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Universal Textile Technologies Announces Recycling Partnership with Grand Teton National Park

December 1 2011, Dalton, GA—Universal Textile Technologies, (UTT), today announced a new initiative to include bottles collected from Grand Teton National Park into its manufacturing process. UTT converts the plastic bottles into a non-woven fleece material used to manufacture high-performance environmentally friendly backing for carpet and synthetic turf products. Now termed the **PET Park Project**, UTT is working in partnership with The Grand Teton National Park, Teton County Solid Waste and Recycling, CPE, Inc., and the United Soybean Board (USB).

Americans generate an enormous amount of waste material every day. In the Grand Teton park millions of annual visitors are educated on the positive aspects of recycling, including plastic bottles. This new partnership, called the **PET Park Project**, promotes the reuse of discarded plastic bottles, significantly reduces the amount of bottles that go to the landfill, and helps the park meet their recycling goals.

UTT then incorporates the use of recycled bottles to manufacture BioCel™ and EnviroCel™, environmentally-friendly, performance-based polyurethane backing systems for carpet and synthetic turf. Both BioCel and EnviroCel utilize recycled plastic bottles, combined with naturally renewable soybean-based polyols derived from domestically grown soybeans. UTT is a leader in the use of soy to reduce the petroleum content in its backing. The use of soy-based products and recycled plastics converted stateside help to support the U.S. economy and create American jobs. UTT is a charter member of the Biobased Products Coalition, the Carpet and Rug Institute, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), and is NSF 140 Certified.

Many of the recyclable plastics collected in America are sold overseas, where they are used to produce plastic products that are later sold in the U.S. This partnership will help produce American jobs by allowing American workers to convert the bottles and decrease the carbon footprint required in transportation overseas.

“Grand Teton National Park has proven its commitment to promoting beneficial environmental stewardship practices, and the **PET Park Project** is an excellent example of how private companies can work with the National Park Service to find innovative recycling solutions that benefit all of us,” Margaret Wilson, Grand Teton National Park’s Planner & Sustainability Coordinator.

The partnership represents a model system that can help increase the demand for recycled content in American-made products. With the help of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, Americans are now able to purchase carpets featuring recycled content from the parks, and includes American-grown, soy-based technology that displaces a large portion of the petroleum components.



These exciting, environmentally-friendly backing technologies assist in LEED® certification. BioCel and EnviroCel are resistant to moisture, insulate against energy loss, reduce ambient noise, and increase the structural integrity of carpet and synthetic turf.

“On average, two bottles out of 10 are recycled in America today, and our objective is to increase this number. We hope the **PET Park Project** will increase awareness of the many opportunities for Americans to participate,” said Doug Giles, director of marketing for Universal Textile Technologies. “We are excited to be a part of this project and look forward to continuing our partnership with the National Park Service.”

Universal Textile Technologies supplies the carpet industry with multiple backing systems manufactured for use in mid to high-traffic commercial, hospitality, residential, corporate, healthcare, education, and lodging markets. Additional markets include synthetic turf for sports fields and synthetic grass for landscape applications. For more information, contact Universal Textile at www.universal-textile.com or scan this QR code to download our mobile app.

