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“The circular economy is the future,” McKinney adds. “We must start thinking about the end of a product’s life in a more sustainable manner than sitting unproductively in a landfill. Recycling is an important cog in the wheel of sustainable materials management. Single-use plastics should be avoided but once plastic is part of the waste stream, the Ocean-Bound Plastics Recycling Program aims to mitigate and reclaim this material that would otherwise pollute our territory’s waterways and overwhelm our landfills.”

Island Green Living can accept numbers 1, 2, and 5 plastics, which include items such as water and soda bottles (with caps separated but included), some food containers, peanut butter jars, milk jugs, shampoo and detergent bottles, yogurt containers, and more. Styrofoam and items like plastic utensils, bags, etc., cannot be accepted. The plastics will be sorted and baled and then shipped to PADNOS, a fourth-generation, family-owned recycling partner, where the raw materials will gain a new lease on life.

PADNOS will buy and transport all aluminum and plastics collected by Island Green Living. The plastics will be transported on deadheaded shipping containers—containers that otherwise would have returned empty—when possible. “We are honored to be representing PADNOS at this dedication,” says