

Think Plastics Inc.**Established: 2004****Membership Size:** 9 employees

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**Goals/Mission/Background**

Think Plastics Inc. is headquartered in New Hamburg, Ontario, west of Kitchener-Waterloo. Its mission is to produce an affordable, high quality, 100% polyethylene plastic lumber for the agricultural, equine, marine, and recreational sectors – while helping to alleviate a major and growing environmental problem.

Think Plastics Inc. is believed to be the only company in the world successfully collecting used white agricultural bale wrap and greenhouse film and recycling the materials into finished products. Millions of pounds of these plastic films are sold in Ontario every year and, until the *Think Plastics'* collection program began in 2005, the materials were landfilled, or worse yet – burned! Beginning with 11 landfill or transfer station sites, there are now thirty-three in South Central Ontario, including the Crosshill Transfer Station in Waterloo Region, participating in the collection program. Six large nurseries in the Niagara Region are also involved.



Not Going to Waste Anymore – recycling greenhouse film and bale wrap from nurseries and farms has had a tremendously positive environmental impact, while also solving the problem of how to dispose of these products.

Events/Activities/Actions (2007)

Think Plastics' Inc. was the recipient of the 2007 Heritage Wilmot "Environmental Award". The company also launched a new colour to its' Baleboard® line of products: Cedartone is now available, along with the original Sandstone shade.

To date, the company has diverted more than 1.5-million pounds (681 tonnes) of scrap plastic from landfill. All 33 landfill sites and transfer station sites have waived tipping fees for farmers; farmers are simply required to shake the wrap to remove major clumps of dirt and stones. *Think Plastics* picks up the material free of charge with a modified compactor truck and brings the scrap plastic to *Think Plastics'* 16,000 square foot production facility in New Hamburg. Here it is recycled and used to produce a solid plastic lumber called Baleboard® and a 4' x 8' flexible sheet called Nusheet.

Baleboard® is available in five sizes and two colours, and can be used in any non-load bearing application where wood and composites are used today. It is extremely tough and durable, does not leach or rot, is resistant to ammonia, oil and gas, and is not slippery when wet. Baleboard® is ideal for decks, docks, outdoor tables and benches, wheelchair access ramps, arena and bleacher seating, skids and crates, bumper boards, landscaping, electric farm fencing, and more! Its uses are virtually up to the imagination. Nusheet is ideal for lining barn walls, horse stalls, trucks, and sheds. Fourteen retailers currently carry both products.



GRAND ACTIONS: A Registry of Accomplishments and Commitments, 2007

Recognizing Actions That Improve the Grand River Watershed, Promote Heritage Appreciation, and/or Support the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River

Sponsors/Partners/Supporters	Contributions
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	⇒ worked closely with <i>Think Plastics Inc.</i> to establish its bale wrap collection program. The OFA has encouraged municipalities to establish collection sites and it promotes the recycling program to the farm community.
Landscape Ontario	⇒ promoted the collection program to nursery operators. Six large nurseries in Southern Ontario now participate.
Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC)	⇒ provided \$72,390 (since 2004) in federal grant funding to <i>Think Plastics Inc.</i> through the CanAdapt and CanAdvance Programs. The AAC also provided a loan to help establish the New Hamburg manufacturing facility.

Media Coverage

The tremendous environmental impact being made by reducing scrap agricultural plastic going to landfill or burn barrels has resulted in *Think Plastics Inc.* receiving publicity from numerous media, including, but not limited to:

- ✂ Waterloo Region Record, newspaper
- ✂ The Toronto Star, newspaper
- ✂ CTV Southwestern Ontario, television
- ✂ A-Channel, television station
- ✂ CBC Radio
- ✂ New Hamburg Independent, newspaper
- ✂ EPIC, Environment and Plastics Industry Council publications
- ✂ Beacon Herald, Stratford and region newspaper
- ✂ The Rural Voice, newsletter
- ✂ Better Farming, magazine
- ✂ Ontario Farmer, newspaper

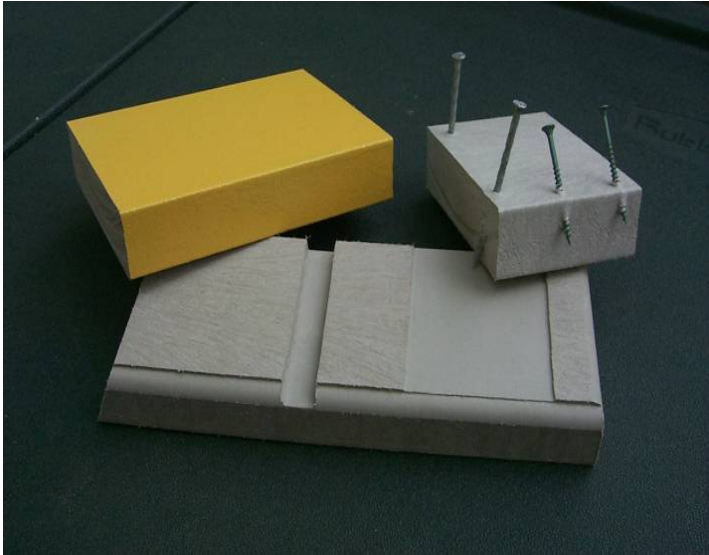


One of Many Important Supporters – working with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to develop the collection program, where piles of plastic are recycled into new products at the company's New Hamburg plant.



Future Activities Planned

Think Plastics Inc. is experimenting with other types of current “non recyclable” agricultural plastics (i.e., polypropylene twine, seed trays, black and white bunker tarp) with the eventual goal of expanding its recycling operation and finished product line. *Think Plastics Inc.* has received inquiries about its recycling process from around the world. Disposal of agricultural films is a global problem. *Think Plastics Inc.* plans to establish similar recycling and manufacturing facilities across Canada, the U.S.A., and potentially Europe. Scrap plastic material would be collected from within a 200-mile radius of each facility.



Making the New from the Old - recycling helps create the solid plastic lumber called Baleboard®.

Continued Innovations - launching a second colour of Baleboard®. It is now available in Sandstone and Cedartone shades from the recycled plastics.



Constantly Recycling - lining barn walls, horse stalls, trucks, and sheds is a second recycled product called Nusheet.

Numerous Applications - working with Baleboard®. in non-load bearing situations where wood and wood composites would normally be used such as wheelchair ramps.

