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international association
of plastics distribution

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPD Announces 2013 Environmental Excellence Award Recipients

OVERLAND PARK, Kans. — The International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD) is pleased to announce the following recipients of its annual Environmental Excellence Award:

Best New Program — Regal Plastic Supply Company

Most Improved Program — Curbell Plastics, Inc.

Most Innovative Program — Cast Nylons Ltd.

Best Recycling Program — Cope Plastics, Inc.

Best Overall Program — Laird Plastics

The recipients were honored at the opening general session at the 57th Annual IAPD Convention today in Miami, FL, USA by IAPD Vice President and Convention Chair Kevin Short and IAPD President Jane Saale.

Regal Plastic Supply Company was selected for a company-wide program branded as “Going Green.” It started with meetings at each branch location, where a Going Green Coordinator was selected to promote and document the green efforts at that branch. The company added a recycling dumpster and recycling wastebaskets at every desk, published tips for office workers to re-think how much paper they use and started the *Going Green Newsletter*, a quarterly publication dedicated to sharing what each branch is doing to promote green practices. The company now tracks plastics recycling, non-plastics recycling and energy consumption. In 2012 alone, Regal Plastic recycled 82,146 pounds of plastics. The company has also started to recycle wooden spools. In addition, Regal Plastic is increasing their stock of green and recycled products which they promote to customers. The company’s San Antonio branch worked with the local electricity provider and received a rebate for upgraded energy-efficient lighting and light sensors in the warehouse. The Dallas/Fort Worth branch upgraded to energy-efficient lighting and added a higher-rated insulation when the roof was replaced.

Curbell Plastics, Inc. was honored for its continued dedication to environmentally responsible practices. In past years, the company applied a methodical approach to its program, targeting the areas of most waste first, then expanding on its success. This past year, Curbell has replaced a heating and cooling system at its headquarters. With its computerized thermostatic network, the company has reduced energy consumption by 61,000 kilowatt hours, resulting in a savings of \$7,000 and 111,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The company has implemented new lighting projects in

four of its warehouses, resulting in a reduction of more than 20,000 kilowatt hours of energy used and a \$2,000 annual savings. The company had already been recycling computers and office equipment, but found a new recycler who refurbishes and reuses as much of the equipment as possible and distributes much of the equipment to schools in need. Curbell also worked with a vendor to eliminate the individually wrapped parts in poly bags and diverted 450 tons of waste from landfill at a total profit/cost reduction in excess of \$230,000. Curbell actively partners with neighboring businesses to help make recycling materials a more profitable activity for all involved. Curbell is a Federal Green Challenge participant, an EPA WasteWise partner and has reduced its solid waste by 90 percent while maintaining zero landfill status at its two largest facilities in Orchard Park, NY.

Cast Nylons Ltd. is being honored for the company's thorough approach to its corporate-wide Eco-Green Program. Traditionally, companies start with a recycling program and evolve it to a multi-faceted sustainability program. Cast Nylons has launched a comprehensive program that includes an environmental mission statement posted throughout the company's workplace, an analysis of utility usage and identification of areas to reduce consumption and implementation of measures to reduce electricity, water and natural gas usage. High-efficiency HVAC units and solar-powered lighting have been installed, numerous weather-proofing improvements have been made to reduce the need for heating in the winter and low-water requirement landscaping has been planted to reduce water needs during the summer months. The company recycles 98.5 percent of all solid waste and more than 99 percent of process scrap, plus office paper and trash, scrap metal, liquid unreacted nylon and machining oils and coolants. In addition, Cast Nylons established a policy for handling mercury and is partnering with a recycler to recycle mercury from all fluorescent bulbs. The company is implementing several safeguards to reduce emissions for cleaner air and has made significant investments in process improvements, capital equipment and lean manufacturing principles to increase efficiency by approximately 11 percent.

Cope Plastics, Inc. has expanded its recycling program to include 33 different grades of plastic, which make up nearly 90 percent of the material distributed through or consumed by the company. In 2012, the company built a solar-powered facility that recycles material from the main fabrication department, all 16 branches, customers and vendors. The solar modules have generated more than 22,000 kilowatt hours and prevent more than 31,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually. In addition, Cope Plastics has instituted a salvage program that identifies and catalogs materials for reuse that would have otherwise been scrapped. This program has resulted in thousands of dollars of cost savings and more than 25 tons of material being reused rather than recycled. The company also encourages employees and members of the local community to recycle their electronics and paper at the Cope facilities. This has resulted in recycling more than 25 tons of electronics and nearly 10 tons of paper. Recently, Cope Plastics has started a single stream post-consumer recycling program at its main facility to target materials such as plastic bottles, cardboard, cans and glass. This program will also provide recycling resources for more than 100 Cope employees who live in smaller communities that do not provide curbside recycling programs. Cope Plastics has also reached out to customers and vendors who do not have the means to recycle in large quantities. Cope has increased collection of materials by 80 tons more than it did just the previous year.

Laird Plastics is working up and down the supply chain to ensure the efficient and environmentally sustainable collection of plastic waste. A business unit is dedicated solely to sustainable supply chain management and domestic plastic recycling. Some key accomplishments include recycling for 48 of the company's facilities and hundreds of customers and recycling for customers in 46 different states and seven Canadian provinces. Laird Plastics is on track to recycle 12 million pounds of plastic in 2013,

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including increased total pounds of ABS, polystyrene and polycarbonate. The company's first "green" product is also being actively promoted. Currently there is almost one million linear feet of corner guard being used throughout the Laird Plastics network. This product is 100 percent recyclable, manufactured domestically and replaces traditional cardboard.

"IAPD is proud to honor the accomplishments of these five companies with the Environmental Excellence Award. Life cycle analyses show that plastics are often the most environmentally friendly material to use for applications and as shown in the examples from these four companies, the manufacturing of those plastics can also be done in an environmentally responsible manner," said Susan Avery, CAE, IAPD Chief Executive Officer.

Any IAPD member company is eligible to apply for the IAPD Annual Environmental Excellence Awards. Applications are collected online and the IAPD Environmental Committee determines the recipients via secret ballot.

In addition to the awards program, the IAPD Environmental Committee has launched the IAPD GreenScene™ program to honor all member companies that are engaging in environmentally friendly practices. Charter members of the IAPD GreenScene have been determined based on their award application and their participation in the committee's biannual environmental survey.

About IAPD

The International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD), established in 1956, brings together distributors, fabricators, manufacturers, manufacturers' representatives, recyclers and service providers in an environment which encourages a free flow of ideas and information that help members build their businesses. Every program and service we provide is designed with the simple goal of helping our members increase profitability. Membership in IAPD is an affordable business investment. IAPD provides training, connections with customers and suppliers and information about developments that impact the industry. What makes IAPD unique is a commitment to educating customers and other key end-users about plastics. In other words, IAPD works with members to build the demand for plastics. Central to this effort is the reinforcement of the value of distribution. For more information, visit www.iapd.org.

Connect with IAPD:



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