



# RECYCLING BREAKTHROUGH FOR CARTONS AND PLASTIC FILM ANNOUNCED IN QUEBEC

**Recuperation Mauricie** (RCM—a non-profit recycling company based near Trois Rivières), Tetra Pak, and three other seed-capital funding partners have announced that beginning in May, 2010, RCM will begin using post-consumer plastic bags, film, and beverage cartons (any mix of aseptic and gable top) at its plant in Yamachiche to produce a low-cost plastic/fibre resin that manufacturers can use to produce a wide variety of plastic products.

Examples include flowerpots, railway ties, guard rail posts, pallets, plastic lumber, and many other products.

“This is a very exciting development for the recycling of cartons in Quebec, and Canada,” said Tetra Pak Canada Managing Director Santiago Fourcade. “The process uses the entire package, so no residuals are left over. It’s also a great example of sustainable development in packaging.”

That’s because economically the venture will add new business to the bottom line for RCM and the municipalities that include film and cartons in their curbside programs. Environmentally, it will help divert more of these materials from the waste stream through increased recycling. Socially, the project will provide at least 25 new jobs, many of them for disabled workers, once it becomes operational.

The heart of the process is a unit called a “thermokinetic mixer.” Invented in the 1950s, thermokinetic mixers use high-speed knives enclosed in a mixing head to homogenize two or more

disparate materials into a new one with combined physical properties. “The technology is not new,” said Fourcade, “but how it is being applied here is.”

The new line represents a total investment of \$3.5M CDN. Seed capital providers include Tetra Pak (\$500,000), Recyc-Quebec (\$300,000), A. Lassonde Inc. (\$100,000), and Agropur (\$100,000). The remainder of the financing is being provided by a series of grants and low-interest loans and guarantees from provincial, federal, and private participants.

(Click [here](#) for the official press release)

(Click [here](#) for the video)



New process will make plastic/fibre resin from Tetra Pak cartons, milk cartons, and plastic bags and film that can be used to produce flowerpots, railway ties, pallets, plastic lumber, and many other products.