



## **FORD AND ALCAN LAUNCH FIRST NORTH AMERICAN "CLOSED-LOOP" RECYCLING OF ALUMINUM AUTOBODY SHEET**

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([PRWEB](#)) October 24, 2002 -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DETROIT — Ford Motor Company and Alcan Inc. have launched the North American automotive industry's first "closed-loop" recycling program for aluminum sheet scrap.

Under the new program, Ford recovers aluminum process scrap from its Chicago Stamping Plant and returns it to Alcan for recycling directly back into autobody sheet. Previously, the recovered aluminum was sold into the general scrap market in combination with other metals, thus diminishing both its quality and value and making it unsuitable for re-use in autobody applications.

The new "closed-loop" process provides significant economic and environmental benefits for both corporations.

"This is a win-win proposition for both Ford Motor Company and Alcan, and very well could serve as a model for future aluminum recycling efforts for the automotive industry," said Tony Brown, Ford Motor Company vice president of purchasing.

The aluminum scrap is generated during the stamping of aluminum hoods for the Ford Explorer and the Ford F-150 and Ranger pick-up trucks, as well as hoods for the Lincoln Town Car. Aluminum "blanks" made of an automotive aluminum alloy, known as AA6111, are cut to the required shape at the Chicago Stamping Plant and the trimmed edges are collected for recycling. The Chicago Stamping Plant is Ford's highest-volume user of aluminum sheet metal. Nearly 1.3 million hoods are stamped at the plant annually, generating about 13 million pounds of process scrap to recycle.

Key to the success of the Chicago Stamping Plant process is the ability to segregate the AA6111 scrap from other steel and related byproducts generated in the plant. Ford invested nearly \$400,000 in modifications to the existing separation system to produce "clean" aluminum scrap. This higher-value material is then bundled, strapped with non-metallic banding and shipped to Alcan's aluminum plant in Oswego, New York, where it is remelted and rolled once again into automotive sheet. This loop can be repeated virtually indefinitely because aluminum does not degrade when recycled.



"The closed-loop recycling program we've launched with Ford allows our customer to extract maximum value from aluminum," said Tom Gannon, vice president, Alcan Automotive. "Up to 85 percent of the aluminum's primary value can be retained by segregating the scrap and turning it back into automotive sheet metal."

And that's where the environmental benefits come into play.

"The recycling of aluminum requires only five percent of the energy used to produce the primary metal," explained Andy Acho, Ford Motor Company's worldwide director of Environmental Outreach and Strategy. "This is an important factor in reducing the total cost of this component to Ford. Moreover, recycling eliminates 95 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with primary production, thereby providing tremendous environmental advantages."

Both Ford and Alcan are members of the Auto Aluminum Alliance, a collaborative research effort between the automotive and aluminum industries that is developing a new process using advanced lasers to further improve the sorting of metals from scrapped vehicles. Such advanced recycling technologies promise to further improve economic efficiency by recovering greater quantities of high-value aluminum from motor vehicles.

Alcan Automotive is a world leader in the supply of aluminum-based solutions for the automotive and mass transportation markets. Its parent company, Alcan Inc., is a multinational, market-driven company and a global leader in aluminum and specialty packaging with 2001 revenues of US\$12.6 billion. With world-class operations in primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum as well as flexible and specialty packaging, Alcan is well positioned to meet and exceed its customers' needs for innovative solutions and service. Alcan employs 48,000 people and has operating facilities in 38 countries.

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