



Recycling Business Assistance Center

N.C. RECYCLING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC RECYCLERS

AEIPLUS, INC

GRANT PRIORITY PROJECT: EXPANDING PLASTIC PROCESSING CAPACITY IN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL MARKET CHALLENGES



LOCATION



Belmont,
Gaston County



AMOUNT REWARDED



\$ 30,000

NUMBER OF JOBS



Current: 5
Added with grant: 10

END PRODUCT



Pellets – to manufacture
pipes and bags

BACKGROUND

AEIPLUS, Inc. is a recycling business that offers farmers an alternative to landfilling their plastic waste. With a 120,000 square-foot facility in Belmont, the company recycles agricultural plastics such as mulch films, irrigation tubing, nursery containers and twine. AEIPLUS picks up plastic directly from farms and hauls the material to the Belmont facility for sorting and processing. Contaminants like dirt and sand cling to the plastics, and must be removed to produce a high quality material and reduce shipping costs. After removing all dirt and sand, AEIPLUS shreds the plastic and sends it to an international business partner for pelletizing. Ultimately, the plastic pellets are manufactured into new products like pipes and bags.



AEIPLUS Inc

Enhance Our World More Green



PROJECT DETAILS

Recycling agricultural plastics can be challenging due to the difficult and time consuming process of removing contaminants. AEIPLUS was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) to purchase equipment specifically designed to remove dirt and sand from agricultural mulch film and drip tape. This equipment has enabled AEIPLUS to quickly and efficiently remove contaminants, thereby increasing the marketability and profitability of these hard-to-recycle plastics. The company estimates that the new machinery will create 10 new full-time jobs and divert an additional 3,000 tons of plastic from landfills annually.

AEIPLUS, Inc. will purchase a sand remover to clean agricultural film for recycling.



RBAC is a partnership of the N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) and Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina that provides technical and financial assistance to recycling businesses, manufacturers, local governments, institutions, economic developers and citizens in environmental management. For questions call 1-877-623-6748.

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