

## **Environment and Economy Benefit on All Corners of the Recycling Triangle**

By David Goldstein, Ventura County Public Works Agency, Water and Sanitation Dept.

Placing recyclables into curbside carts or commercial recycling bins is only the first step in the recycling "loop." This loop is often portrayed by a symbol featuring three chasing arrows in the shape of a triangle. The first arrow represents collection, the second is processing, and the third is the manufacturing of a discarded material into a new product.

An event this Wednesday will feature advances affecting all three of these phases of recycling. Collection of carpets will begin at the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station. The City of Oxnard, which owns and operates Del Norte, will process the material by ensuring it is free of other waste material and putting it in roll-off boxes for collection by the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), a non-profit, carpet industry-led organization.

The final stage of recycling, manufacturing a new product, will be facilitated by the presentation of a \$2 million check to PinnPack on Wednesday. The funding for PinnPack Packaging is a long-term (10-year), low interest (4% fixed rate) loan from a fund built through a surcharge on California landfills.

Similar to the funding for the loan, funding for ongoing support of the carpet recycling initiative is also derived from user fees. Purchasers of new carpet in California pay a surcharge for carpet recycling.

Both the CalRecycle loan to PinnPack and the ongoing support for the Oxnard's carpet recycling through CARE, were initiated by the Ventura County Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ), which is coordinating the event celebrating both advances. The RMDZ, a program of the Ventura County Public Works Agency, contributes to economic development and makes recycling more cost effective by increasing local market demand for recyclables.

After the event's launch of carpet recycling, residents and businesses will be able to recycle carpet, separate from garbage, at the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station, paying a tip fee lower than the cost to bring mixed waste. Also as a result of the events Wednesday, PinnPack will modernize its factory, enabling the company to purchase 3,000 more tons of recycled plastic per year, and preserving the jobs of 168 employees. The recycled plastic comes to PinnPack in the form of sanitized pellets from CarbonLITE, a California company processing more than two billion plastic bottles annually.

The public is invited to the check presentation at PinnPack, starting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, and also to a ribbon cutting at the opening of the carpet recycling drop-off area at noon. PinnPack is at 1151 Pacific Avenue, in Oxnard, and the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station is at 111 S. Del Norte Boulevard in Oxnard.

Since its inception, the RMDZ program has helped with the financing of 38 businesses in Ventura County, including securing State approval of 25 loans and partnering with banks and other sources to provide additional financing. Recycling-based manufacturers create jobs while saving our natural resources. If you know a local manufacturing company capable of making their product with recycled or reused content, help them and help the environment by putting them in touch with the Ventura County Recycling Market Development Zone.

*On the net:*

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