Dow and Eco-mobilier enter into an innovation partnership for the RENUVA™ Mattress Recycling Program

The new partnership will address the creation of new markets for post-consumer waste mattresses

HORGEN, Switzerland and PARIS, France – July 22nd, 2020 – Dow (NYSE: Dow) and Eco-mobilier, the French mattress and furniture EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) organization, today jointly announced a new collaboration for the collection and supply of post-consumer polyurethane foam for the RENUVA™ Mattress Recycling Program.

As part of this innovation partnership, Eco-mobilier will employ its used mattress collection and dismantling capabilities to supply post-consumer polyurethane foam to Orrion Chemicals Orgaform’s recently announced chemical recycling unit in Semoy, France (link).

In Semoy, Dow’s RENUVA™ Mattress Recycling Program will use chemical recycling to convert this recovered foam into new valuable polyurethane raw materials (polyols). Dow aims to validate and work towards creating a market for these recycled polyols.

“At Dow, we are addressing the challenge of discarded mattresses head on. We have been actively reviewing centrally organized waste collection, dismantling, and recycling systems for end-of-life material for years. France has set an example by creating the EPR scheme and Eco-mobilier is leading the way in mattress and furniture waste collection,” said Neil Carr, president of Dow Europe, Middle East, Africa and India. “This collaboration is a demonstration of a completely new eco-system being built to create a circular economy for polyurethanes.”

Eco-mobilier has been collecting used mattresses since 2013. In 2019, the volumes collected already reached 66,000 tonnes, and Eco-mobilier’s actions enabled a significant improvement in post-consumer mattress recycling. Nonetheless, the markets for such materials remain limited.

“Eco-mobilier and its manufacturer and retailer shareholders* are proud to support this first industrial plant dedicated to PU foam chemical recycling right here in France. Thanks to this pioneering project with Dow, we are closing the loop by opening a new era for mattress recycling. This aligns with our strategy of implementing industrial tools for mattress recycling in France”, added Dominique Mignon, president of Eco-mobilier.

The announcement is the latest step in the development of the RENUVA™ Mattress Recycling Program, which aims to recycle up to 200,000 mattresses a year in France and address the problem of waste landfilling and incineration. Initial production of RENUVA™ polyols is anticipated in the first half of 2021.

About Dow Polyurethanes

Dow Polyurethanes develops and delivers a broad portfolio of technologies and customized solutions to customers in a variety of industries under its StructuralScience, ComfortScience™, MobilityScience™ and InsulationScience category brands. Applications range from industrial and infrastructure solutions, to consumer comfort solutions in flooring, furniture, bedding and footwear, to automotive solutions for vehicle interior, and energy-efficient insulation materials. The business manufactures and sells key chemical components as well as fully-formulated polyurethane systems for rigid, semi-rigid and flexible foams, and coatings, adhesives, sealants, elastomers and composites. Dow is the world’s largest producer of propylene oxide (PO), propylene glycol (PG), and polyether polyols, and is a leading producer of quality aromatic isocyanates, such as MDI. Striving to meet the specific needs of its customers in their local geographic regions, Dow Polyurethanes operates a global network of production sites and systems houses, as well as innovation and service centers. The business has an ongoing initiative to lead the industry in providing high-performance products that meet critical market needs and contribute to a more comfortable, healthier and resilient society. For more information, visit www.dowpolyurethanes.com and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn

About Dow

Dow (NYSE: DOW) combines global breadth, asset integration and scale, focused innovation and leading business positions to achieve profitable growth. The Company’s ambition is to become the most innovative, customer centric, inclusive and sustainable materials science company. Dow’s portfolio of plastics, industrial intermediates, coatings and silicones businesses delivers a broad range of differentiated science-based products and solutions for its customers in high-growth market segments, such as packaging, infrastructure and consumer care. Dow operates 109 manufacturing sites in 31 countries and employs approximately 36,500 people. Dow delivered sales of approximately $43 billion in 2019. References to Dow or the Company mean Dow Inc. and its subsidiaries. For more information, please visit www.dow.com or follow @DowNewsroom on Twitter.

About Eco-mobilier

Eco-mobilier is the eco-organization that has been approved by the French public authorities to be in charge of used furniture and mattresses collection, sorting, recycling, energy recovery and reuse nationwide. Eco-mobilier brings together more than 5,000 furniture element manufacturers and retailers in France. In order to fulfill this mission, an eco-participation fee is added to the price of new furniture when it is purchased. In 2019, this has generated more than 175 million euros in contributions. Since its creation in 2011, Eco-mobilier has collected almost 3 million tonnes of used furniture, which has been reused, recycled or recovered at a rate of nearly 95%. By 2023, Eco-mobilier aims at achieving ZERO waste for furnishing and fittings elements.

*About Eco-mobilier Shareholders

Eco-mobilier’s Executive Board is composed of 12 manufacturers and 12 retailers who work in the mattress and furniture industry in France. In 2020, the board is composed of:

Alinéa, But, Camif, Conforama, GRAM, Grand Litier, IKEA, Maison de la Literie, La Redoute, Mobilier de France, UCEM
ADOVA GROUP, Alsapan, Groupe COFEL, Coulidoor, Demeyere, Fournier Habitat, Gruhier, ROSET, Gautier, P3G Industries-PARISOT, Schmidt, WM88

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