

## Environmental

In the current environmental climate, it is important to consider not just the additional revenue available but also the benefits to the world in which we live. With greenhouse gases in our atmosphere on the rise and mountains of tires being held in landfills, what impact can each of us have? Fortunately, with nitrogen inflation, the answer to this is “a significant impact”.

It is to America’s credit that there has been a concerted effort to increase recycling of scrap tires. In 1990 only 17% were recycled, in 2003 that number had jumped to 80%. Based on 2003 scrap tire data<sup>17</sup>:

- 130 million are used as fuel
- 56 million are recycled or used in civil engineering projects
- 18 million are converted into ground rubber and recycled into products
- 12 million are converted into ground rubber and used in rubber-modified asphalt
- 9 million are exported
- 6.5 million are recycled into cut/stamped/punched products
- 3 million are used in agricultural and miscellaneous uses
- 16.5 million scrap tires are retreaded
- 27 million scrap tires are estimated to be disposed of in landfills or monofills

Approximately 15%, or 42 million, of these tires are truck tires.<sup>18</sup> Each of these 42 million tires requires about 22 gallons of oil to produce, approximately 924 million gallons of oil in total. By extending the life of each tire by the proven 57.5%<sup>1,3,4,5</sup> 24.15 million truck tires would have been prevented from entering landfills and 531 million gallons of oil would have been saved on tire production.

The average passenger tire requires about 7 gallons of oil to produce.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, after removing the truck tires above; the remaining 236 million tires represent 1.652 billion gallons of oil.

Through nitrogen inflation tire life can be extended by 57.5%<sup>1,3,4,5</sup> for truck tires and 31%<sup>1</sup> for passenger tires. This equates to 97.31 million tires not entering landfills and 1.043 billion gallons of oil that could be saved in tire manufacturing alone every year simply by inflating with nitrogen.

Additionally, as discussed earlier, nitrogen inflation improves fuel economy, saving as much as 13 billion gallons of fuel from being burned each year. Since each gallon of diesel burned creates 22.2 lbs<sup>20</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub> and each gallon of gasoline burned creates 19.4 lbs<sup>20</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub>, a total of 138.7 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> would not enter the atmosphere.