

# PLASTICS Council, Division & Committee Activities



## **BRAND OWNERS COUNCIL**

The BRAND OWNERS COUNCIL is the main point of engagement into PLASTICS for brand owners and other manufacturers of plastic consumer goods. The group also offers unparalleled networking opportunities across the plastics industry supply chain. Key issues for the Council include zero waste strategies around sustainability and environmental stewardship, R&D, product safety and supply chain transparency.

Related Work Groups: Plastics Market Watch (Demographics + Economic Forecasting) Work Group

## **EQUIPMENT COUNCIL**

The EQUIPMENT COUNCIL is the main point of engagement into PLASTICS for all machinery and mold manufacturers.

### **Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES)**

PLASTICS Committee on Equipment Statistics benchmarks participant operations with current market information on equipment orders and shipments for all major sectors of the industry. Participating companies report their monthly or quarterly new sales orders and shipments to a third-party fiduciary, via the PLASTICS CES confidential website. In addition to the monthly reports CES publishes a quarterly Cross Sector Analysis (CSA) report that correlates CES data with general macroeconomic data.

### **Machinery Safety Standards Committee**

As an accredited standards developer of American National Standards Institute (ANSI), PLASTICS, through its Machinery Safety Standards Committee, pursues activities on behalf of the plastics industry and invites greater industry participation to help achieve those objectives. Machine safety is an issue that affects all segments of the industry and machinery standards help to protect stakeholders both physically and financially. Participation is welcomed and encouraged across the industry segments from machinery manufacturers to users and other interested parties.

Subcommittees: Blow Molding, Extrusion, Injection Molding, Robot, Hot Runner, Moldmakers, Auxiliary

## **MATERIAL SUPPLIERS COUNCIL**

The MATERIAL SUPPLIERS COUNCIL is the main point of engagement for resin, additive, colorant and other material suppliers. The Council brings together company representatives to:

- Learn of regulatory issues that may jeopardize your business. Join forces with other affected companies and advocates to combat product de-selection.
- Grow your marketplace and connect with industry decision-makers. Establish direct contact with others in a variety of end markets. PLASTICS blend processors, brand owners, machinery and material suppliers for unparalleled networking opportunities.
- Formulate advocacy strategies and develop technical comments that promote the use of sound science and good public policy towards fair regulation.

### **Flexible Vinyl Products Division (FVPD)**

The Flexible Vinyl Products Division works for the benefit of all companies within the flexible vinyl industry regardless of end-market applications. They provide technical education to support innovations in vinyl products and provide regulatory support and advocacy regarding phthalates if deemed to be a concern by local, state, federal or international regulatory bodies.

### **Bioplastics Division**

The Bioplastics Division of PLASTICS works to promote the development of bioplastics as an integral part of the plastics industry by:

- Educating and providing strategic advice to the plastics industry, governments and supply chain and promote harmonized environmental policies

- Articulating clear and consistent descriptions of the different bioplastics options
- Fostering industry collaboration and networking.

### **Fluoropolymer Products Division (FPD)**

The Fluoropolymer Products Division represents PLASTICS member companies that manufacture fluoropolymer resins or process, convert, compound or formulate fluoropolymers. This group keeps members apprised of industry developments and promotes the benefits of fluoropolymers to material suppliers and public opinion leaders.

The division maintains an active and collaborative relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

FPD produces an annual conference each year to focus on the regulatory and economic issues for this market segment. It is usually held in the first quarter of the year and an additional meeting can be called if events require.

### **Wire and Cable Section**

- Wire and Cable Code Activity - The Section supports and coordinates the activities of consultants serving on the National Electrical Code (NEC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards committees.
- Power over the Ethernet Work Group - Section members have funded a study by Underwriters Laboratories to develop standards for wire and cable used to supply power for the "Internet of Things." As home automation systems, smart appliances and security systems evolve more and more are pushing significant power over the existing wiring in offices and homes. This study examined the safe levels of power these harnesses can handle. The results of this study were incorporated into the 2017 NEC.

### **Organic Peroxide Producers Safety Division (OPPSD)**

The major objective of this PLASTICS division is to promote the science, safety and handling of organic peroxides. Toward this goal, the division's activities include:

- Resolve safety issues confronting the organic peroxide industry and its members.
- Identify the hazards of organic peroxides and establish recommended safe practices for organic peroxides.
- Promote research, development and standardization and publish reliable data.

## **PROCESSORS COUNCIL**

The PROCESSORS COUNCIL is the main point of engagement into PLASTICS for all processors, regardless of the process they represent.

### **Flexible Film & Bag Division (FFBD)**

The PLASTICS Flexible Film and Bag Division (FFBD) is a membership division made up of company representatives from the resin, machinery, processor and brand owner segments of the plastics industry engaged in the manufacture of flexible film and bags. The FFBD brings members together to:

- Discuss and exchange knowledge on new technology, resin innovations and packaging trends that impact the flexible film and bag industry.
- Provide networking opportunities throughout the year for companies who process flexible film or sell resin, additives and equipment for the manufacture of flexible film and bags.
- Act as a clearinghouse for information on advocacy efforts related to flexible film recycling, material de-selection and state and local bag bans and tax initiatives.
- Host an annual conference that brings together members and non-members from all segments of the industry for updates on technical issues, advocacy, resin pricing trends and economic updates.
- Ongoing projects include: Materials Recovery for the Future (MRF) and New End Market Opportunities (NEMO)

### **Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS)**

OCS is a voluntary stewardship program for the industry managed by PLASTICS & ACC. Through the implementation of good housekeeping and containment practices the program works towards achieving zero pellet, flake and powder loss, protecting the environment and saving valuable resources.

### **Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Applications Committee (PMDAC)**

PMDAC is a public policy committee comprised of business owners, senior-level executives, and quality and regulatory specialists representing raw material suppliers, formulators and compounders, auxiliary equipment manufacturers, moldmakers, processors and brand owners. PMDAC brings together company representatives to:

- Educate members through ad hoc meetings and webinars hosted regularly.
- Improve communications among manufacturers along the supply chain for plastics used in pharmaceutical and medical device applications, including through the creation of the Change and Certification of Materials in Medical Devices Resource Guide.
- Write and promote voluntary standards or guidance documents for the supply chain to help maintain a level playing field for domestic and global medical manufacturers.
- Address the impact of sustainability/recycling initiatives for manufacturers within the medical sphere.
- Monitor timely regulatory developments related to plastics used in medical applications, including efforts to exempt Type III Drug Master Files from the electronic filing format submission requirements.

### **Rigid Plastics Packaging Group (RPPG)**

RPPG focuses on consumer product and food service packaging and is a resin-neutral committee. Membership is open to all suppliers, processors, converters and brand owners in the rigid plastic packaging supply chain. The RPPG delivers networking and engagement on issues impacting the business of rigid plastic packaging. RPPG has actively worked:

- To engage local and state representatives, including through Plastics Industry Days in Sacramento, CA, where member companies presented to and educated legislators and regulators (like CalRecycle) – sharing their stories and projects, sustainability efforts and data supporting the industry.
- To create a series of pro-plastics videos to “move the needle” on the perception of plastics. These videos can be used by member companies, used for new hires, shared with legislators, displayed at events, etc. The three-part video series included:
  - *Plastics Prevents Food Waste*, which demonstrates the environmental benefit of plastic packaging for preserving food and preventing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - *Plastics Improves Lives*, which highlights the vital roles that plastic products and plastic packaging play in modern healthcare.
  - *Plastics Do More with Less*, which focuses on the sustainability benefits of plastic packaging used to ship and sell household products.

### **Transportation & Industrial Plastics (TIP) Committee**

The TIP Committee is resin-neutral and focuses on the rigid/durables supply chain, including automotive and transportation. Issues of interest for this group include: lightweighting materials technology, end-of-life/recycling, zero landfill manufacturing, transparency/materials content, sub-contractor supply chain management, and processes benchmarking.

### **RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The RECYCLING COMMITTEE is a stand-alone committee at PLASTICS that includes representation from all of the PLASTICS Councils, solving the challenges of recycling in a pre-competitive space so we can scale solutions quickly. Activities underway include:

- Innovative demonstration projects for recovering new streams of plastics.
- Industry sustainability benchmarking.
- Zero Net Waste recognition program.
- Ongoing collaboration and partnership with external organizations, such as the Recycling Partnership.
- Valuable informational webinars.
- Refocus Sustainability & Recycling Summit, the industry's preeminent event on advancing sustainability in plastics manufacturing.
- The following active subcommittees primarily conduct the group's work: Advocacy and Communications, Events and Education, Technology and Equipment

### **REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

#### **EHS+ (Environment, Health, Safety +)**

The EHS+ Committee provides a forum for all segments of the membership to engage on environmental, worker health and safety, and product regulatory matters. Its mission is to provide leadership, guidance and support that will bring about continual improvement in these areas within the plastics industry, while supporting the use of science and public policy in promoting and serving member interests. Members across various career stages come together to:

- Track, share, discuss and address regulatory and related developments
- Deliver information, tools, resources, programming, and networking opportunities
- Engage with government agencies (e.g., EPA and OSHA) and other stakeholders
- Develop advocacy strategies and provide input on legislative and regulatory proposals
- Protect polymer market interests where domestic and international activities affect product management
- Share approaches to achieving environmental and social sustainability beyond regulatory compliance
- Task Groups: Worker Health and Safety, Environmental Issues, Product Regulatory

#### **Food, Drug & Cosmetic Packaging Materials Committee (FDCPMC)**

The FDCPMC is a public policy committee made up of company representatives from all segments of the plastics industry. They work to support this regulatory environment, facilitating meetings between officials and members of the industry, and working to harmonize policies to support economic growth and global trade; while ensuring the safety of the world's food and drug supply. The FDCPMC brings together company representatives to:

- Discuss and exchange knowledge on international regulatory developments, compliance and customer assurance, through regular web and teleconferences and e-mail dialogues as well as semi-annual technical conferences
- Work directly with officials at U.S. FDA and counterpart regulatory agencies around the world, who regularly call on the Committee as a primary source of industry expertise and data to support the refinement of global food packaging regulations
- Formulate advocacy strategies and develop technical comments that promote the use of sound science and good public policy towards fair regulation of packaging and non-packaging components of food, drugs, personal care products, toys and medical devices

The Committee hosts a biennial International Symposium on Worldwide Regulation of Food Packaging that brings together global regulators, technical experts and industry leaders for a focused and intimate discussion on overcoming regulatory obstacles to global marketing of food packaging materials.

### **TACTICAL COMMITTEES**

PLASTICS' Tactical Committees exist to provide an Association-wide focal point for issues or areas of broad concern that extend substantially beyond the interests of a single Industry Segment.

#### **Communications Committee**

The Plastics Communications Committee is an informal committee of communications and media relations professionals from interested member companies tasked with amplifying the plastics industry's message.

#### **Future Leaders in Plastics (FLiP)**

FLiP was designed for plastics professionals under the age of 40 to provide young professionals in the plastics industry with exposure, education and the resources they need to advance themselves.

#### **Public Policy Committee (PPC)**

The Public Policy Committee oversees a comprehensive public policy program designed to preserve or enhance a positive legislative and regulatory climate for the entire plastics industry.

**For more information, please contact Jill Brandts, Director of Member Relations at [jbrandts@plasticsindustry.org](mailto:jbrandts@plasticsindustry.org) or (949) 307-7838.**