

Polystyrene recycling has unique potential - Trinseo CEO

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COLORADO SPRINGS (ICIS)--Polystyrene (PS) has great potential for recycling as PS waste can be turned into pure styrene monomer, the CEO of Trinseo said on Tuesday.

"PS is the first plastic with a technology route proven to return it to the monomer, so it can go into food grade products with no [product] loss," said Frank Bozich, CEO of Trinseo.

Bozich spoke to ICIS on the sidelines of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) Annual Meeting.

"If we can build a collection network, there is an economic way to recycle. We have heard from end consumers that if we can give them recycled PS, they will look to do more with that plastic," he added.

Trinseo's AmSty joint venture with Chevron Phillips Chemical in late April 2019 itself launched a joint venture with Agilyx called Regenyx to fully recycle post-consumer PS to new PS products. Regenyx will utilise Agilyx's chemical recycling process to convert waste PS into styrene monomer.

AmSty is already using recycled styrene monomer from Agilyx's plant in Tigard, Oregon, at its PS plant in St James, Louisiana, the company said in early April 2019.

Agilyx's plant can handle up to 10 tonnes/day of PS waste.

Key to commercial scale success is building the collection network and infrastructure to produce the waste PS feedstock, Bozich said.

"The first step is to get that collection network set up, and we are excited about working with partners to do that," said Bozich.

Interview article by **Joseph Chang**
