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\$200 Million in Investment, Multiple Acquisitions Make Evergreen Among the Three Largest Producers of Food Grade rPET in North America

CLYDE, Ohio (February 9, 2022) - - [Evergreen](#), a plastics recycling and manufacturing company owned by [The Sterling Group](#), is heading into 2022 as one of North America's three largest producers of food grade recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET) thanks to millions invested in strategic acquisitions and upgrades.

From a single location in January 2021, Evergreen has grown to four locations across North America: the original facility in Clyde, Ohio; Albany, New York Amherst, Nova Scotia, Canada; and Riverside, California. Evergreen Albany (formerly UltePET) and Evergreen Amherst (formerly Novapet) were acquired from wTe Corp. in November 2021. Evergreen Riverside was acquired from CarbonLite in May 2021. As a result, Evergreen's annual capacity of rPET has increased to more than 147 million pounds, up from 40 million pounds just one year ago.

Evergreen has also announced a major expansion at Clyde, adding a 54,000-square-foot building to its existing 238,000-square-foot facility. The addition will house four high-volume, food grade rPET manufacturing lines. When completed in June 2022, Evergreen's annual rPET capacity will swell to 217 million pounds.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors and The Sterling Group, Evergreen CEO and President Omar Abuaita says the company is just getting started. "We would not have invested some \$200 million in this business if we did not feel strongly about market demand and our integrated value proposition. We have invested massively, and it is our intention to continue to invest and grow Evergreen."

Evergreen General Manager Greg Johnson says the company is focused on expansion, modernization, building its workforce, expanding plastics recycling rates, and converting more companies to recycled PET from virgin resin. "We've been in this business for more than two decades and are excited to take a leadership role in its transformation. Evergreen has the expertise to help customers close the loop on PET plastic. Now, with our strategic acquisitions, expansion at Clyde and collaborative industry partnerships with American Beverage and others, we have the network and volume to really make an impact," he says.

A recent [report](#) published by the National Association for PET Container Resources found a 10 percent increase in end-use demand of rPET in 2020 with the food and beverage category as the fastest growing category, increasing 36 percent from 2019 to 2020.

"America's beverage companies are carefully designing our bottles to be 100 recyclable and we want them all back so they can be remade into new bottles, as intended" said Megan Daum, [American Beverage's](#) Vice President of Sustainability. "Increasing the use of post-consumer recycled material in our bottles is a top priority of our industry which is why we're making critical investments in recycling infrastructure, like we have done with Evergreen. Public-private partnerships like these are essential in driving solutions to close the loop on our bottles and reduce the use of new plastic."

Evergreen has also increased the number of post-consumer PET bottles it collects and recycles. In January 2021, the company recycled about 2 billion PET bottles a year. That number is now 11.6 billion bottles. Evergreen is also transforming recycling processes. It has deployed AI-enabled robots that sort PET bottles from moving streams of waste at speeds up to three times faster and at higher accuracy than manual sorting. "We don't want any recyclable bottles to get past us," Johnson says.

Evergreen partners with municipalities and aggregators on recycling programs. It retains the PET bottles and sells materials like corrugated and metal cans to other recyclers and manufacturers. Evergreen has also launched sustainability programs with companies to help capture recyclables and reduce reliance on landfills. The program tracks volumes of recovered recyclables and other data critical to sustainability and ESG reporting.

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Evergreen Expansion

About Evergreen

Established in 1998 with a single location in Clyde, Ohio, Evergreen is a recycling company and one of North America's largest producers of food grade recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET), a recycled resin used as a green alternative to virgin resin in beverage bottles, food containers, health and beauty packaging, home products, and others. In 2021, Evergreen acquired three additional locations in Albany, New York; Amherst, Nova Scotia; and Riverside, California; and deployed AI-enabled robotics to transform its recycling practices. Evergreen is the preferred supplier of rPET to top global brands, helping customers increase recycled content in their packaging, keep plastic out of landfills and oceans, and meet sustainability and ESG goals. Evergreen is a proud member of the American Beverage Association, NAPCOR and the Association of Plastic Recyclers. Visit www.Evergreentogether.com

About American Beverage

American Beverage (AB) is the national trade organization representing the broad spectrum of companies that manufacture and distribute non-alcoholic beverages in the United States. Spearheaded by AB, America's leading beverage companies, including The Coca-Cola Company, Keurig Dr Pepper and PepsiCo, launched the Every Bottle Back initiative to reduce the industry's plastic footprint by ensuring its 100 percent recyclable bottles are collected so they can be remade into new ones and not end up as waste in oceans, rivers or landfills. To date, Every Bottle Back has committed \$14.3 million in recycling grants to 22 communities, [including Evergreen's Clyde, Ohio facility](#), that are projected to generate 698 million more pounds of PET over ten years. For more information on the beverage industry's work to get Every Bottle Back, visit www.everybottleback.org

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CONTACT

Melanie Lux Melanie@Lux-Writes.com, 803-331-4794