

CERTIFICATION OF RECYCLED GLASS USE

BACKGROUND

PPG's process of continuous improvement in its float glass manufacturing has resulted in improved efficiency of those operations as units of raw materials and melting fuel required, per unit of finished output, have declined over the past decades. On this basis, for example, the amount of fuel needed to produce a finished ton of flat glass has been reduced by more than twenty percent over the past decade. PPG's oxy-fuel process, now in place at two of its' ten float lines promises to further reduce melting fuel use and environmental impact.

In addition, PPG has invested in reusable glass packaging, reducing the use of disposable packaging material from 75% to 10%. PPG continues to research more efficient and environmentally responsive practices and procedures for glass manufacturing.

GLASS RECYCLING

The total output of PPG flat glass manufacturing contains 20% or more recycled glass. This recycled glass comes from flat glass that is discarded during the manufacturing process for various reasons, such as edge trimming and transitions from one thickness to another.

PPG float glass plants are equipped with extensive systems to recover and store the discarded glass, referred to as "cullet" in the industry. Cullet is then combined with the other batch materials for subsequent production. Due to the wide range of contaminants, it is not currently possible to introduce post-consumer cullet to the flat glass manufacturing process for environmental, safety, quality and economic factors.

Virtually one hundred percent of the cullet internally generated in PPG plants is recycled into production. PPG has even developed the technology to utilize cullet from color transition periods to minimize waste, cost, and environmental impact.



Glass Technology
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