

CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS HONORED ALONG WITH ITS CUSTOMER HYPERTHERM FOR INNOVATIVE RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

RUTLAND, Vt. (June 3, 2016) – Casella Waste Systems, Inc. and its customer and collaborator Hypertherm of Lebanon, N.H. have been recognized for their work and innovation around industrial recycling and waste reduction by the New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR).

NHBSR and New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan presented Casella and Hypertherm with the inaugural “Partnerships for Innovation” award at NHBSR’s Spring Conference in Concord, N.H. on May 11.

“It’s great to be recognized for our efforts to innovate around waste and recycling, and doubly gratifying to share this award with such an innovative, forward-thinking customer,” Paul Ligon, Senior Vice President of Casella, said. “This partnership serves as a model for what is possible in addressing some of our most challenging problems around resource renewal.”

According to Ligon, Hypertherm, a manufacturer of plasma, laser and waterjet cutting systems, had achieved an impressive recycling rate of 73 percent as of 2013. The company was successfully diverting traditional recyclables, and the remaining disposal stream consisted mostly of difficult-to-recycle and small-volume industrial materials such as HDPE and wooden reels, hosing, and unique industrial plastics.

Through its experience operating resource management programs for industrial customers throughout the U.S., Casella knew that these materials are technically recyclable, but that a recycling program could only become cost-effective with larger volumes than Hypertherm generated. Casella also knew that other companies and institutions located throughout the region were in the exact same position.

According to Ligon, over the course of 2014, the two companies collaborated on an innovative plan to overcome Hypertherm’s recycling barriers while also helping other New Hampshire and Vermont businesses meet their recycling goals. In early 2015, Hypertherm provided Casella available warehouse space to implement a comprehensive recycling operation for its hard-to-recycle byproducts. Casella installed equipment, hired an operator, and began collecting, sorting, baling, and grading these materials. Casella also began sourcing hard-to-recycle materials from other nearby companies, including Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Cabot Creamery and GW Plastics.

Today the program is finding homes for 28 tons per month of hard-to-recycle materials, including rubber hosing, film plastic, and outdated packaging materials which would otherwise be sent for disposal. The program has increased Hypertherm’s diversion rate by nearly 20 percent and has increased overall rebates and the value of the program by 1000 percent.

“And the collaborative innovation continues,” Ligon said. “Together we are finding opportunities to resell materials for reuse; we are engaging research institutions to test and develop closed-loop solutions; and we are inventing new processes and programs to manage resources for our communities and businesses.”

About Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

Casella Waste Systems, Inc., headquartered in Rutland, Vermont, provides integrated resource management services consisting of collection, transfer, disposal, organics, recycling and professional services in the United States.