

UPCYCLERS NETWORK

Where Others See Waste, We See Opportunity

PRESS RELEASE

Los Angeles, CA November 12, 2019--The UPcyclers Network is excited to announce the winners of the 2019 Annual UPcyclers Network Product Awards. The awards highlight innovative companies that are creating value from materials that our society currently views as waste.

“With America Recycles Day taking place on November 15th, the UPcyclers Network believes it is the opportune time to recognize those businesses who are **converting** recovered material into valuable end products. With these awards, we are reminding businesses and consumers that not only should they recycle, but they must BUY RECYCLED to truly enable the full recirculation of materials back into our economy.” says Gina Lee, Founder of the UPcyclers Network. “By supporting those business who drive domestic demand for recovered and recycled material, we can bolster the financial health of our recycling system, lessen our reliance on foreign material imports, and create local jobs! These selected Upcyclers are innovators in their understanding of the value within “waste” and they are helping us transition to the circular production model of the future.”

Annual UPcyclers Network Product Awards Winners

Material Innovation/Creativity

- B2B: Substrate Wall Panel, [Global Fiberglass Solutions](#)

Global Fiberglass Solutions (GFS) is an innovative recycling, materials science, and green-product manufacturing company. GFS produces high quality, nonpolluting infrastructure and building products from recycled fiberglass composites such as wind turbine blades. Their mission is to provide a sustainable alternative solution for nondegradable materials through remediation services and material science. Together with their clients they create a circular, zero-waste solution to bypass landfilling of fiberglass waste and help reduce the world’s carbon footprint.

- B2C: Airbag Backpack, [Rewilder](#)

Rewilder is a sustainable fashion brand that finds the beauty in discarded industrial materials and upcycles them into classic silhouettes that highlight their strength and durability. They are women owned and manufacture ethically in Los Angeles. Each

Airbag Backpack diverts the equivalent CO2 from the landfill as planting 6 trees, driving 300 miles in a passenger car, or charging your smart phone every night for 49 years! Designed to save lives, the high-tech airbag material is sourced from factory end rolls trashed during airbag production. The handles are made from salvaged seatbelts, and even the thread is upcycled.

Closed Loop Solutions

- B2B: [Armstrong Ceiling Tile](#)

The Armstrong Ceiling Recycling Program is the first and longest running ceiling recycling program in the industry. Since its inception in 1999, the program has recycled over 200 million square feet of used ceiling tiles which has diverted over 195 million square feet of old ceiling materials from going to the landfill. That is equivalent to 1,073,000 tons of virgin raw materials saved. The recovered ceiling panels are returned to the closest Armstrong Ceilings plant and upcycled into new ceilings.

- B2C: [Public Thread](#) (with Steelcase)

Public Thread is about using what already exists around us. A textile upcycling social enterprise in Grand Rapids, MI, Public Thread transforms pre-consumer scrap and salvaged textiles including upholstery and apparel fabrics, 3D knit, wools, nylon, vinyl, leather scraps, billboards signs, banners and grain bags into batch/wholesale and direct to consumer retail products that support living wage jobs. One of their key partner supplier relationships is with Steelcase – the leading manufacturer of furniture for offices, hospitals, and classrooms. In just this year, the partnership has diverted more than 3 tons of textile waste with over 26% of the recovered material directly upcycled into new products.

Scale

- B2B: Aluminum Can, [Can Manufacturers Institute](#)

The aluminum beverage can is the most recycled drinks package in the world, and it has the highest recycling rate in the United States of all the beverage containers at 49%. On average, the aluminum cans you see today are made from over 70% recycled content! When a can is made from recycled material, it means 95 percent less energy used and 95 percent less emissions generated than a can made from virgin material.

- B2C: Local Layer, [Recover](#)

The Recover Local Layer is designed, sourced, and sewn in North Carolina. Made entirely within a 150-mile radius of the Recover headquarters - from the recycling center right down to the finished product - the Local Layer is also made with 100% recycled materials - just 22 bottles to make 1 garment. As a mission driven company that is committed to making the most environmentally friendly and socially responsible products possible, the Local Layer embodies the Recover philosophy to the core. From supporting jobs in its local community, to sourcing sustainable materials, to a low carbon footprint - the new Recover Local Layer is the perfect technical layer for everything.

Honorable Mention

- Sana Ocean Tube, [Sana Packaging](#)

Sana Packaging designs and develops cannabis packaging for a circular economy using 100% reclaimed ocean plastic and other sustainable materials. Sana Packaging has partnered with Oceanworks, a global marketplace for recycled ocean plastics, to create their 100% reclaimed ocean plastic products. Sana Packaging currently has two 100% reclaimed ocean plastic products, the Sana Ocean Tube 110 and the Sana Ocean Tube 78. As of October 2019, Sana Packaging has already removed more than 16 tons (32,000 pounds) of plastic waste from our oceans.

These seven companies were selected from a total of 30 submissions. By manufacturing products made from recycled, recovered, and discarded material, these companies are creating domestic manufacturing jobs, lowering our reliance on foreign material imports and virgin resource use, and building the foundation for the production model of the future.

About the Upcyclers Network

The mission of the Upcyclers Network is the creation of a sustainable global economy. One where waste is seen as a resource and growth is decoupled from natural resource extraction.

The Upcyclers Network supports businesses who rely on waste as feedstock to create value added products and materials. These businesses build demand for recycled, recovered, and discarded material and support local economic development. Together, we will shift our perception of waste and support the transition to a circular economy.

Join us to build a brighter future at www.upcyclersnetwork.org.

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