

Market Development Grant Success Story

Quality Blow Molding

Background

Quality Blow Molding, Inc., located in Elyria and founded in 1994, manufactures products using a variety of materials, including high-density polyethylene, polypropylene, sanoprene and post-consumer reprocessed plastic. Quality Blow Molding (QBM) produces plastic parts for various industries using blow molding, injection molding and some light assembly manufacturing processes. QBM's current orders include automotive components, lawn and garden equipment, children's toys, swimming pools and other various custom molding products. The company currently employs 100 full-time staff.

Challenge

QBM has been using reprocessed high-density polyethylene (HDPE) for many years with the help of a past market development grant. Although there are material recovery facilities and intermediate processing capacity in Ohio, there was still an obstacle to increased production at QBM because of inadequate capacity to turn recovered plastic feedstock into consumer products.

Solution

The market development grant from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, along with the matching funds from the company, was used to address the recovered plastic capacity issues and assist QBM with its production processes expansion. This included two blow molding machines, plastic granulators, blending systems, a material silo and more air compressor capacity. This expansion project will divert more than 200 tons per year from the landfill. By reducing the amount of post-consumer HPDE sent to the landfill, this grant helps QBM meet the objective of manufacturing consumer products from reprocessed HDPE with 98 percent post-consumer waste content.

Resources

This success story is a good example of how Ohio EPA's market development grants can help increase the use of recycling technologies, strengthen the infrastructure for handling and processing recyclables and develop more markets for recycled products. Materials targeted for market development grants include plastics, glass, paper, metals, construction and demolition debris, organics and other materials. Applicants must be sponsored by an eligible governmental agency who will serve as the grant applicant and a pass-through agency for documenting and receiving funds. For this project, the Solid Waste Management District of Lorain County served as the grant applicant and supported QBM's project at the local level.

For more information about Ohio EPA's market development grants, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx or contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043.



Quality Blow Molding's plastic granulator

Project Specifics

Location

Quality Blow Molding, Inc.
635 Oberlin-Elyria Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Details

Purchased material processing equipment to granulate plastic flake to size and blend it to create a uniform mixture for entry into blow molding equipment

Cost

\$309,000 (\$154,500 from the company and \$154,500 from Ohio EPA's market development grant)

Environmental Impacts

Diverts more than 200 tons per year of post-consumer HPDE from landfill

Economic Impacts

Operating income increased more than \$12,000 per month with a 2.13 year return on investment

The new equipment expansion project supports 12 full-time jobs