a clear, succinct and consistent manner. As such, we are working to ensure that this program is accurately described as a plastics recovery initiative, which at this time is energy recovery. The Hefty® EnergyBag™ program is **complementary** to existing recycling programs, and can help remove non-recycled materials from materials recovery facilities (MRFs), thereby improving overall recycling efficiency.