Holmes Iron and Metal, Inc. has been in the scrap metal recycling industry for more than 60 years. Located in East Spencer, Holmes began recycling rigid plastics in 2012 after noticing that many of its scrap metal suppliers also needed to dispose of items like intermediate bulk containers and barrels. Today, Holmes sources rigid plastics from these suppliers as well as manufacturing and packaging companies in North Carolina. The company shreds the plastic containers and hires an outside company to clean the materials before they are baled. Holmes then sells the plastic bales to local businesses that manufacture new products like containers, pipes and rope.

The Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) awarded Holmes Iron and Metal a grant for $20,000 to purchase a second shredder. The new equipment will allow the company to process more material and clear up storage space at its facility. With the freed space and increased capacity, Holmes Iron and Metal hopes to target new streams like post-consumer plastics from local municipalities. With help from RBAC, Holmes will expand the domestic recycling market for rigid plastics and divert an additional 623 tons of plastic from landfills each year.

Holmes Iron and Metal will purchase a shredder to recycle more industrial plastics.