

Bale Wrap Recycling Program Developed for Environmentally Conscious Farmers Across Ontario

September 30, 2011

Finding the proper avenue for the recycling of agricultural plastic films such as those used in bale wrap (used to protect livestock feed) and plastic ground mulch film (used in vegetable production) has long been an issue for farmers in Ontario striving to be more environmentally conscious. Evolution Biopolymers Inc. (EBI), Cambridge, Ontario and Switch Energy, Clinton Ontario are ready for commercial scale collection and recycling of agricultural film waste. Now EBI will be able to provide a solution that is both simple and economic for farmers and at the same time produce recycled polymers for plastics manufactures here in Ontario. An elegant solution: turn a waste product from one industry into feedstock for a different industry and at the same time build new jobs here in Ontario.

About EBI

EBI has successfully developed a proprietary process for cleaning, grinding, agglomerating and extruding waste plastic agricultural film. EBI is an innovative biopolymer manufacturing and marketing company based out of Cambridge, Ontario and is an exclusive licensee of the Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre, University of Guelph, Ontario for biopolymer related formulations using recycled plastic streams.

About Switch Energy

Switch Energy has developed a process for collection of such film, based on the pilot undertaken in Brant County. Switch Energy is based out of Clinton, Ontario in Huron County and has expertise in grinding and segregation of natural fibres and agricultural-related plastic film collection.

Ready to Collect

Following the launch two months ago of a pilot bale wrap collection project with eight farmers in Brant County, the project partners are now ready to engage with multiple farmers and counties and municipalities in Ontario to begin collection of bale wrap and plastic mulch film on a commercial scale.

To further this initiative and explain the collection process, the project partners welcome the opportunity to meet with:

- Municipal Environmental Specialists to discuss how EBI could work with municipal collection centres to collect and pick up bale wrap;
- Leading dairy farmers (users of bale wrap);
- Vegetable growers (users of plastic mulch film).

Training techniques to make it easy for farmers to participate in this collection program have been developed. EBI and Switch Energy and are very open-minded in terms of how different municipalities and different farming habits may call for more customized approaches for collection that make business sense for all.

For more information or to arrange a meeting, please contact Don Nott, Switch Energy at 519-482-7439.