

Expansion Plans in Place for Sonoco Recycling's Columbia, S.C., Operations

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Dec 15, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Plans are in place for Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, to expand and renovate its Columbia Sonoco Recycling Center, located at 1132 Idlewilde Blvd. Once completed, the expansion and renovation will allow the center to process larger volumes of recycled materials.

Marcy Thompson, division vice president and general manager, Sonoco Recycling, said the Company is investing approximately \$2.5 million to expand its facility by 14,700 square-feet to include new state-of-the-art sorting and conveyor equipment, as well as a new high-speed baler to increase single-stream waste volumes. Work on the expansion is underway with an anticipated completion date of late March or April 2010.

"This project will allow us to increase--on a significant scale--the amount of materials being processed at the facility, and this will help us meet the growing recycling needs of the community and the many customers that count on us," Thompson said.

According to information published in 2006 in *The Economic Impact of the Recycling Industry in South Carolina*, for every 1,000 tons of material removed from landfills and recycled approximately \$3,687 in tax revenues is generated for the state.

"Recycling has many benefits, including conserving resources, reducing the need to build landfills and playing an integral role in the state's economy," said Kent Coleman, director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management. "Sonoco has created a recycling market for the Midlands area that has enabled many local governments, businesses and schools to develop recycling programs or expand existing ones."

Sonoco Recycling's Columbia facility accepts and processes corrugated boxes and other grades of paper as well as metals, plastics and bottle-form glass. The facility accepts curbside material delivered by the public and offers flatbed pick up of baled material, van service for loose, palletized or baled material and roll-off service for 30- and 40-yard open and closed top containers. Sonoco, which processes and uses many of these recycled materials to produce recycled paperboard at its paper mills in the Southeast, utilizes most of that paperboard to produce new consumer and industrial packaging, making Sonoco one of the few cradle-to-cradle suppliers of packaging in the industry. The remaining paperboard is sold to third parties.

Annually, Sonoco collects and processes about 3 million tons of recyclable materials globally through 31 locations and has a team of recycling professionals, many of whom are experts in waste management and manufacturing process improvement. Sonoco is also an exporter of recycled fiber, primarily to Asian markets.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco (NYSE:SON) is a \$4.1 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with about 300 operations in 35 countries, serving customers in some 85 nations. Sonoco is a proud member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI), a global composite index that recognizes leading global companies in terms of economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Sonoco also has been ranked as one of the 100 greenest large companies in the United States in *Newsweek's* inaugural Green Rankings, which evaluated the country's 500 largest companies on their environmental performance, green policies and reputation. Sonoco, which was listed 94th, had the best ranking of any U.S.-based packaging company. For more information on the Company, visit our Web site at <http://www.sonoco.com/>.

SOURCE: Sonoco

Sonoco
Robin Montgomery, 843-383-7509, robin.montgomery@sonoco.com
www.sonoco.com