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Mitsubishi Polyester Film Develops Revolutionary Liner Recycling Program

GREER, SC – Mitsubishi Polyester Film, Inc. officials are pleased to announce they have developed a technical breakthrough to establish a post-industrial closed loop process for the sustainable recovery of waste polyester liner film.

Mitsubishi Polyester Film has been developing this program for several years in an effort to curb its carbon footprint and reduce greenhouse gases. This program will also establish the cradle-to-cradle solution that the labeling industry has been seeking. It is the first time a company has created a closed loop sustainable recycling process for polyester release liners.

The plant located in Greer produces in-line silicone treated release films, which become the dispensing liner for labels that are placed on consumer goods including beverage bottles and personal care products. Mitsubishi Polyester Film is the industry leader in silicone coated PET films used in the pressure sensitive label market.

The labeling process leaves behind a “spent liner” after the label is placed onto a package or container. This leftover liner becomes waste for the companies in the labeling value chain. The waste liner can end up in a local landfill or can be shipped offshore for disposal since no operational means previously existed to convert and reclaim the “spent liner” in a closed loop fashion. The Mitsubishi Polyester Film Reprocess™ Sustainable Liner Program changes that.

Company researchers in Greer have created technologies to blend new and “spent liner” recycled material in a patent pending proprietary process which will consistently meet the standard of excellence previously established by and expected of Mitsubishi Polyester Film. An independent Life Cycle Assessment found that this process, when used to produce recycled PET pellets, will decrease the energy demand by 91 percent and the global warming potential by 74 percent as compared to virgin pellet production.

Promoting environmental sustainability is a continued goal of Mitsubishi Polyester Film. In 2009, it became just the sixth company to receive the Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute’s “Label Initiative for the Environment” (L.I.F.E.) certification in recognition for its environmental best practices. The company also has promoted energy conservation, environmental responsibility, recycling, waste reduction and social stewardship.

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