



## Media Advisory

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## BOAT SHRINK WRAP RECOVERY PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN CHICAGO AND LAKE COUNTY REGIONS TO DIVERT VALUABLE PLASTICS FROM LANDFILLS

*Press event to be held at Montrose Harbor in Chicago*

CHICAGO, IL— The Council of the Great Lakes Region (CGLR) and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), in collaboration with Charter Next Generation (CNG), Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), Chicago Harbors, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), LRS (Lakeshore Recycling Systems), and Myplas USA, have joined forces to implement a pilot project through CGLR's Circular Great Lakes initiative and AEPW's US Cities Transformation Flagship initiative to help marinas in Chicago and Lake County recover and recycle boat shrink wrap and keep this valuable plastic film out of landfills.

The Great Lakes, one the largest freshwater systems in the world, is a beautiful and vast natural resource, making it a top destination for sailors and boaters. Because of the region's climate, however, winterizing recreational boats is a must, which requires millions of pounds of valuable plastic film to be used as boat wrap in order to safely protect these vessels, material that is almost universally landfilled every spring. Building on lessons learned in Ohio and Michigan, as well as along the East Coast, this multi-year pilot project will bring the plastic value chain together with state agencies, local marina partners, and boaters to close the loop and create a Great Lakes circular economy for boat shrink wrap film.

During this event, the media will learn about plastic waste and pollution in the Great Lakes region in advance of Earth Day and see first hand how the boat shrink wrap recovery pilot program is trialing a new approach to collecting boat shrink wrap, recycling it, and giving this material a new life in new plastic products; an approach that will create both economic and environmental benefits for the region. Speakers at the event will include representatives from Chicago Harbors, the Council of the Great Lakes Region, and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County.

**What:** Chicago and Lake County Boat Wrap Collection Pilot Press Event

**When:** April 21, 2023 at 3 pm

**Where:** Montrose Harbor, 601 W Montrose Drive, Chicago, IL 60613

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## **About Council of the Great Lakes Region**

The Council of the Great Lakes Region is a binational network of organizations comprised of: (1) the Council of the Great Lakes Region USA, an Ohio-based trade association; (2) the CGLR Foundation, an Ohio-based public charity; and the Council of the Great Lakes Region Canada, a not-for-profit corporation. Together, these organizations, collectively referred to as the Council of the Great Lakes Region, are leading a new era of economic growth, environmental protection, and individual well-being by building the region's long-term competitiveness and sustainability today.

For additional information, please visit <https://councilgreatlakesregion.org/>

and <https://www.circulargreatlakes.org>

## **About the Alliance to End Plastic Waste**

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (Alliance) is a global non-profit organization with the mission to end plastic waste in the environment. Its focus is implementing projects and investing in innovative solutions to develop or enhance waste management systems. As of June 2022, its portfolio comprises over 50 projects across 30 countries worldwide.

Tackling plastic waste is a complex challenge that requires collective action. Since 2019, the Alliance has convened a global network of industry leaders across the plastics value chain, together with government, civil society, entrepreneurs, and communities to work towards advancing a circular economy for plastic waste. For more information, visit: [www.endplasticwaste.org](http://www.endplasticwaste.org)

## **About Charter Next Generation**

Charter Next Generation is North America's leading independent producer of high-performance, specialty films used in flexible packaging and other end-use markets. Known for sustainable, innovative products and world-class manufacturing capabilities, the company's quality and expertise are unsurpassed. Its sustainability-first mindset and relentless pursuit of excellence make it an ideal partner to help brand owners reach their long-term sustainability goals. [www.cnginc.com](http://www.cnginc.com)

## **About Chicago Harbors**

The Chicago Harbors consist of 10 beautiful harbors along Chicago's 14-mile lakeshore that together make up the nation's largest municipal harbor system. Owned by the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Harbors have been managed by Westrec Marinas SMI OpCo LLC since 1995. In addition to over 5,200 wet slips, two of the harbors offer winter dry storage. Approximately 113 boats get shrink wrapped every year and that wrap goes into a dumpster every spring.

Finding a sustainable recycling program to keep shrink wrap out of landfills has been a goal for years. This partnership along with boater education helps ensure shrink wrap gets properly recycled. For more information on the Chicago Harbors, please visit [ChicagoHarbors.info](http://ChicagoHarbors.info).

## **About Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)**

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL (SWALCO) is a municipal joint action agency that is responsible for developing and implementing a regional solid waste management plan for its

43 municipal members including the County of Lake. Formed in 1990, SWALCO represents approximately 700,000 residents and owns and operates a household hazardous waste management facility. Its mission is

to facilitate an efficient, reliable and environmentally sound waste/material management system; advise and assist its members regarding solid waste management issues; operate regional collection programs for HHW, electronics, clothing/textiles/shoes,

pharmaceuticals and sharps; educate the public regarding implications of solid waste management options; and identify, evaluate and disseminate information regarding techniques to reduce, reuse, recycle or compost and move the system to a circular economy.

For more information, visit [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org).

### **About Myplas USA**

Myplas USA, Inc. is pioneering a circular economy for plastic film, expanding the film recycling infrastructure and the supply of recycled resin. Together with our partners we're leading a paradigm shift from the way plastic is used and discarded today, toward a more sustainable future. Recycled resin will be used to create new products, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste that ends up in landfill.

Myplas is constructing a state-of the art flexible film recycling plant in Rogers, Minnesota - the company's first in the USA. This new 170,000 square foot mechanical recycling plant is slated to begin operations in the summer of 2023. The plant aims to recycle nearly 90 million pounds of HDPE and LDPE packaging and film producing Food Grade HDPE and LDPE Post Consumer Resin when running at full capacity.

### **About Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources' mission is to manage, conserve and protect Illinois' natural, recreational and cultural resources, further the public's understanding and appreciation of those resources, and promote the education, science and public safety of Illinois' natural resources for present and future generations. As part of this mission, IDNR created and implements the Illinois Clean Marina Program.

The nation-wide Clean Marina Initiative is a voluntary, incentive-based program that encourages marina operators and recreational boaters to protect coastal water quality by engaging in environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures. The Illinois Clean Marina Program offers information, guidance, and technical assistance to marina operators, local governments, and recreational boaters on Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used to prevent or reduce pollution. Marinas that participate in the Clean Marina Program are recognized for their environmental stewardship.

### **About LRS**

LRS is North America's fifth largest privately-held waste and recycling company. Since 2013, LRS has specialized in providing comprehensive, fully integrated waste diversion and recycling services for millions of residential and commercial customers across nine states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Kansas, Arkansas and Tennessee. Diversified and growing exponentially, LRS also offers affordable roll-off container services, C&D recycling, portable restroom rentals, municipal and commercial street sweeping, mulch distribution, on-site storage and temporary fencing.

LRS owns and operates 88 facilities, safely deploys a fleet of fuel-efficient trucks and thrives on the passion of 2,700 full-time employees. The company processes more than 3.8 million tons of waste each year, providing safe, innovative, sustainability-driven services to clean and beautify the cities, neighborhoods and communities it serves. To learn more, visit [www.LRSrecycles.com](http://www.LRSrecycles.com).