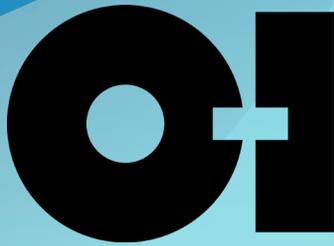




North Carolina

BUSINESS LEADERS

Use Recycled Content



Lexington, N.C. — Davidson County



PRODUCTS

Bottles for the food and beverage industry



MARKET

The world's leading manufacturer of glass packaging



DIVERSION

Nearly 68,000 tons of glass recycled annually

BUSINESS STORY

O-I Glass was founded in 1903 as the Owens Bottle Company. O-I employs 25,500 people at 72 plants in 20 countries. The facility in Lexington has nearly 200 employees under the leadership of plant manager, Matt Boswell. The Lexington facility was established in 1973 and is located on Old U.S. Hwy 52. It features three furnaces and four bottle production lines that supply bottles for the food and beverage industry.

O-I's vision is to be the most sustainable maker of the most sustainable container. That vision requires a focus on circularity of what the company makes. Part of that circularity equation is using recycled materials as feedstock for products. Because glass is endlessly recyclable, the more of it that can be collected and used, the closer O-I comes to making its vision a reality.

PROCESS

Recycled glass is an important raw material in making new glass. In 2019, the bottles produced in O-I's Winston-Salem facility had an overall average of 36 percent recycled content with rates as high as 50 percent, depending on bottle type. The recycled glass is combined with sand, soda ash and limestone, which are frequently sourced locally to minimize impact. The raw materials are combined and heated in O-I furnaces to 1550 degrees Celsius. Upon reaching the desired temperature, the molten glass undergoes further conditioning, preparing it to exacting specifications. The feeder rapidly cuts the molten glass into gobs that are sized for the molds that will shape the bottles.

The bottles will be treated and cooled to strengthen — ultimately becoming the bottles you see on shelves, showcasing premium foods and beverages.

“O-I’s vision is to be the most sustainable maker of the most sustainable container.”

IMPACTS

In the Carolinas and around the world, O-I is innovating to deliver greater sustainability in its operations and in the marketplace. O-I has sustainability designations from key non-profit rating organizations, including Cradle to Cradle and EcoVadis. O-I-certified containers are the only food and beverage material that touches the contents inside to receive the highest rating of Platinum in material health by Cradle to Cradle. EcoVadis measures corporate social responsibility and has scored O-I with a bronze certification, ranking it several points higher than the industry average for glass product manufacturers.

O-I is taking a tailored approach to increase recycled content rates across its enterprise network. To achieve this goal, the company is working with the entire recycling value chain to increase the recycling of glass as well as the quality of recycling streams.

O-I Glass is one of the world's leading manufacturers of glass packaging. When you purchase products packaged in glass, you are likely to be purchasing a package produced by O-I that is made with recycled content.



“A glass bottle can go from the recycling bin back to the store shelf in as little as 30 days. For every 10 percent of recycled glass used in production, carbon emissions are reduced by five percent, along with a three percent reduction in energy use.”

CONTACT O-I GLASS

Jim Nordmeyer,
VP of Global Sustainability
Jim.Nordmeyer@o-i.com



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