



For Immediate Release

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FLORIDA UNVEILS STATE'S FIRST RECYCLING ROBOT

Sarasota facility begins using AI and robotics to help sort food and beverage cartons

SARASOTA, Fla. – Single Stream Recyclers (“SSR”), a materials recovery facility that serves residential and commercial recycling programs, announced today the introduction of Florida’s first artificial intelligence-powered recycling robotic system.

The robot is guided by artificial intelligence (AI) to identify, grab and sort aseptic and gable top food and beverage cartons from the recycling stream.

“We are excited to be a leader in Florida – and the country – in adding this innovative technology to make sure we capture as many food and beverage cartons as possible to prevent them from ending up in landfills,” said John Hansen, co-owner of Single Stream Recyclers, which opened its Sarasota facility in March 2018.

Developed by AMP Robotics, a pioneer in bringing AI and robotics to the recycling industry, the system uses advanced computer vision and machine learning to recognize different colors, textures, shapes, sizes and patterns that identify food and beverage cartons in the recycling stream. Then, it directs a high-speed robot to pick, sort and place the cartons for recycling. The robot learns as it goes, improving over time and picking up to 80 items per minute, about double the average pick rate of a human.

The carton recycling robot was the first of six robots installed at the nearly 100,000-square-foot recycling facility. This is believed to be the largest installation of robots at any recycling facility nationwide.

“It’s more important than ever to sort out the most valuable materials. Employing this robot will be another step toward making recycling more effective, while also reducing the amount of waste that goes to our landfills or worse, ends up as litter,” Hansen said.



“SSR is leading the way as a recycling innovator, with this being the single largest deployment of AI and robotics in the nation. John and his team have been fantastic to work with in making this happen,” said Matanya Horowitz, chief executive officer of AMP. “Robotics will continue to revolutionize recycling, and this represents another milestone of industry adoption. The support from SSR and the Carton Council puts us another step closer to making that possible.”

The installation of the robot at SSR was made possible through a grant from the Carton Council of North America, a consortium of carton manufacturers dedicated to improving and expanding carton recycling. By helping recycling facilities capture food and beverage cartons more efficiently, the Carton Council hopes it will encourage more facilities and the communities they serve to promote cartons as a recyclable packaging that consumers should recycle through their curbside and other local programs.

“We are thrilled to partner with SSR on bringing this cutting-edge technology to Florida,” said Scott Byrne, director of government affairs for the Carton Council and circular economy expert for the U.S. and Canada for Tetra Pak. “Food and beverage cartons are a recyclable package. Made of high-quality fiber with end markets across North America, as well as solid export options, they should go on to be used to produce new paper products or environmentally friendly building materials. We hope other communities will take note and boost their efforts to capture as many food and beverage cartons as possible.”

Recycling is important to residents. According to a 2017 study conducted by Research+Data Insights, almost 78% of residents think recycling is important and should be made a priority. Residents also overwhelmingly believe food and beverage cartons are recyclable, with 83% reporting they recycle them. Today, food and beverage carton recycling is available in more than 62% of U.S. households.

ABOUT THE CARTON COUNCIL

The Carton Council is composed of four leading carton manufacturers, Elopak, SIG Combibloc, Evergreen Packaging and Tetra Pak. Formed in 2009, the Carton Council works to deliver long-term collaborative solutions in order to divert valuable cartons from the landfill. Through a united effort, the Carton Council is committed to building a sustainable infrastructure for carton recycling nationwide and works toward their continual goal of adding access to carton recycling throughout the U.S. For more information, visit [CartonOpportunities.org](https://www.cartonopportunities.org).

ABOUT FOOD AND BEVERAGE CARTONS

Food and beverage cartons are highly recyclable materials that come in two kinds: refrigerated cartons that store, milk, juice and egg substitutes; and shelf-stable cartons that are packaged for broths, milks, juices, soups and even wine. When sorted by themselves at materials recovery facilities (MRFs), cartons are a valuable material in high demand, even at a time when other recyclable materials are struggling to find end markets where they are processed into new products. They are made mostly from paper, a renewable resource, and have become popular containers for food and beverage products as they are lightweight and compact, with a low carbon footprint. They are used to package things like milk, juice, water, soups, wine and beans. When recycled, they are used to make office and writing paper, tissues, paper towels, and even sustainable building and construction materials. For more information about carton recycling, visit [RecycleCartons.com](https://www.recyclecartons.com).

ABOUT AMP ROBOTICS

AMP Robotics™ is transforming the economics of recycling robotics driven by artificial intelligence (AI). The company’s high-performance industrial robotics system, AMP Cortex™, precisely automates the identification, sorting and processing of material streams to extract maximum value for businesses that recycle municipal solid waste, e-waste and construction and demolition. The AMP Neuron™ AI platform operates AMP Cortex using advanced computer vision and machine learning to continuously train itself by

processing millions of material images within an ever-expanding neural network that experientially adapts to changes in a facility's material stream. Visit us at www.amrobotics.com.

ABOUT SINGLE STREAM RECYCLERS

Single Stream Recyclers, LLC, is a materials recovery facility located in Sarasota, Florida. They process materials from all over the west coast of Florida. The facility sorts, bales and ships aluminum, cardboard, food and beverage cartons, glass, paper, plastics, metal and other recyclables from residential curbside and commercial recycling collection. SSR is heavily invested in technology to help create the best possible end products and reduce contamination as well as residue. For more information, visit singlestreamrecyclers.com.

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