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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metrolina Greenhouses of Huntersville, NC Wins Award from Carolina Recycling Association

Diverting More Than 450 Tons of Plastics per year to a NC Recycling Facility

RALEIGH, NC – The Carolina Recycling Association honored Metrolina Greenhouses of Huntersville, NC with a 2020 Annual Recycling Award!

Each year, the Carolina Recycling Association honors top performers that advance waste reduction and recycling in the Carolinas. The awards are open to individuals, companies, governments, schools, organizations, non-profits, and councils – projects and programs large and small. Nominations are reviewed and winners are selected by a committee of industry peers and scored in a variety of categories including amount of waste reduced, recycled or diverted, level of difficulty, and contribution to the industry as a whole.

Metrolina Greenhouses continue to divert more than 450 tons of plastics per year to a North Carolina Recycling facility. Even more impressive is that the plastics are not the easy-to-recycle, post-industrial, single-resin, clean streams of high value plastics. These are post-consumer, agricultural plastic nursery pots and trays. They are dirty, and therefore much lower in value.

To recycle these pots, trays and flats, Metrolina employs six to eight people year-round as well as seasonal employees, 2 shifts in spring with 8-10 people each shift, who are dedicated to preparing material for shipment to the recycler. Metrolina works with its retail partners to back-haul used nursery containers that are collected by the retail stores from the general public in their Garden Centers. They also ask Garden Center staff to return the plant trays so that Metrolina can wash and reuse these again.

In addition to the 450 tons of plastic nursery containers recycled annually, Metrolina is also reusing approximately two million trays every year! This entire program is done with a zero carbon footprint as Metrolina trucks are already returning to the facility from these stores after delivering plants, but instead of being empty, they now have empty trays from the stores for re-use or recycling.

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