

## Market Development Grant Success Story

# Fremont Plastic Products

### Background

Fremont Plastic Products Inc., located in Fremont and in business since 1980, manufactures blow-molded parts that are sold at retail and also provided to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers throughout the United States. The plant has 24 blow molding machines. It currently employs 225 full-time staff and uses about 20 million pounds of plastic a year to manufacture plastic gasoline containers, kayaks, playground equipment, automotive fuel tanks, panels for portable toilets and parts for adjustable beds.

### Challenge

During the open molding process, scrap (weep and chunk plastic) are generated as a by-product. The company was unable to reuse this material back into their process. As a result, that material either found its way into a local landfill or was sold at a significantly reduced cost. They generated more than 100,000 pounds of this material monthly or 1.2 million pounds per year. This scrap polyethylene (PE) plastic could be used reused in the blow molding process; however, some specialized equipment is needed to handle the thicker material.

### Solution

The market development grant from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, along with matching funds from the company, were used to purchase equipment that allows the company to recycle waste plastic from the blow molding line for reuse in its manufacturing process. The new regrind equipment will shred, grind and reprocess waste plastics into pellets to create blow molding feedstock. The new recycling line supports nine new, permanent full-time jobs and helps save money. In addition, an estimated 1.2 million pounds of PE plastic scrap will be diverted from the landfill annually. The company also is hopeful it can become a regional resource for regrinding similar plastic by-products from other manufacturers

### 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 Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Joint Solid Waste Management District served as the grant applicant and supported Fremont Plastic Products project at the local level.

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



*Rich Knaggs, center, former technical manager for Fremont Plastics Products, explains how the new plastics reprocessing equipment will work.*

### Project Specifics

#### Location

Fremont Plastic Products, Inc.  
2101 Cedar St.  
Fremont, OH 43420

#### Details

Purchased a polyethylene plastic scrap reprocessing line (shredder, grinder, two surge bins with associated conveying equipment, blender and pelletizing line)

#### Cost

\$450,000 (\$225,000 from the company and \$225,000 from Ohio EPA's market development grant)

#### Environmental Impacts

1.2 million pounds diverted from landfill per year

#### Economic Impacts

\$588,000 saved annually in material costs for generating regrind polyethylene plastic

The reprocessing line supports nine full-time jobs