



GREEN EYE® KEEPS A SHARP LOOKOUT



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— Chris Himes

Green Machine Sales LLC
5 Gigante Drive
Hampstead, NH 03841
Tel: (603) 329-7337
Fax: (603) 329-7458
www.GreenMachineSales.com
jgreen@greenmachinesales.com

Revolutionary optical sorting technology from Green Machine Sales LLC helps Indiana recycler sort its PET plastics.

Shortly after The Himes Family and Recycling Works Inc. opened a new single-stream recycling plant in the summer of 2009, they decided that additional technology could help the company increase its throughput, decrease its labor costs and add value to its PET plastics. Chris Himes, a third-generation owner of Recycling Works, determined that his sorters were not able to keep up with the hand sorting of the PET plastics flowing through the company's new 20 tons-per-hour single-stream processing system.

The Himes family decided to add an automatic optical sorting system made by the same company that designed and built its new single-stream system, Green Machine Sales LLC. Green Machine's patent-pending GREEN EYE® optical sorting system was installed in the fall of 2009 at the plant, located in Elkhart, Indiana. Green Machine's in-line optical design allowed for a quick, inexpensive installation within Chris' existing sort line. Work began at shutdown Thursday and the GREEN EYE® was fully operational for his plant's opening the following Monday morning.

Chris and the plant personnel have been very pleased with the ease of operation of the GREEN EYE® system. "We treat our optical sorter as if it were an eddy current separator; it simply starts every morning and begins sorting exactly as it did the day before," says Chris. "We find the system to be very dependable. We have experienced no downtime and the only maintenance so far has been to clean the tempered glass weekly so the sensor can see the product. The Green Machine revolutionary patent-pending optical identification system not only sees the desired product molecularly but also identifies aluminum and other un-wanted materials and then signals the system to ignore PET surrounding those items. This function is critical in eliminating miss-hits on valuable aluminum and contaminants.

"We are running Green Machine's smallest 36-inch-wide unit but we still achieve 97% clean product in the holding bin every day," says Chris. Recycling Works does not post-sort its PET plastics after optical sorting and the blower evacuation system helps to maximize the company's bunker capacity. "We are very pleased with the performance of the GREEN EYE® optical sorting system and plan to deploy additional units to sort more grades of plastics," Chris declares. ➔