



EEE Research Seminar
DATE: Thursday, October 27, 2016
TIME: 9:30 A.M.
LOCATION: POTR 234, Fu Room

Dr. David Mirth
Director of Product Development
Owens Corning

Owens Corning: Expanding our Impact Through Sustainability

Abstract

Owens Corning develops, manufactures and markets insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composites. The company's market-leading businesses use their deep expertise in materials, manufacturing and building science to develop products and systems that save energy and improve comfort in commercial and residential buildings. Through its glass reinforcements business, the company makes thousands of products lighter, stronger and more durable.

At Owens Corning, expanding our impact through sustainability is a core value. We believe it to be an essential element of our business, from the products we make to the way that we make them. This presentation will provide an overview of Owens Corning's approach to sustainability. In addition, it will provide an inside, engineer's look at two Research and Development efforts that have had a major positive impact on the sustainability of our products.

The first case study will describe how Owens Corning invented a bio-based binder solution for its EcoTouch® Insulation, including the technical, industrialization and product challenges that had to be overcome when replacing the phenol formaldehyde binder that had been used in the fiber glass insulation industry for over 70 years. The second case study will describe how Owens Corning invented a more sustainable generation of Foamular® extruded polystyrene products by developing a new manufacturing process that used more sustainable blowing agents.

BIO

Dave Mirth is a Director of Product Development at Owens Corning, where he leads a global team of scientists and engineers accountable for the development of industry-leading products within Owens Corning's Composite Solutions Business. His team has recently delivered innovative new products for applications such as wind blades, pultrusion and filament wound pipes

Dave has held a variety of leadership roles within Owens Corning's Research and Development organization over his 23 year career, including leading the development and commercialization of Owens Corning's EcoTouch® insulation product. EcoTouch® has received national recognition as an innovative building materials product, including being ranked among the top five best new products of 2011 by Professional Builder and Professional Remodeler magazines, and being the first fiberglass insulation to be certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Biobased product.

Dave has a Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, an MS in Mechanical Engineer from Stanford University and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Ohio University.