

U.S. FOUNDRY'S CREATIVE ECOLOGICAL INITIATIVES

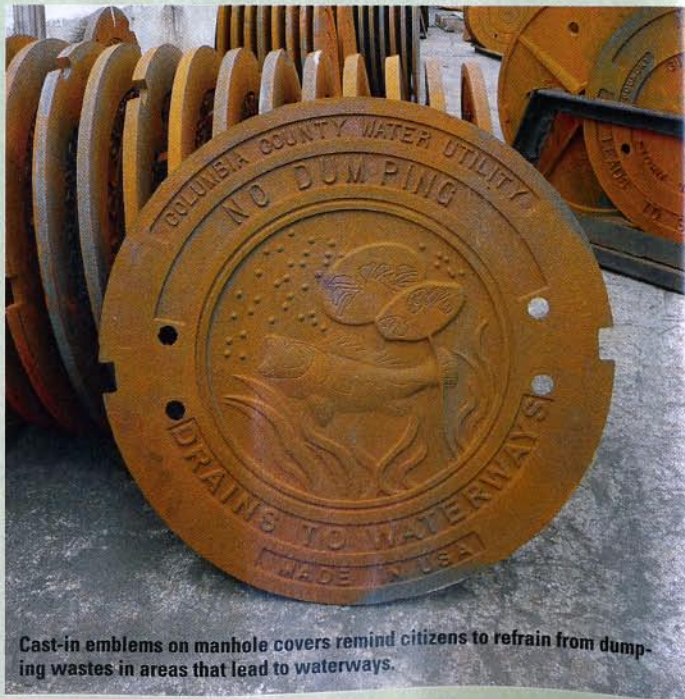
All metalcasting facilities use some degree of recycled material. U.S. Foundry, Medley, Fla., uses 100% recycled material in its castings. The maker of municipal castings, such as manhole covers, tree grates and curb and gutter inlets, does not purchase any pig iron or prepared metal, according to technical director Adam SanSolo.

U.S. Foundry receives recycled metal from typical and atypical sources. For instance, while the rubber in tires is a well-known recycled material used in athletic facilities and playgrounds or as a fuel source, the steel wire used in steel-belted radial tires has historically been disposed. U.S. Foundry melts the wire at its casting facility.

"It enables us to use 100% recycled material and also means that the tire itself is then a 100% recycled material," SanSolo said.

U.S. Foundry is also a recognized recycler of demilitarized material, so it melts scrap from arms and explosives and is licensed by the State of Florida as a recycler of special waste that would otherwise go to a landfill.

"We've been a recycler of special waste since the mid-1990s," SanSolo said. "We are always trying to find more unique materials to recycle. We strictly adhere to our technical properties, but because of the product we produce, which is a low technology



Cast-in emblems on manhole covers remind citizens to refrain from dumping wastes in areas that lead to waterways.

part when it comes to chemistry, we have the opportunity to use more exotic materials."

U.S. Foundry also looks for scrap coming from nearby sources, including scrap steel from the Orange Bowl stadium when it was torn down in 2008. Local sources of steel help the metalcasting facility and its customers earn credit through LEED, a green building certification program that encourages sustainable building and development practices.

"We can receive LEED credit for pre- and post-consumer recycling and for using locally produced/locally supplied products," SanSolo said. U.S. Foundry works with its customers to provide evidence of recycled content and/or local supply to help them earn LEED certification.

U.S. Foundry also has found a way to help its customers become more environmentally friendly. Through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initiative, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program, communities are obligated to instruct citizens on the harm of dumping something into waterways. U.S. Foundry offers to incorporate an emblem or message on a drainage casting at no charge as a reminder to industries not to dump.

"It's a permanent, low-cost way of discouraging dumping into communities," SanSolo said. **MC**

—Shannon Wetzel, Senior Editor