

Junk in, products out

Conigliaro Industries takes recycling to another level

By Craig M. Douglas, News Business Writer

Framingham - Dozens of environmentalists and state officials gathered on Waverly Street yesterday to tour a waste and recycling facility owned by one of the area's leading resources for reprocessed junk.



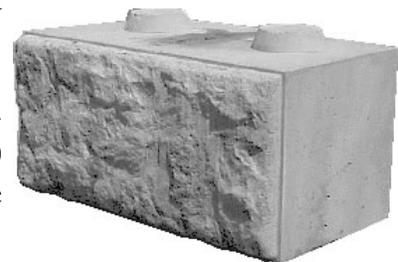
Members of the Sudbury Green Earth Decade Committee enjoy Conigliaro Industries' American Recycles Day Open House held on November 15, 2004

Conigliaro Industries Inc. is now in its 14th year of business, accepting and recycling about 125 tons of discarded plastic, glass and industrial material each day. The company has processed more than 75 million tons of waste since 1990, turning most of it into reusable products like mulch and "Plas-crete" blocks that are sold to landscapers and construction companies.

Yesterday the local firm celebrated its successful history along with the eighth annual "America Recycles Day," by offering an inside look at its 7-acre manufacturing facility. About 150 people attended. "It's been an incredible odyssey getting this recycling site completely up to par," said Greg

Conigliaro, the company's president. "In a relatively low-tech industry, we're a relatively high-tech company."

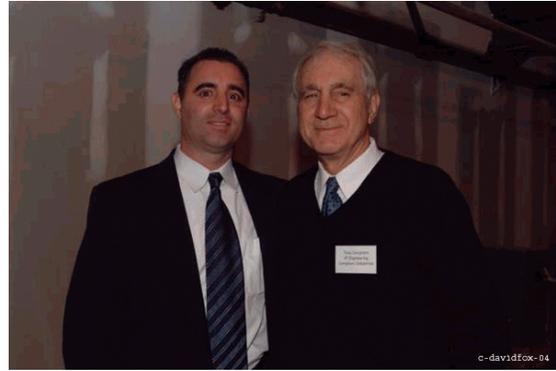
Conigliaro said the business has evolved from a simple paper-recycling plant to a receiver and processor of more than 150 materials. The company uses eight collection trucks and more than a dozen styles of collection bins to gather a hodgepodge of waste from hospitals, colleges, businesses and homes.



Plas-Crete Block made from 50% recycled rigid plastics. Shown with rough stone finish.

Recycler merits attention

In addition to its landscape mulch and Plas-crete blocks, which are made from a mix of concrete and recycled waste, the company's product line includes foam insulation; "Boston's Best Patch," a patching material used for potholes; "PolyCorn," or recycled packing peanuts; and "tumbled glass aggregate," a colorful ground cover made of crushed glass.



Gregory Conigliaro, President (left) and Anthony Conigliaro, Vice President, enjoying the festivities at their company's America Recycles Day 2004 Open House.

Conigliaro has used a mix of state grants (about \$200,000) and internal funding (nearly \$1 million) to pay for its state-of-the-art equipment and machinery. The company's 40 employees and recycling infrastructure can break down and reuse materials used in everything from televisions to mattresses.

"I'd say they're unique in that they manage a lot of difficult-to-recycle commodities," said Stephen Long, a recycling expert with the state Department of Environmental Protection. "They're also unique in that they're vertically integrated; they do everything from soup to nuts."

Conigliaro said his company has benefitted from Massachusetts' aggressive stance on recycling. Since 1990, the commonwealth has increased its recycling production several times over, decreasing its number of active landfills from 222 to 20.

Massachusetts recycles more than 6 million tons of waste a year, fueling an industry that pumps more than \$600 million annually into the state's economy and employs about 19,000 people.

Since 1998, the state has granted about \$2.4 million to support recycling businesses. The DEP said those funds have been matched by about \$8.4 million in private-sector investments.

For further information:



701 Waverly Street, Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 872-9668 or (888) CONIG - 25
Fax (508) 653-6672
email: sales@conigliaro.com – www.conigliaro.com