

**New York State  
Environmental Investment Program  
Capital Project Summary  
Nucor Steel Auburn, Inc.**

**Project Background**

Nucor Steel Auburn, Inc. was formed in April, 2001 as a fully-owned subsidiary of Nucor Corporation following Nucor's acquisition of the Auburn, NY facility from Sumitomo Corporation. Constructed in 1974, the facility operated as the Auburn Steel Company until it was acquired by Nucor. Nucor Corporation is the largest steel manufacturer in North America. At its Central New York location, Nucor makes carbon steel bar products, including rebar, merchant bar and special bar quality steel.

Nucor Auburn is also the largest recycler in the state. It makes new steel products from 100% recycled steel using an electric arc furnace. Thousands of whole, scrap tires (truck and passenger vehicle tires, exclusive of rims) are used as an alternative carbon source in its manufacturing process, primarily replacing coal. In doing so, everything of value in the scrap tires is recovered and utilized, the carbon, the energy, and the steel. Tires can contain 10 to 30 percent high quality steel.

**Project Description**

Since tires typically do not contain enough steel to be picked up by magnets, Nucor Auburn had to

convert the process it was using to feed tires into a charge hopper from one that used a magnet feed system to a grapple feed system. The original grapple installed worked well, but because it relies on a mechanical system, it was requiring significantly more maintenance than the prior magnetic feed operation.

The purpose of this project was to help the plant purchase a new grapple to serve as a back up to the existing grapple, so that when the original grapple required maintenance or repair, the tire feed process could continue uninterrupted.

**Project Results**

The old grapple was taken out of service and replaced with the new grapple in October 2005. By the end of March, 2006, the old grapple had been repaired and upgraded, and was undergoing testing. At the close of this project, it had not yet been returned to service. However, during these six months, 1,733 tons of tires (about 173,300 tires) were recycled using the new grapple. This exceeded the goal of enabling Nucor Auburn to recycle an additional 1,123 tons of tires per year using the second grapple.

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<b>Contractor:</b>	Auburn Industrial Development Agency	<b>NYS EIP Investment:</b>	\$32,411
<b>County:</b>	Cayuga	<b>Contractor Match:</b>	\$32,728
<b>ESD Region:</b>	Central New York	<b>Total:</b>	\$65,139
<b>ESD Contact:</b>	518/292-5340	<b>Completion Date:</b>	March, 2006