Advancing Plastic Film Recycling in the U.S.

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The Crisis of Plastic Film Waste

3,000,000,000+ pounds of recoverable residential plastic film is generated each year in the U.S.
It’s not just grocery bags.
Despite 18,000+ retail stores collecting film for recycling...

...only about 4% of film is recycled.
Which means 96% of recoverable residential plastic film is sent to landfill.
Change is needed.

SC Johnson is leading efforts to support a circular vision for plastic film.
## SCJ-Sponsored Film Pilot Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Bradley Beach, NJ</th>
<th>Points Roberts, WA</th>
<th>Loch Arbour, NJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Launch</strong></td>
<td>Nov, 2019</td>
<td>Jan, 2020</td>
<td>Mar, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Method</strong></td>
<td>Curbside film-dedicated bin</td>
<td>Bag in bag integrated into paper &amp; cardboard bin</td>
<td>Curbside film-dedicated bin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Frequency</strong></td>
<td>Monthly coordinated with recycling pick-up</td>
<td>Every other week</td>
<td>Monthly coordinated with recycling pick-up</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Film diverted from landfill</strong></td>
<td>4,200 pounds in 10 months</td>
<td>1,300 pounds in 6 months</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>
Flexible packaging is recycled curbside, and the recovery community captures value from it.
MRFF conducted extensive research on scalable solutions culminating in MRF Pilot

2015
Comprehensive equipment testing for sorting FPP in large MRFs

2016
MRFF Research Report Published

2017
Conducted end market, financial, and equipment research

2018
Pilot partner identified and equipment procurement begins

Jan 2019
Equipment installed at Pilot MRF

Apr-Aug 2019
Equipment tuning and testing

Sep 2019-Present
Collection of FPP from participating communities
2019 PILOT: COMMUNITY COLLECTION PROGRAM

Over 56,000 households invited to participate
Residents invited to add loose packages to curbside recycling to test actual post-consumer material
• Located in Birdsboro, PA
• Owned by J.P. Mascaro & Sons, which has hauling contracts with 90 municipalities in 9 counties
• Upgrades to MRF included adding 3 optical sorters on fiber lines to extract FPP from paper
• FPP is delivered to rFlex bale
• System has capacity to produce 3,100 tons of rFlex annually
• First year results detailed in MRFF Research Report issued in May, 2020 available to download at: www.materialsrecoveryforthefuture.com
Developing End-Markets for Film

Research shows post-consumer PE film could improve the stiffness and resistance of polymer-modified asphalt at less cost than the emulsion that are typically used.

The Plastics Industry Association conducted the New End Market Opportunities (NEMO) for Film Asphalts Project with assistance from the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) and the Western Research Institute. The final report, released June 23, shows that recycled PE film can be a cheaper alternative to the styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer (SBSt), or the most widely used other tacky.
Change is possible.

Help us support a circular economy for film.

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