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CALIFORNIA FILM EXTRUDERS & CONVERTERS ASSOCIATION

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More Plastic Bag Manufacturers Are Going Green

Four prominent American plastic bag manufacturers are going green and implementing environmentally responsible manufacturing processes in their plant facilities. Crown Poly, in Huntington Park, Calif.; the Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., plant of Carrollton, TX-based Heritage Bag; Schuster Flexible Packaging, Inc., based in Riverside, Calif., and Wisconsin Film & Bag in Shawano, Wisconsin, have embarked on the Environmentally Preferred Rating (EPR) accreditation process in an effort to maintain plant facilities with the highest environmental standards and lowest pollution output.

EPR is the first environmental standards, audit and accreditation program for the plastics industry. The program's primary goal is to assist producers of plastic film and bags lessen their impact on the environment by reducing any industry contribution to air and waterway pollution as well as landfill content. Plastic makers that meet strict environmental standards can now receive a "seal of approval" recognizing that they maintain environmentally sensitive production facilities.

The EPR program involves a thorough, independent, third-party environmental audit of a company's plastic facilities, and encourages consumers of plastic products to buy only from EPR accredited producers. EPR was developed by the California Film Extruders and Converters Association (CFECA - www.cfeca.org), a trade association of manufacturers and suppliers involved in the plastic film extruding and converting industry in California.

While the initial certification targets are film and bag producers in California, CFECA has developed the audit program so that it can be applied to all types of plastic producers throughout the U.S and even abroad.

Once accredited, these four companies will join Command Packaging of Los Angeles, and Roplast Industries, or Oroville, Calif., as EPR accredited manufacturers. Command Packaging and Roplast Industries were the first two companies to achieve EPR accreditation since the program's inception late last year.

Manufacturers who want more information about the EPR program can visit www.EPRaccredited.org. The site explains what the EPR program is, its benefits, how to become accredited, frequently asked questions, and lists plastics manufacturers that are already EPR accredited. The site also includes an application form that plastics manufacturers can download to initiate an audit.

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