For Immediate Release

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RECYCLERS FOR NPE 2006 AIM TO COLLECT AND REPROCESS HALF A MILLION POUNDS OF SCRAP PLASTICS GENERATED DURING THE SHOW

Valuable Materials to Be Reclaimed instead of Being Sent to Chicago Landfills

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., April 6, 2006: So big is the NPE international plastics exposition that every day the equipment in operation at the show generates thousands of pounds of reusable plastics scrap. The companies that will run the official recycling program at NPE 2006 say they hope to collect and reprocess half a million pounds (227 metric tons) of such material, keeping all but a small fraction of the scrap from the show out of Chicago landfills.

NPE 2006 will take place at Chicago’s McCormick Place on June 19-23. Of the 2,000 exhibitors at the event, a number of them will be machinery builders whose booths will feature equipment in commercial-scale operation, generating all sorts of sample plastic products as well as trim scrap, sprues, and runners. Exhibitors must pay to have these plastics removed from their booths, whether or not they participate in the recycling program.

The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI), sponsor of the triennial NPE shows, has commissioned Eco Educators, an environmental training company, to manage the program and to coordinate with exhibitors, McCormick Place, unions, and GES, the general contractor for NPE 2006. Maine Plastics, Inc., a resin buyer, recycler, and toll processor, will reprocess the scrap. Eco Educators has worked on NPE recycling programs since the 1991 show, and Maine Plastics, Inc. became involved starting with NPE 2000.

A total of 335,000 lb. (152 metric tons) of scrap, or 36 truckloads, was collected from 72 participating exhibitors at NPE 2003, according to Susie Harpham, president of Eco Educators. “We intend to provide an efficient and effective service to NPE exhibitors,” Harpham said. “Our goal is to divert 100% of recyclable scrap, and we are prepared to collect up to 500,000 pounds [227 metric tons].” Harpham said.

Exhibitors benefit from participating in the recycling program, according to Robert Render, president of Maine Plastics. “The program provides a support service for exhibitors by resolving the problem of collecting and recycling scrap plastics,” noted Render. “At the same time, participation by exhibitors helps dramatize the fact that plastics are recyclable by keeping the scrap collected at the year’s largest plastics show out of the waste stream.”

Information about the official NPE 2006 recycling program is available from Eco Educators. Email: recycle@npe.org. Tel (toll-free): 888-532-7842.

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MAINE PLASTICS, INC. is a buyer of resins, custom recycler, and toll processor based at 1817 Kenosa Road, Zion, IL 60099 U.S.A. Tel: 1-847-473-3553. Fax: 1-847-473-3611. Email president Robert Render at rrender@maineplastics.com.

ECO EDUCATORS is an environmental education and training company focusing on issues related to solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and buying recycled-content products. It is based at 1335 Dublin Road, Suite 216C, Columbus, OH 43215 U.S.A. Tel: 1-888-532-7842. Fax: 1-614-488-4005. Email president Susie Harpham at ecoeducators@iwaynet.net.

NPE 2006: THE INTERNATIONAL PLASTICS SHOWCASE, will take place from June 19 to 23 at Chicago’s McCormick Place exhibition center and will be the largest international plastics show of the year. Founded and sponsored by The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI), the triennial show will be the 25th NPE since 1946. At least 2,000 companies are expected to exhibit on nearly 1,000,000 sq.ft. (93,000 m²) of space, one-third of them coming directly from outside the U.S.A. More than 75,000 industry professionals will attend the exposition. Visit www.npe.org to learn about the show.

Founded in 1937, THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, INC., (SPI) is the trade association representing one of the largest manufacturing industries in the United States. SPI's members represent the entire plastics industry supply chain, including processors, machinery and equipment manufacturers and raw materials suppliers. The U.S. plastics industry employs 1.3 million workers and provides nearly $345 billion in annual shipments. For more information, visit SPI on the Web at www.plasticsindustry.org.