

100 percent recovery

By processing a used tire, we can obtain highly valuable new resources with zero processing waste. Giovanni Zagaria, sales manager of TRS Tyres Recycling Sud, explains how this is possible

To see waste not as rubbish, but as a resource, is to avoid wasting further energy for the production of new items from virgin materials. This is precisely the core business of TRS Tyres Recycling Sud - creating value from waste to generate wealth. Waste can be turned into a product to be used in several ways, is usually compelling and does not represent any danger to humanity. "In addition to this - points out the sales manager Giovanni Zagaria - we have added two elements to our core business. Over the years, we have in fact drastically reduced energy consumption, revamping existing lines with state-of-the-art equipment. Furthermore, as a final step, we have completely transformed our consumption, by self-producing our renewable energy, rather than supplying it from the existing power grid".

What are the most important values for your company in terms of sustainability?

78/2020, END OF WASTE LEGISLATIVE DECREE

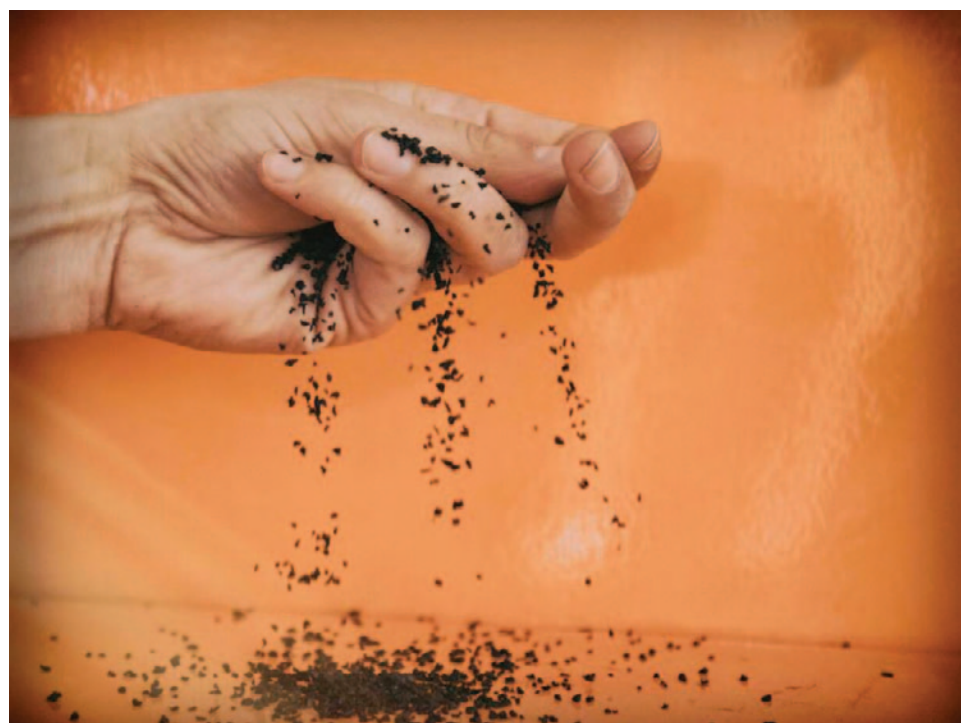
"As operators in the field, we hope - says Zagaria - that in 2021 the effectiveness of this Legislative Decree will facilitate the use of our products on the national territory. The Legislative Decree imposes the necessary requirements in order for the product to be defined unequivocally VRG (vulcanized rubber granule). This would mean no more waste. Public administrations and companies may thus be encouraged to use this product, as there would no longer be any doubt as to whether it is a waste or not. We hope that the efforts made by trade associations, consortia and companies for the approval of the decree can find a concrete response to change the approach of operators and control bodies about this product. The analysis of a sample for each lot to establish conformity with the utmost transparency - and according to chemical-physical contents - is a clear signal of the desire of companies to make this incredible resource known. It has, in fact, no contraindications for health, it is not dangerous and can represent a keystone for national economy".



TRS TYRES RECYCLING SUD WILL BE PRESENT AT ECOMONDO, THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EVENT TO BE HELD IN RIMINI OCTOBER 26-29, 2021

"Our company operates with the utmost respect for the environment. We work in the green economy chain and gain new resources from the treatment of waste. For many years now, we have been carrying out activities to reduce the emission of CO2 into the atmosphere and to decrease the amount of waste currently present in it. We have installed a photovoltaic system of about 1 MW,

TRS is based in Balvano (Pz)
www.trside.com



What materials does your regeneration work focus on?

"We are specialized exclusively in the treatment of ELTs aimed at obtaining granules and powders. Closing the circle of the recovery chain, we make the most of everything that constitutes an out of use tire. Rubber is of course the principal material, but also spring steel is recovered and sent to national steel groups. And finally, the textile component - which presents several positive characteristics as far as heating power is concerned - is sent to energy recovery centers such as cement and power plants. Focusing on this last component, we are carrying out experimental projects for the recovery of the textile fiber. To date, it has only been used as an alternative fuel, but it might have an unexplored potential. From a single piece of waste, we can produce three completely new materials with massive and important applications. At the end of the process, no waste is produced by TRS, everything is recovered from junk to energy".

What does it mean for you to be a leading company in the sector based in the south, considering that many industrial activities in the green economy field are usually located in northern Italy?

"We are located precisely in Balvano, a small town of about a thousand inhabitants in the province of Potenza, on the border between Basilicata and Campania. Being located in southern Italy, has always been an honor and a source of motivation for us. There are logistical difficulties due to the lack of infrastructures, such as motorways and adequate railway networks. Nonetheless, our logistics network has managed to overcome many obstacles and we hope that major critical issues can be solved by the government with important interventions in the years to come. If we consider land travel, competitors from northern Italy have a significant advantage due to an almost halved distance in terms of kilometers. We have made precise choices, focusing on maritime traffic and bridging this gap, exploiting the nearest ports of Salerno and Naples. In order to be competitive on the market, we have concentrated our efforts on selling our products by sea, especially in the last decade. We reach the whole world now and 80% of our products go beyond national borders. We have sales offices in Dubai and we have customers in Australia, South East Asia, Northern Europe, North and South America. TRS products have been used for many years in many different countries and it is a great source of pride to make our name, our work and our image known throughout the world, starting from our small town in Basilicata. • **Elena Bonaccorso**