

STRATEGIES FOR PLASTIC BAG AND FILM RECOVERY

GROCERY & RETAIL AT-STORE DROP-OFFS OR PLASTIC FILM FROM BUSINESSES

1. Train employees to identify what films are recyclable:

Recycle plastic grocery and retail bags, stretch or pallet wrap, newspaper bags, or film that is labeled with #2 or #4.



AVOID food wrap (e.g. Saran Wrap) and any film that has had direct contact with food or any organic material.

2. Identify the estimated quantity of film generated per month—loose film averages 24 lbs/cu.yd. To access an online calculator tool to estimate amounts generated, go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

3. Once you determine the amount of film and bags your business generates, **ask your hauler if they accept loose film for recycling**—alone or with cardboard.

4. You will need to collect and compact film for pick up. Use clear #4 plastic bags and clear bins with bold signage to designate recycling. If your volume is high, it might make sense to invest in a baler and consider backhauling to a central distribution center. For assistance, contact **888-753-7485**.



5. If you set out bins for customers to recycle bags, be sure to **include clear signage** at the bin opening so customers know that it's for recycling—not garbage.

6. Place recycling bins near main entrance for convenient customer access.

7. Assign a designated staff person to monitor recycling bins: empty bins regularly and remove contamination.

8. Plan how to consolidate material. Move material from customer drop off point to designated bins in the back of your business for storage. Make sure employees know storage bin is for recycling—not waste. (Employees often accidentally throw trash into bags of film that are left out for recycling.)

9. Store consolidated bags and film material in a clean, dry place.

10. Call or email for information about signage.



11. Keep employees informed on how the recycling program is going and how much film is being recycled. Congratulate them on their contributions to the program.

12. Re-educate employees annually and **ALWAYS** educate new employees.

For additional information, including markets, film identification, and signage go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

For personal assistance, please call 888-753-7485 or email help@plasticbagrecycling.org



Plastic Film and Bag RECYCLING FACTS

- Using paper bags doubles the amount of CO₂ produced versus using plastic bags.¹
- Plastic bag production uses less than 4 percent of the water needed to make paper bags.²
- Using paper bags creates almost 5 times more solid waste than using plastic bags.¹
- The dominant end use for recycled plastic film/bags is composite decking.³
- In 2006 more than 812 million pounds of plastic film and bags were recycled which is enough feed stock to manufacture nearly 1,500,000 composite lumber decks.⁴

www.trex.com



1. Boustead Consulting, 2007 2. Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests & Landscape -SAEFL, 1998 & Boustead Consulting, 2005
3. Moore Recycling Associates, 2007 4. Moore Recycling Associates & Trex Corporation, 2007

For more information including where to recycle and how to set up a recycling program go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

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