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The following article was released by Honda to announce a partnership with UGN and Aramark to recycle used Honda uniforms into materials for UGN products. It is a great example of companies working together to advance sustainability efforts.

Old Honda Uniforms Find New Utility

Honda is working toward a sustainable future, and that means ensuring the long-term well-being of our planet, our company and the communities we serve. To do this, Honda must develop new technology and ideas. In this story that is part of a series on Sustainability, find out how Honda has worked with two suppliers to recycle used Honda uniforms.

Honda associates put a lot into the products they make. Now, that includes the shirts right off their backs.

Starting this month, Honda uniforms that cannot be used any longer will be turned into sound insulators that are used in 5 different parts on 12 Honda and Acura models. This process will prevent the uniforms from going to a landfill.

Negar Gilsinger, Material Sustainability leader at the ADC, said the three-year project came from collaboration among Honda Auto Development Center (ADC) and Procurement as well as uniform supplier Aramark and insulation supplier UGN. In fact, the project allowed Gilsinger to combine Honda's environmental vision with her own personal passion.

"The uniforms are shredded and pulled apart to separate the fibers into fluff without changing fiber structure," said Rob Long of Honda North American Indirect Procurement. "The fibers get packaged and shipped to UGN to become insulators. It's a more sustainable method for Honda to produce various insulators such as dash and hood pieces. This is outside both supplier's scope of service and took a lot of planning and coordination between Aramark, UGN and Honda to achieve."

Typically, UGN uses post-industrial fiber from textile companies and polyester from recycled water bottles, but Honda's uniforms are the first post-consumer use of clothing for the company in the U.S.

"Most of our products have recycling already built into it, but this helps from Honda's standpoint," said Pranav Singh of UGN. "Instead of going to the landfill, the old uniforms go into our product."

For Honda uniform supplier Aramark, the project meant a \$20,000 investment in a bailer for the uniforms. But it's worth it to recycle the uniforms provided to Ohio plants and the Indiana Auto Plant, said Keith Mallory of Aramark.



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“It’s better for our footprint,” he said. “We leave behind a lot of things, and this is something we have control over. With Honda, we can tell a story that our garments aren’t put in landfills anymore. We are giving them a longer lifecycle.”

Along with a longer lifecycle for uniforms, the project reduces the risks of waste disposal that can have long-term environment impact to Honda. It also takes aim at Honda’s Triple Zero goals to realize a zero-carbon society through carbon neutrality, clean energy and resource circulation.