



**CIRCON Environmental  
2020 Sustainability Report**



**A BETTER  
WAY.  
A BETTER  
CHOICE.  
A BETTER  
WORLD.**



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shane rounce / unsplash

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# WELCOME

Today, there is a broad and prevalent understanding that we all must do more to improve the footprint we leave on Earth. Within our industry, that may seem like a tall order, but in fact, the opportunity to create change has never been greater. It remains CIRCON's mission to deliver a comprehensive suite of quantifiable sustainable solutions that help our clients realize their own goals.

We are grateful to partner with our clients and value our collaborative efforts. We're happy that, together, we're running head-first toward sustainable solutions, and reimagining the conventional methods of our industry along the way.

CIRCON is ready and able to help our clients and our industry take these sustainable steps forward because we've been doing it since our company's inception. We are committed to operating within the **CIRCULAR ECONOMY** (so much so that it inspired our very name) and use innovative processes and proprietary technologies to turn what was once considered waste into new, valuable materials that lend both power and economic strength to our industry. Our cost-effective methods of recovering and repurposing materials result in landfill avoidance, offset the use of natural resources, and enable our clients to make better choices, to find better ways to do business, and to reach and exceed their ESG goals.

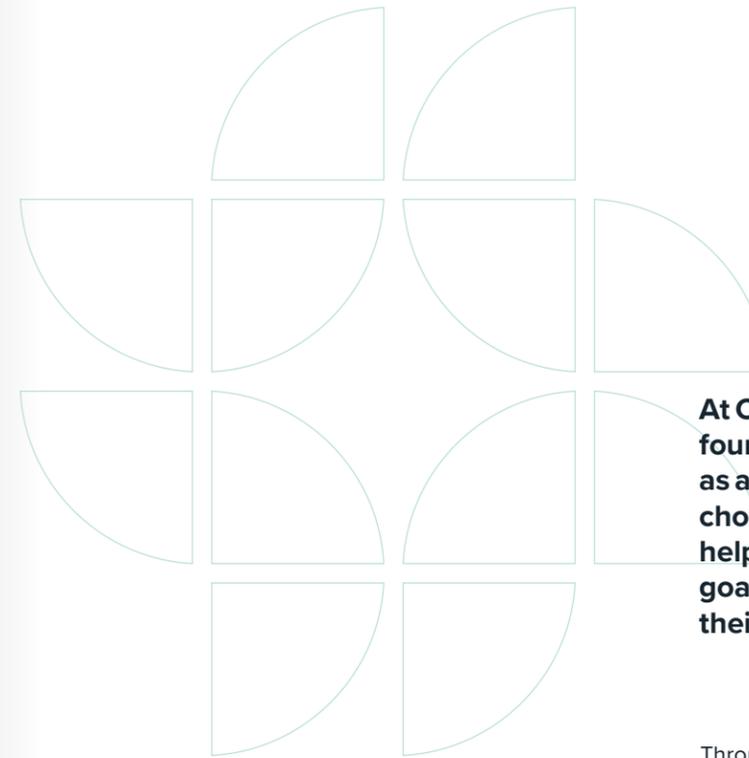
Globally, the focus on identifying and utilizing sustainable solutions will only intensify as we move further into the future. For corporations, it's clear that there's no turning back to the old way of doing business. CIRCON is proud to be a leader on our journey to a greener tomorrow, and our inaugural CIRCON Sustainability Report celebrates what we've already achieved for our clients and partners — as well as all the good work the future holds. We hope you'll join us in our commitment to innovation, achieving sustainable results, and creating an impact that we can all be proud of. At CIRCON, we really do believe that it's a better choice, and a better way.



Frank Iezzi, CEO



*“We know that sustainability doesn't have to be a sacrifice, and it certainly doesn't have to be an expense.”*



At CIRCON, sustainability has always been the foundation of what we do. As a company and as a team, we're committed to delivering better choices and greener solutions to our clients, helping them meet their own sustainability goals while finding new efficiencies within their operations.

Throughout 2020, we doubled down on making sure we were communicating that commitment effectively. We've expanded the sustainability metrics that we track on each and every job, working hand in hand with our customers, who have been gracious enough to help us obsessively measure our work, and who also understand that our industry is only going to become more focused on sustainable solutions and ESG goals moving forward. Making a commitment to sustainability now is good for business and good for the future.

As we help our industry transform, we're also looking inward. We'll be working with the CIRCON team to make sure that within our own company, we practice what we preach — which is why our team spent Earth Day planting trees at our corporate office, taking one small but significant step toward offsetting our own carbon footprint.

We look forward to delivering fresh solutions and future-minded thinking in the years ahead — and we look forward to doing it with your support and partnership.



Gary Higginbotham,  
Senior VP and  
Chief Sustainability Marketing Officer

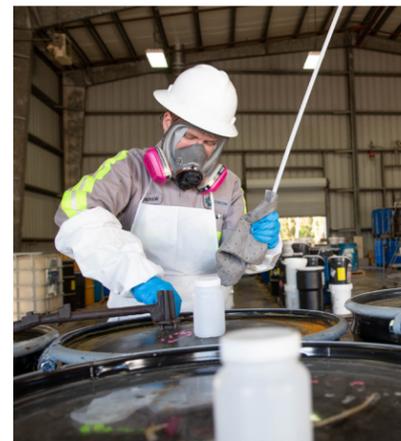
*“Our industry is only going to become more focused on sustainable solutions and ESG goals moving forward. Making a commitment to sustainability now is good for business and good for the future.”*



WHO WE ARE  
 WHERE WE WORK  
 WHAT WE DO  
 WHAT WE DELIVER

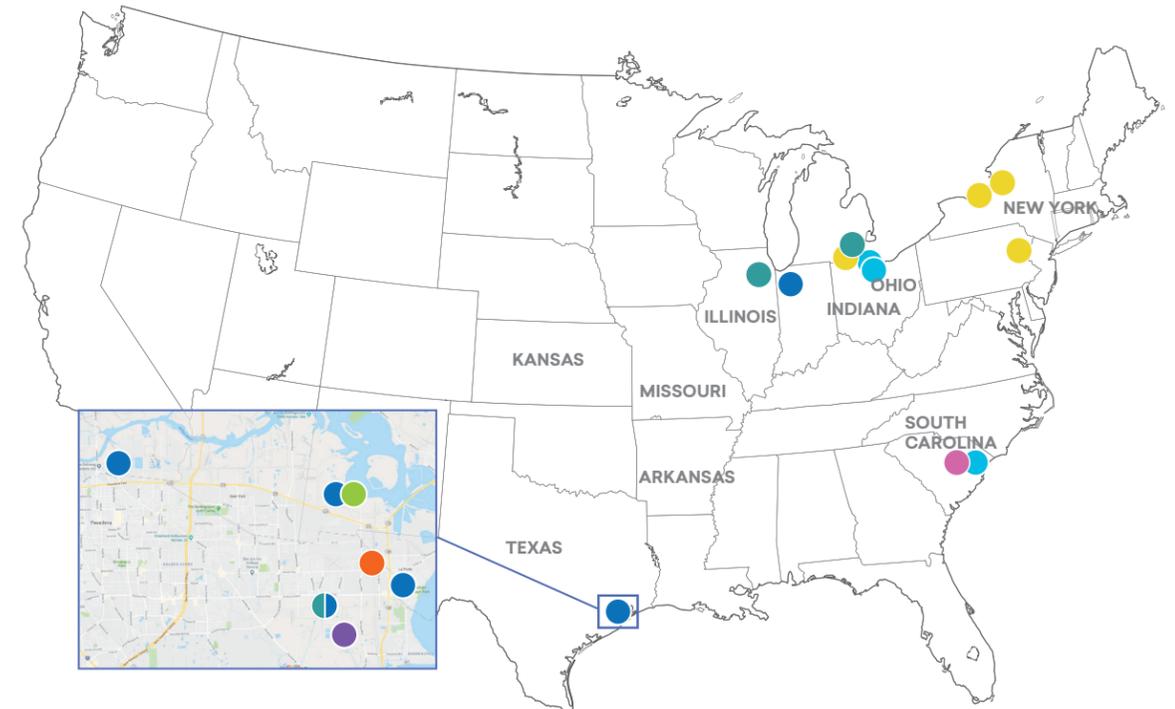
# WHO WE ARE

CIRCON Environmental is the industry leader in innovative waste management solutions. We turn waste into newly valuable, marketable products, improving clients' bottom lines and quantifiably improving sustainability efforts. Our services include waste treatment and recycling, refinery services, advanced recovery processes, and petrochemical product recovery and trading. With more than a century's worth of combined experience and a deep commitment to customer service, our team works harder, thinks smarter, and moves faster to create tailored solutions that benefit our customers and our planet.



# WHERE WE WORK

Headquartered in La Porte, Texas, CIRCON operates multiple innovative facilities in the country's largest hazardous waste markets with broad coverage across the Gulf Coast, Southeast, Northeast, and Midwest regions. Each facility is served by our expert staff who work across eight corporate offices. Combined with our extensive network of RCRA Part B-permitted cement kilns, CIRCON gives clients access to a national network of employees and services, all dedicated to meeting needs and solving problems sustainably.



- **CWT Facilities**  
 3 in Houston Area  
 2 in Chicago Area  
 1 in Milwaukee Area
- **WTE, ASF Manufacturing Facilities**  
 Medina, OH  
 Sumter, SC  
 Avon Lake, OH
- **Corporate Office**  
 La Porte, TX - CIRCON
- **TSDF Facilities**  
 Pasadena, TX  
 Chicago, IL  
 Avon, OH  
 Bedford, OH
- **Refinery Services Hub**  
 Sumter, SC
- **Marine Service**  
 Pasadena, TX
- **Advanced Processing Facility**  
 Re-Refinery, Distillation and Centrifuge Processing, Pasadena, TX
- **10 Day Hubs / Service Centers**  
 Pin Oak - Avon Lake, OH  
 Niagara Falls, NY  
 Buffalo, NY  
 Honey Brook, PA

# WHAT WE DO

The **CIRCULAR ECONOMY** concept practiced.

CIRCON Environmental is a proud part of the circular economy, a concept built upon the practice of treating all resources, even those considered “waste,” as valuable materials to be given fresh value and new uses. CIRCON doesn’t help clients dispose of waste — we help clients manage waste, and spot opportunities to create viable products that create economic opportunity. When you choose CIRCON, the elimination of waste — for your business, and for our world — becomes a very real possibility.



# WHAT WE DELIVER

Our commitment to sustainability provides measurable benefits for our clients.

In 2020 alone, CIRCON repurposed 63,450 tons of waste, recovered 423,187 Barrels of oil from off-spec streams, and recycled 158 million gallons of water. Our commitment to sustainability provides measurable benefits for our clients. With each completed job, we deliver a sustainability report to customers, showing the specific green metrics achieved. Those quantifiable results are worth more than just bragging rights — which is why many of our clients have shared sustainability results delivered by their work with CIRCON. Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives continue to gain importance across the business landscape, and customers, partners, and potential investors are more eager than ever to understand how a company’s operational standards contribute to the creation of a safer, greener, better world. In fact, sustainable investments worldwide now exceed \$30 trillion, a 68 percent increase since 2014. And according to a report by McKinsey & Company, sustainability boosts investment returns by better allocating capital for the future. CIRCON’s measurable results can help create long-term value for clients and boost ESG ratings.



margot richard / unsplash



# THE FOUR **Rs** of CIRCON

## RECOVER

CIRCON's first step on any job is to get to work identifying and recovering valuable components from waste streams. Whether we're collecting off-spec product from a tank-cleaning project, or separating and recovering petroleum and petrochemical products from wastewater, we see value in what others see as waste. **In 2020, CIRCON recovered 423,187 Barrels of oil.**

## RECYCLE

Recovered oils, fuels, and valuable components are prepared for use in CIRCON's blended fuel stocks that are ultimately used as alternative fuels. Wastewater is treated and cleaned to meet regulatory standards for safe use, in partnership with the Gulf Coast Authority and other Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). **In 2020, CIRCON recycled 158 million gallons of water.**



## REPURPOSE

CIRCON Refuel is a waste-derived fuel created from recovered and recycled components. That fuel is sold within our industry, or sent to our cement kiln partners, where it is used to safely provide power. **In 2020, CIRCON manufactured nearly 11 million gallons of waste-derived fuel.**

## CIRCON's Foundation

At CIRCON, we believe in helping our communities and clients build a better future. Which is why sustainability is such a big part of our DNA. As a company, we're built upon a strong base that we call the Four R's: Recover, Recycle, Repurpose, Results.

## RESULTS

Our results speak for themselves. By creating a fresh life cycle and economic purpose for materials that would otherwise be waste and disposed of in a landfill, we're serving our planet while helping our clients achieve their own business and sustainability goals. **In 2020, our work resulted in 127,474 tons of landfill avoidance within the oil and gas industry, and displaced the use of 251,727 tons of coal.**

# RECOVER, RECYCLE, REPURPOSE, RESULTS

# SUSTAINABILITY

**It's a choice to make, not a price to pay.**

Innovation often comes at a cost. But at CIRCON, we don't want sustainability to feel like a sacrifice. That's why we've worked hard to make sure that our forward-thinking solutions empower our customers to choose high-impact, sustainable solutions without overextending their budgets. The cost of our services is similar to (or less than) the more traditional, less environmental-minded waste management methods.

## CIRCON'S WAY

### Cement kiln disposal

**Step 1:** Waste is loaded in CIRCON's proprietary transportation containment eliminating need for on-site storage and rental units.

**Step 2:** Valuable materials recovered from waste streams are used to create waste-derived fuels.

**Step 3:** Those fuels are sent via truck to power CIRCON's network of cement kiln partners, displacing coal, leaving behind no residual ash, and creating carbon offset benefits.



## CIRCON'S WAY

### Wastewater treatment and recycling

**Step 1:** Hazardous and non-hazardous wastewater is received via truck, rail, or barge.

**Step 2:** Our facilities utilize a variety of mechanical, chemical, and physical separation methodologies to recover valuable fuels and oil, which are ultimately blended and returned into the market for reuse.

**Step 3:** Wastewater is treated and cleaned to meet regulatory standards before re-entering the public water ecosystems.

## CIRCON'S WAY

### Oil reclamation

**Step 1:** Materials containing recoverable oils are recovered and processed, transforming what is waste in our clients' industry and reclaiming its value as a fuel in an alternate industry.

**Step 2:** CIRCON's oil reclamation process units include both chemical/heat treatments, and mechanical 3-phase centrifugation to separate water, solids, and valuable oil.

**Step 3:** Recovered oil is returned to the circular economy, while the water is returned to natural waterways. Any residual solids are managed through our kiln networks as an alternative fuel, which avoids and minimizes landfill.



# THE 8 PILLARS

## OF CIRCON

**In 2020, CIRCON worked to exceed its previous sustainability achievements by focusing on what we call the 8 Pillars.**

The 8 Pillars represent areas of our business where we intricately track and measure our results and success, allowing us to provide clients with a greater understanding of how their choices are supporting better business practices and the circular economy. These eight areas of success and reporting are:

**Waste Designation**

**Carbon Footprint**

**Water Conservation**

**Zero Landfill**

**Recycle and Reclaim**

**Waste to Energy**

**Transportation Optimization**

**Containerized Waste**

## PILLAR 1

# Waste Designation

### How waste is designated matters

When it comes to managing your waste, CIRCON has two sustainable options for how those materials are categorized.

CIRCON is approved to accept waste with recoverable hydrocarbon content under two separate industry exemptions: the 2911 Oil-Bearing Hazardous Secondary Material exemption; and the Commercial Chemical Product exemption. Under these exemptions, the material is not considered waste on a company's EPA annual waste summary, avoids waste taxes, and can be transported on a bill of lading.

Additionally, for hazardous waste that does not contain recoverable hydrocarbon content but can be used to sustainably power our cement kiln partners, materials are categorized under EPA Method Management Code H050 — reclamation and recovery, or a green waste dispensation method. This is in contrast to the more standard code H040, which typically sees those materials sent to an incinerator or thermal desorption unit.

CIRCON's two options — offered via exemptions or waste method management codes — produce measurable, marketable sustainability metrics for our clients. It's a big bottom-line benefit, and a big booster of a customer's sustainability standing.

**63,450 tons of materials classified as EPA Management Method Code H050 in 2020**



## PILLAR 2

# Carbon Footprint

Cutting back on coal.

When CIRCON sends our waste-derived fuels to power our network of cement kiln partners, those shipments translate to displaced coal, and provide high and measurable levels of carbon offset for our clients.

Last year, CIRCON sent 10,652,763 gallons of waste-derived fuels to power cement kilns, displacing 35,532 tons of coal. In contrast, the components and waste that comprise those powerful fuels would have otherwise been sent to incinerators or thermal desorption units, processes that provide no commercial benefits and create residual ash that will ultimately make its way to a landfill.

**152,280 tons of net carbon offset in 2020**



## PILLAR 3

# Water Conservation

Saving precious resources

When CIRCON receives hazardous or non-hazardous wastewater from clients, step one is to recover petroleum products and contaminants, separating those materials from the water. Recovered oils and fuel parts are used to create waste-derived fuels, creating fresh economic value for clients and keeping pure waste from being disposed of in ways that can harm the environment. Remaining water is treated and recycled in partnership POTWs in Illinois and Wisconsin, and is ultimately sent back into our waterways.

Alternative methods of disposal and waste management include sending those challenging materials to a landfill for solidification or utilizing deep well injection—both of which create lifetime liability for businesses. In contrast, at the end of a CIRCON project, the job can truly be considered complete and final, and the client receives a detailed report quantifying sustainability benefits so they know exactly how their better choice has helped to create better results for the industry.

**158 million gallons of water treated and discharged back into the ecosystem in 2020**



## PILLAR 4

# Zero Landfill

Sometimes, “zero” wins

When CIRCON provides waste-derived fuel shipments to our cement kiln partners, it results in zero residual ash or ancillary waste that would typically require additional disposal. For example: Waste that’s sent to RCRA incinerators or thermal desorption facilities creates a 50 percent ash ratio—and that ash is sent straight to a landfill, creating additional cost and lifetime liability for businesses.

**127,474 tons of landfill avoidance in 2020**

## PILLAR 5

# Recycle and Reclaim

### Finding new value

CIRCON's oil-recycling and reclamation facilities collect off-spec materials from tank-cleaning projects and other industrial sources to recover valuable components. Those components become marketable products that rebate money back to the client. With our turnkey process, CIRCON sustainably manages residual water and solids, and helps clients avoid waste designation.

**423,187 Barrels** of oil recovered and sold in the secondary market in 2020



sarah dorweiler / unsplash

## PILLAR 6

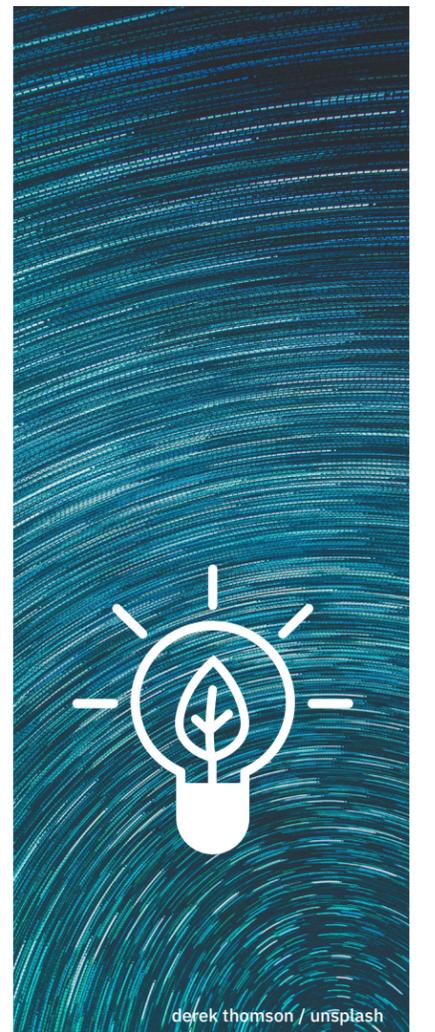
# Waste to Energy

### Creating new power

One of the most powerful parts of CIRCON's offering is our branded waste-derived fuel, called CIRCON Refuel. With this valuable product, we're creating new power for our clients and our industry.

Our process takes hazardous wastes, recovered from petroleum refineries across the country, and turns them into CIRCON Refuel. The product is then used throughout the cement kiln industry as a sustainable, greener power source. We're creating new energy from waste, and eliminating the need for coal. In 2020 CIRCON refuel displaced 89,109 tons of coal.

**10,596,150 gallons** of waste-derived fuel generated in 2020



derek thomson / unsplash

## PILLAR 7

# Transportation Optimization

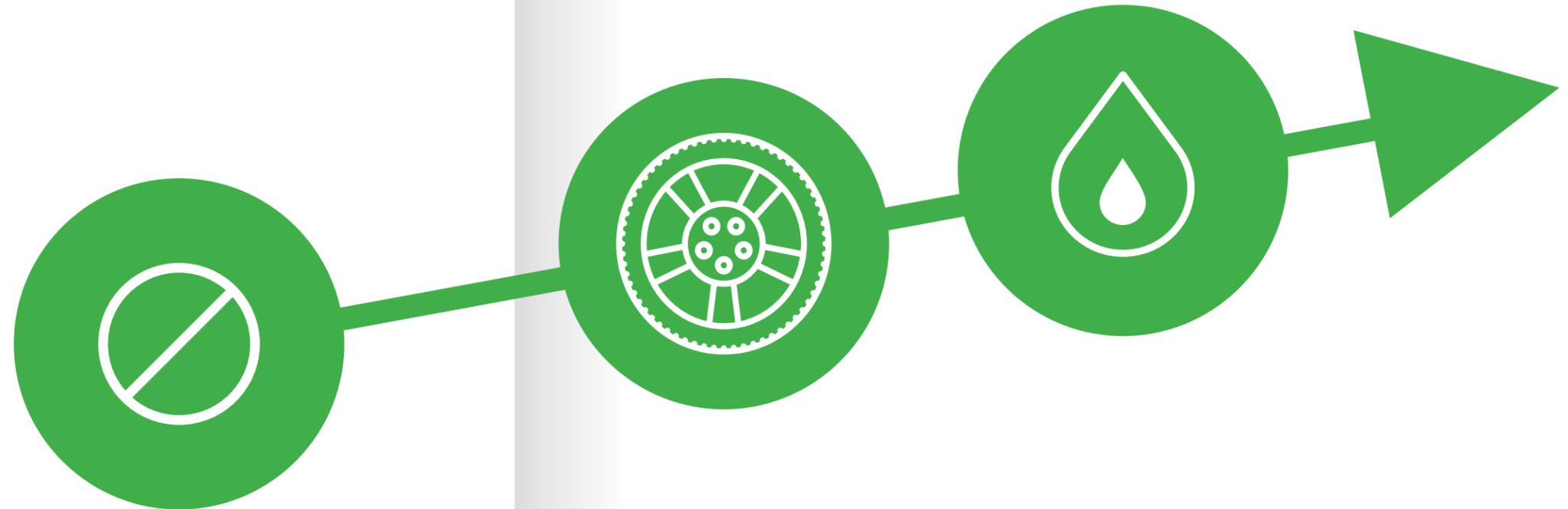
### Moving with efficiency

Transportation is a big part of what sets CIRCON apart. Because we own and operate our own fleets, we offer a higher quality of service, and we constantly invest in improving and innovating our transportation methods to move materials faster and more efficiently.

Our specialty dry bulk and Roberoller tankers carry solids and sludges in payloads twice the size of traditional roll-off boxes. And because we can load tankers directly, we eliminate the need for those roll-off boxes completely, eliminate the need for HDPE liners that would otherwise end up in a landfill, and minimize over-the-road loads that are both costly and create a larger carbon footprint. In 2020, our work translated to:

**5,076 HDPE liners not disposed of in a landfill**

Together, those metrics help boost clients' bottom lines, improve their sustainability metrics, all while saving time, money, and labor.



**2,538 fewer over-the-road loads**

**1,015,200 gallons of water conserved from eliminating container clean-outs**

## PILLAR 8

# Containerized Waste

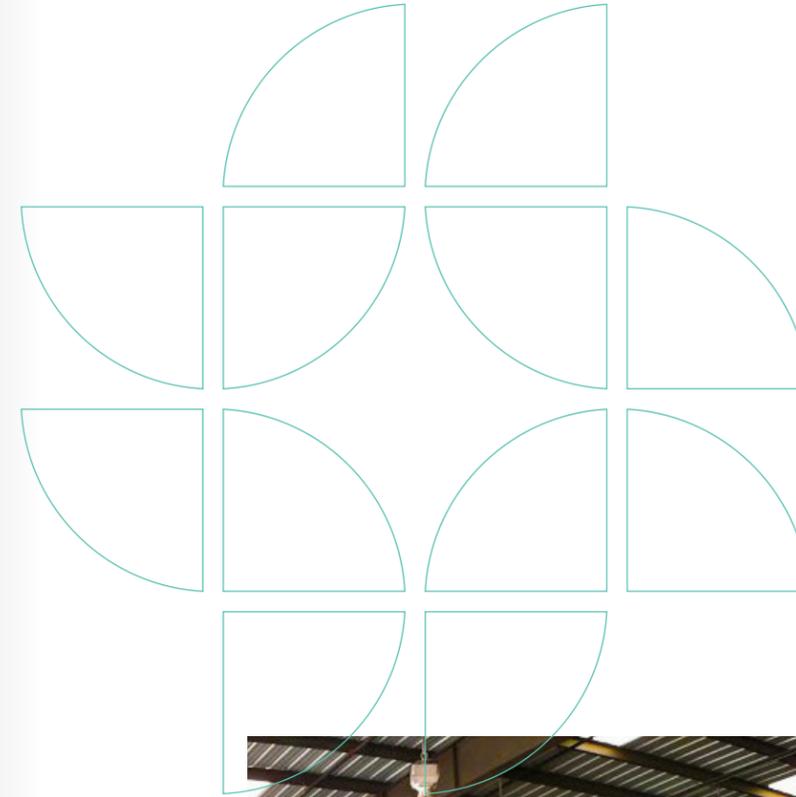
### Taking extra care

Containerized waste is the most difficult waste stream that we process, in part because we accept such a wide variety of waste streams. These enter CIRCON's facilities in small quantities and may contain materials as wide-ranging as paint waste, used batteries, spent solvent, and motor oil.

Rather than incinerate or landfill these materials in the name of expediency, CIRCON uses innovative, technology-first methods to find more sustainable ways to handle these materials. For example, the proprietary CIRCON Box is a double-walled container that allows our team to bulk materials; a patented agitation system helps process and ready them for use as fuel by our kiln partners.

This process allows us to blend both hazardous and non-hazardous streams, reducing a facility's waste disposal costs and supporting our clients' sustainability objectives. Plus, the ability to bulk containers and process them more efficiently — rather than individually — reduces handling costs. That creates value and efficiency for our customers.

**140 million pounds recycled in 2020**



# CASE STUDIES

## PROJECT

### Gulf Coast refinery tank-cleaning project no. 1

One of CIRCON's largest projects of 2020 was a tank-cleaning project for a Gulf Coast refinery in Texas. The 120-foot by 40-foot cone roof tank contained approximately 15 feet of solids to be removed. This job put nearly all of CIRCON's proprietary technologies to the test: Our crews utilized our special tank blending processes, our Roberoller and dry bulk tankers handled transport of the materials, we recovered valuable energy from the waste and disposed of it safely and sustainably at our cement kiln partners, turning what was once considered waste into valuable power for our industry.

The true sustainable value of this job can best be demonstrated by what CIRCON did not do: This kind of work would typically be handled as a box-production job, requiring the use of roll-off box rentals, and HDPE liners that would ultimately be sent to a landfill. The elimination of over-the-road

**Our numbers show it:**  
**363 dry bulk loads transported**  
**16,552,020 pounds of material**  
**to our cement kiln network.**

payloads — by half — is thanks to our tankers' expanded capacity. We recycled water rather than utilizing a deep well, and recovered oil finds fresh economic value. This job highlights just about all of CIRCON's pillars of sustainability: carbon offset, water conservation, landfill avoidance, the generation of waste-derived fuel, and transportation optimization. It's a better way, and a better choice.

- Gallons of WDF generated - 1.4M
- Coal displacement - 4,635 tons
- Landfill avoidance - 4,138 tons
- Net carbon offset - 19,862 tons
- Water conservation - 132,416 gallons
- HDPE liners not being landfilled - 662

## PROJECT

### Gulf Coast refinery tank-cleaning project no. 2

**Our numbers show it:**  
**204 Roberoller loads transported**  
**17,828,690 pounds of slurry to our**  
**cement kiln network.**

**213 dry bulk loads transported**  
**9,771,728 pounds of solids to our**  
**cement kiln network.**

- Gallons of WDF generated - 3M
- Coal displacement - 10,217 tons
- Landfill avoidance - 9,123 tons
- Net carbon offset - 43,788 tons
- Water conservation - 291,920 gallons
- HDPE liners not being landfilled - 1,460

The largest cumulative project in CIRCON's history, this job gave us the opportunity to remove more than 34 million pounds of waste over 277 days. That's a long project and a lot of hard work — but done using traditional, less sustainable methods, it would have taken at least two years to transport that waste to an incinerator. That's a lot of extra time and money spent to dispose of waste without achieving any sustainable benefits.

Instead, the CIRCON team worked fast and efficiently, using our MonoSpin technology to blend materials and generate waste-derived fuels for our cement kiln partners. Once again, the use of our specialty transport tankers — both Roberollers and dry bulk — cut back on over-the-road loads, from an estimated 1,560 using traditional technologies to just 779. CIRCON's methods also eliminated the costly use of roll-off boxes, vac boxes, and harmful HDPE liners.

CIRCON's speed is what truly shines here: Clients who must manage jobs of this size get caught in a cycle of requesting variances from the EPA in order to store waste on-site for more than 90 days. Under standard industry circumstances that would complete this job over a minimum of two years, that's a lot of unfavorable requests. CIRCON's time to complete this job was just one-third of that timeline.



johannes plenio / unsplash

# HOW CIRCON'S CUSTOMERS SUCCEED

CIRCON's work isn't just about our company. It's about our community, as well as the communities our clients serve. We're proud to help our customers find success on their own path to a greener future, and we're honored to have our work highlighted in their own annual sustainability reports. Here's what our partners have achieved with our help:



**AFPM**  
American Fuel  
& Petrochemical  
Manufacturers

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"AFPM is proud to have Circon as a member of our association and our sustainability working group. The fuel and petrochemical industries are committed to environmental stewardship and, together with innovators like Circon, we are advancing solutions for a more sustainable future."

– Chet Thompson,  
*President and CEO, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers*



**Marathon  
Petroleum**

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"We partner with CIRCON Environmental to convert oil tank waste to cement. Since 2013, approximately 95,800 metric tons of waste from our refineries has become an alternative fuel source for the cement industry, avoiding approximately 230,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions."

– Marathon Petroleum



**Valero Energy  
Corporation**

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"Circon provides Valero with services that sustainably manage waste streams by recycling or reprocessing waste materials to find beneficial uses and avoid disposal of such materials."

– Valero Energy Corporation

# IN THE NEWS

**As CIRCON continued to invest in its sustainability efforts and offerings throughout 2020, the industry took notice.**

**Why industry should take advantage of the OBHSM exemption (BIC Magazine)**

## INSIDE INDUSTRY

### Why industry should take advantage of the OBHSM exemption

In our industry, the 2911 Oil Bearing Hazardous Secondary Material (OBHSM) exclusion status is a powerful exemption that can make doing business easier, safer and more cost-effective while creating sustainability benefits. But it's also an exemption that's defined by a confusing checklist of technical requirements, leading to misunderstandings as to what the true nature of the benefit is.

In simplest terms, 2911 OBHSM exemption is a refinery-to-refinery exclusion. It allows qualifying refineries to ship materials and recoverable products between one another on a bill of lading without categorizing those materials as waste. Sludges, residuals or other oil-bearing materials can be exchanged between petroleum refineries while avoiding Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) designation.

The technical and infrastructure requirements for this exemption are twofold: A company must qualify as a refinery and must be able to recover oil from the accepted material. The presence of on-site centrifuges and distillation processes are crucial to meeting those qualifications and lends operations

the capability to receive these materials and recover oil from them. That recovered oil, of course, is the end goal of this allowed exemption and a significant step toward making our industry more sustainable.

The benefits of this EPA-approved exclusion are numerous. For individual refineries, being able to send these materials to another 2911 facility that can provide off-site processing creates significant cost savings. Because of the exclusion, those materials are not subject to waste taxes and will not be included in the company's EPA Annual Waste Summary. Plus, off-site processing for large-scale refineries eliminates daily equipment and labor rates, costly chemical and polymer programs, expensive roll-off boxes and safety risks associated with on-site processing. Think about it: If you could complete a project at your own site with a significant amount of additional costs and safety risks, or rely on a third-party location to handle the job and simply pay for the materials processed, what's the better choice? It's a smarter alternative to on-site centrifuge processing.

But while the cost-benefits created by this designation are perhaps the most attention-grabbing, the greater implications for our industry as a whole are even more powerful. By making it easy for large refineries to send these off-spec materials to more specialized refineries, our industry is preventing these streams from simply being categorized and disposed of as pure waste.

That's a significant win in the fight for sustainability. These 2911 facilities with three-phase centrifuge capabilities can process these materials, separate the water and solids from recoverable oil, and get that oil back into our economic system for use as product instead of waste. That creates fresh value for our industry, supports a truly circular economy, and creates an opportunity for residual wastewaters and solids to be managed and disposed of sustainably, rather than being sent to a landfill as post-treatment ash. It's good for business, good for the environment and can protect refineries from lifetime liability.

It's imperative that more producers and operators take advantage of these kinds of exemptions made available by regulatory

By: GARY HIGGINBOTHAM  
Senior VP and  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
CIRCON Environmental



organizations like the EPA. It's a savvy business practice, streamlines operations, decreases site safety risks, and creates additional opportunities for our industry to work smarter and more sustainably. Making use of the 2911 OBHSM exclusion should give operators an extra level of security, knowing that their partners are managing residual materials safely and responsibly. There's a real opportunity to eliminate residuals and landfill liability — the story of waste ends right there. And that's good for our industry.

**For more information, visit [www.circonenviro.com](http://www.circonenviro.com) or call (281) 474-4210.**

## Core commitment to sustainability creates better world (BIC Magazine)

### BUSINESS UPDATE

### Core commitment to sustainability creates better world

*CIRCON Environmental*

Sustainability is in CIRCON Environmental's DNA, with good reason. Businesses and consumers alike are becoming more concerned about environmental issues, and they're actively looking for ways to change their practices to better care for the planet.

A 2019 survey conducted by Computer Generated Solutions, a global provider of business applications and outsourcing services, found that nearly 70 percent of consumers, when given the option, will make the sustainable choice when it's available to them. Nearly half would even pay more money for a product they knew was made sustainably.

CIRCON's foundation — and every service it provides — is built on its "Four R's:" recover, recycle, repurpose and results. These four principles are at the core of CIRCON's mission to create a better industry and world by minimizing harmful waste and embracing the circular economy.

What is a circular economy? Such an economy is built on the practice of treating all resources, even those previously considered "waste," as materials to be given value and new uses. By finding ways to repurpose these materials, the elimination of waste becomes a very tangible possibility. It's something CIRCON has long promoted.



Across all CIRCON facilities and operations spanning the U.S., and across the various waste streams the company discovers, the journey of the Four R's starts with recovery: identifying waste streams that may still contain value, and aggregating and extracting these valued materials from those streams.

Recovered resources are then recycled, treated and cleaned to meet the industry's various codes and safety standards.

Finally, they are repurposed and given new life as waste-derived fuels or blended fuels that are used to power other sectors of industry.

The results speak for themselves. In the past five years, CIRCON has been responsible for recycling 500 million gallons of water and repurposing 700 million pounds of waste to create fuel. CIRCON has kept 175,000 tons of waste out of landfills, offsetting 800,000 barrels of crude oil.

In the past year, as CIRCON has expanded its geographic reach as well as its client roster, the company has discovered a need to get even more granular in its sustainability mission.

From the roots of the Four R's, "Eight

Pillars of Sustainability" have sprouted:

1. Waste designation
2. Carbon footprint
3. Water conservation
4. Zero landfill
5. Recycle and reclaim
6. Waste to energy
7. Transportation optimization
8. Containerized waste

These eight sustainability pillars have inspired a fresh marketing initiative in which CIRCON is emphasizing clients' successes with creative sustainability.

"When we first started doing this, we paid attention to and tracked three metrics: landfill avoidance, coal displacement and waste-derived fuel generation," said Gary Higginbotham, chief sustainability officer of CIRCON. "Now, we're also tracking net carbon offset, amount of water treated, amount of oil recycled and amount of water conserved. We worked with several refinery partners, collaborating on how to collect and track these statistics. We want to make sure we're using formulas and source materials that are specific to our clients' focus and that are easily calculated and quantified."

As an example, consider a recent tank-cleaning project completed by CIRCON for a refinery client. The client anticipated it would reap the benefits of the Four R's. But with CIRCON's commitment to its eight sustainability pillars, the customer received an in-depth breakdown of all its circular-economy wins as a result of the project: landfill avoidance, oil reclaimed, water treated and conserved, coal displaced, waste-derived fuel generated and carbon offset. Details about the collection method for each metric were included in the breakdown, further shedding light on a process that CIRCON hopes more of the industry will start embracing. The results support CIRCON's mission, and the company that is served gets all the credit.

Such messaging and metrics provide CIRCON's clients with a greater understanding of their own facilities, projects and contributions to the growing circular economy. It has also become a driving factor in CIRCON's continued push to drive innovation and find new solutions to advance its mission.

For example, containerized and drum waste, the eighth sustainability pillar, may easily be considered one of the more challenging parts of CIRCON's business, as it revolves around the most difficult and wide-ranging waste streams, from paint waste to used batteries, from spent solvent to motor oil.

In the past year, CIRCON's development team recognized the need for more aggressive sustainability solutions for this part of the business. Innovation and commitment led to the invention of CIRCON Box, a piece



of proprietary equipment that allows for the bulking of materials to process and repurpose them as fuel. The box enables CIRCON to be significantly greener than incineration options for this type of waste. It keeps waste out of landfills, and completely eliminates residual ash created from the incineration process.

The impact of such innovations is significant. They demonstrate the long-term value of CIRCON's focus — Four R's and the Eight Pillars of Sustainability that represent

the foundation of the company's focus and mission statement.

By paying close attention to all levels of service, and by steadily measuring the results, CIRCON offers technology-first solutions, creating transparency that gratifies its clients while driving the entire industry toward a more sustainable future.

**For more information, visit [www.circonenviro.com](http://www.circonenviro.com), call (281) 474-4210 or email [info@circonenviro.com](mailto:info@circonenviro.com).**

# WHAT'S NEXT

## Innovating to create a greener tomorrow

Despite the challenges of 2020, the CIRCON team continued to push forward, fighting to create a more sustainable future for our industry and our communities. At our facilities, we implemented new technologies like the CIRCON Box, which helps us manage a wider variety of waste at a faster pace to improve client services. Our research and development team tested new, forward-thinking methods to manage wastewater and more effectively recover valuable materials and produce recycled, clean water. We expanded our own team's talent with valuable new hires at all levels of the company.



Those efforts will only accelerate throughout 2021. Already we've expanded our capabilities with the acquisition of Bealine Environmental, a leading centralized waste treatment operator in the Houston area, and Water Integrated Treatment Systems (WITS), another strong CWT operator based out of Dolton, Illinois. We're strengthening our capabilities, our offerings, and our reach — and doing so with a growing team, every member of which is personally committed to creating a more sustainable business, and a safer, greener world.

In 2021, CIRCON will also introduce the annual Sustainability Leadership Awards. To honor companies that prioritize sustainability and hold a place of leadership in the effort to move our industry towards a greener future, two categories of awards will be distributed: Milestone Achievement, to celebrate a significant amount of progress achieved by a single company; and Sustainable Project, to recognize the year's most impactful work.

By recognizing the hard work of our peers, this award series will celebrate the impact that one company can make, and, more importantly shine a light on significant change we can create by working together.

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