

# Decline of U.S. Printer Cartridge Remanufacturing Sector Draws Industry Attention

*U.S. cartridge remanufacturing has declined as imports gained market share, shifting production overseas and raising sustainability concerns.*

CHATSWORTH, CA, UNITED STATES, June 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The U.S. printer cartridge remanufacturing industry, once a thriving sector built on sustainability and cost efficiency, has experienced a significant decline over the past two decades as imported alternatives captured market share and reshaped the competitive landscape.



One of the last U.S. printer cartridge remanufacturers.

Established in the 1980s, the remanufacturing industry emerged in response to growing environmental concerns surrounding discarded ink and toner cartridges produced by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as HP, Canon, Epson, Brother and Xerox. By refurbishing and reusing spent cartridges, U.S. companies created a circular economy that reduced landfill waste while offering consumers a lower-cost alternative.

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*Neil Levi*

Driven by strong demand, the industry expanded rapidly. Within a few years, it evolved into a global market

generating billions of dollars in annual revenue. At its peak, the U.S. remanufacturing sector included thousands of companies spanning remanufacturers, distributors, resellers, parts suppliers and equipment manufacturers.

Industry growth was supported by key institutions such as Recharger Magazine, founded in

California in 1989. The publication became a leading voice for the industry and hosted the annual World Expo in Las Vegas, which grew into one of the world's largest print consumables trade shows by 2006.

However, beginning in the early 2000s, the competitive landscape shifted. Overseas manufacturers began supplying large volumes of low-cost compatible cartridges to the U.S. market. Over time, global suppliers expanded their presence, acquired key component manufacturers and increased market share.

By 2014, the industry's center of gravity had shifted internationally, with events such as the Image RemaxWorld Expo surpassing the original U.S.-based World Expo in scale and influence.

As market pressures intensified, many U.S.-based companies across the remanufacturing ecosystem reduced operations or exited the market. The contraction affected businesses

involved in cartridge remanufacturing, component supply, tooling and distribution, including well-known industry names such as Laser Imaging International, Future Graphics, Supplies Network, Parts Now, Sensient Imaging and Recharger Magazine.

Despite these changes, remanufacturing remains relevant as businesses and consumers continue to seek sustainable and cost-effective printing solutions. Neil Levi, general manager of [Planet Green](#), said "domestic production, supply chain resilience and environmental considerations may play an increasing role in shaping the sector's future."

"If the United States is committed to onshoring more sectors of its economy, ink and toner remanufacturing is a key industry to support because it helps reduce plastic waste while lowering demand for the raw materials and energy required to manufacture new cartridges," Levi said.

As policymakers and businesses increasingly focus on domestic manufacturing and supply chain



Printer cartridge remanufacturing facility



Planet Green Logo

resilience, industry leaders are calling attention to the decline of the U.S. printer cartridge remanufacturing sector and the opportunities for revitalization.

"By choosing U.S. remanufactured cartridges, organizations can reduce printing costs while supporting American jobs and keeping valuable materials in circulation," Levi said. "It's a practical step that aligns economic and environmental priorities."

As businesses reevaluate supply chains and prioritize cost efficiency, U.S.-based remanufactured cartridges are increasingly viewed as a viable alternative to imported single-use products. Greater adoption could help strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity while advancing sustainability goals across the print sector.

#### About Planet Green

Founded in 1999, Planet Green is a U.S.-based printer cartridge recycler and remanufacturer. The company remanufactures used OEM inkjet cartridges and sells surplus OEM stock as an environmentally sustainable alternative to newly manufactured products. For more information, visit [planetgreenrecycle.com](https://planetgreenrecycle.com).

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