

# KAWASAKIS HELP MAKE METAL "GREEN"



**W**hile recycling is considered the “green” thing to do, there’s nothing warm or fuzzy about scrap. At Metal Shredders in West Carrollton, Ohio, the grounds are filled with piles bristling with metallic objects and the air is filled with the raucous sounds of metal being ferried, shredded, and sorted. But make no mistake, there is green here — it’s called profit. And it’s the result of a lot of hard work, wise choices, and keeping up with the latest trends and technologies. The business of scrap metal has come a long, long way.

“We first started in 1970,” says Dick Wilson, manager of Metal Shredders, Inc. “Cars used to be \$10 a ton. There were only a handful of shredders back then that could recycle cars into usable steel and we were one of them.

And there certainly wasn’t the means to separate out all the byproducts.”

“Two years ago there was only one other shredder in the area,” adds Luke Huggins, Equipment Manager. “Now there are five. Seems everyone wants to be in the car scrapping business. We have a 50- to 60-mile radius we work to pick up cars and bring them here. Eighty percent of what we handle is automotive.”

“Every generation brings modernization and new methods of technology as well as different techniques to separate out the various metals,” says Wilson. “Shredders now are more productive and efficient. The market has definitely changed over the years.”

## WHEEL LOADER OF CHOICE

Metal Shredders relies heavily on its fleet of wheel loaders. They move car bodies, shredded scrap, appliances, sheet iron, landfill materials, and more. They have used Cat® and Komatsu in the past, but what they’ve been buying since 2007 is Kawasaki.

“About three years ago, the local Kawasaki dealer came out with a Kawasaki 65 to demo,” says Huggins. “We now have four Kawasaki loaders — two 65ZVs and two 70ZV-2s. The 70ZV-2s we ordered with the autolube option, and we’re running with standard counterweights.

“We need equipment that will hold up. This is a very harsh and nasty environment.

We have so much material, we have a lot of wind, and we have a lot of dust. Our operators have to blow out the filters several times a day, which is very easy to do on our 70s because they have a swing-out cooler. With our other loaders, we had to replace radiators because they had so much plastic they couldn't be repaired. We haven't had that problem with Kawasaki. And we haven't had any overheating problems with them either like we did with the other models. The belly guards work great and help prevent expensive transmission repairs."

Another plus is that the standard Z linkage of the Kawasaki loaders has excellent down pressure, a real boon when dealing with cars. "The cars come in by tow truck or flat bed," continues Huggins. "Sometimes we have to smash them and that's where the down pressure comes in."

Metal Shredders will also cater to their customers by crushing on site. "If a customer

has a lot of metal on site, we'll come in with our mobile crusher and one of the 65s — it's easy to transport."

## SAVINGS PLUS SERVICE

"There is a considerable savings in parts with Kawasaki," explains Wilson. "But the most important thing is service. We have a many-years' relationship with Mark Bardo, our rep at RECO, and I trust him. He doesn't steer me wrong."

Huggins agrees. "The service is great from RECO. They respond very quickly and are very thorough."

"The proof is in the pudding," concludes Wilson. "This environment requires the utmost care, particularly in the summer. These are not machines that get to rest. They start at 6 AM and work through the night, as we have a second shift that does maintenance as well as handle more material

movement. So these machines have to do double duty. When you have to deliver X amount of product, there are no excuses. If you miss, it will cost you money as well as create an undesirable trickle-down effect."

**Metal Shredders, Inc. is serviced by RECO Equipment, Monroe, Ohio.**



*A grapple tackles a large pile of scrap.*

“ There is a considerable savings in parts with Kawasaki. ”

— *Dick Wilson, Manager*



*Metal Shredders equips their four Kawasaki wheel loaders with 60" forks, a quick coupler, and solid tires. Their 70ZV-2s also have autolube.*