

Shredder residues could fuel blast furnaces

■ **BRUSSELS** — Organic residues from metal scrap shredding operations could be used to fuel blast furnaces and help European industry comply with the end-of-life (ELV) vehicle directive.

Motivated by the need to meet the stringent recovery quotas demanded by the directive, auto manufacturer Volkswagen has researched ways to deal with old cars that will meet the requirement in 2015 for more than 85% of the vehicle to be recycled. Volkswagen's Daniel Goldmann told delegates at the BIR conference in Brussels on October 28 that while there was established methods of dealing with metallic content of cars, there is a need to recycle the residues of the shredding process to meet the directive.

Goldmann presented details of Volkswagen's "SiCon" separation process, which has established that shredder granulate, containing mainly plastic materials, can be used as a blast furnace reducing agent, replacing coke or oil. He estimated that typical ELV waste in 2015 will contain around 6.6% by weight of shredder granulate.

The residue has been tested in certain blast furnaces in Germany, but it remains to be seen whether the EU will consider this use of residue as "recycling" or count it in the "energy recovery" component of ELV laws.

Anthony Bird, chairman of the European Shredder Group, described the SiCon process "as one of the best I've seen" for dealing with ELVs and applauded Volkswagen's research into the recycling of redundant vehicles.