Plastic Materials, Inc. started recycling rigid plastics, films, foams, bubble wrap, and other hard-to-recycle plastics in 2008. Plastic Materials works with manufacturers in North Carolina to plan and implement recycling programs for post-industrial waste streams. When plastics arrive at the company's loading docks, employees use forklifts to unload and move materials to the different processing lines in the recycling facility. Plastic Materials then shreds, densifies and cleans the plastics so they can be sold to manufacturers with unique product specifications. Some of Plastic Materials' recycling customers also buy recycled feedstock from the company, creating an efficient and sustainable supply chain loop. With these recycled plastics, manufacturers produce plastic lumber and other construction and building materials.

Following China's recent adoption of stricter import standards, higher volumes of hard-to-recycle plastics have become available for companies like Plastic Materials. The Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) awarded Plastic Materials a $17,120 grant to help the business purchase two new forklifts. The new forklifts have allowed the company to unload incoming materials while continuously operating its recycling machinery at full capacity. The grant project will help Plastic Materials divert an additional 560 tons of plastics from landfills for a total annual diversion of 3,480 tons.

Plastic Materials will purchase two forklifts to increase recycling capacity and productivity.