NOVA Chemicals and Enerkem to Collaborate on Recycling

NOVA Chemicals Corp., a producer of chemicals and resins, and Enerkem Inc., a waste-to-renewable fuels and chemicals producer, entered into a joint development agreement to explore turning non-recyclable and non-compostable municipal waste into ethylene, a building block of plastics.

The companies will research advanced recycling technology to transform hard-to-recycle municipal waste, including plastics, household waste, and construction materials, into ethylene at commercial scale. Ethylene produced from waste would advance a plastics circular economy and help meet consumer brand goals for recycled content in packaging. Advanced recycling technologies can create valuable feedstocks from post-use plastics that cannot easily be mechanically recycled. The quality of polymers produced is indistinguishable from those made with 100 percent fossil-based feedstocks.

“Our R&D teams will develop game-changing technology to push the boundaries for recycling waste to create feedstocks and bring value to the environment, economy, and society,” says Todd Karran, president and chief executive officer of NOVA Chemicals.

Enerkem is among the first companies in the world to produce renewable methanol and ethanol from non-recyclable, non-compostable municipal solid waste at commercial scale. Its technologies replace the use of fossil sources, like petroleum and natural gas, to produce sustainable transportation fuels and chemicals that are used in everyday products.

“This partnership will allow us to explore the development of products and expand our offerings in pursuit of the circular economy,” says Dominique Boies, chief executive officer and chief financial officer of Enerkem.