



# Studying Rigid Plastics in the WI Waste Stream

Funded by

The American Chemistry Council

# Rigid Plastic Waste in ICI

PET Beverage Bottles	9,302
PET Non-Bev. Bottles/Jars	2,093
HDPE Natural Bottles	2,903
HDPE Colored Bottles	3,501
Other Plastic #3 - #7 Bottles	1,661
Other Rigid Plastic Pkg.	43,264
<b>Total Rigid Plastic:</b>	<b>62,724</b>

**Note:** Other Rigid Plastic Pkg. includes tubs and lids, pails, jars, plant pots and flats, clamshells, caps, closures, blister packs.

- Reviewed currently available waste studies, virgin resin production reports, and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code data.
- Surveyed Wisconsin extension program managers, major manufacturers from all of the industrial regions in Wisconsin, transfer station managers within the industrial regions, commercial plastic recycling service providers, reclaimers, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and exporters for the purpose of teasing out the broad category of rigid plastics in the 2009 Wisconsin Waste Characterization Study.

# Sources of Rigid Plastics

## **Commercial:**

Estimate about 2,700 to 3,300 tons of Other Rigid Plastic Pkg. come from grocery stores. Other retailers, restaurants, and cafeterias generate very similar waste and likely generate significant supplies of readily recyclable scrap plastic. Waste studies in other states indicate a significant portion of rigid plastic is generated in the commercial sector.

## **Multifamily:**

Many of the bottles and jars likely came from multifamily dumpsters that are picked up on ICI routes. 19,460 tons of the total rigid waste is composed of these readily recyclable items.

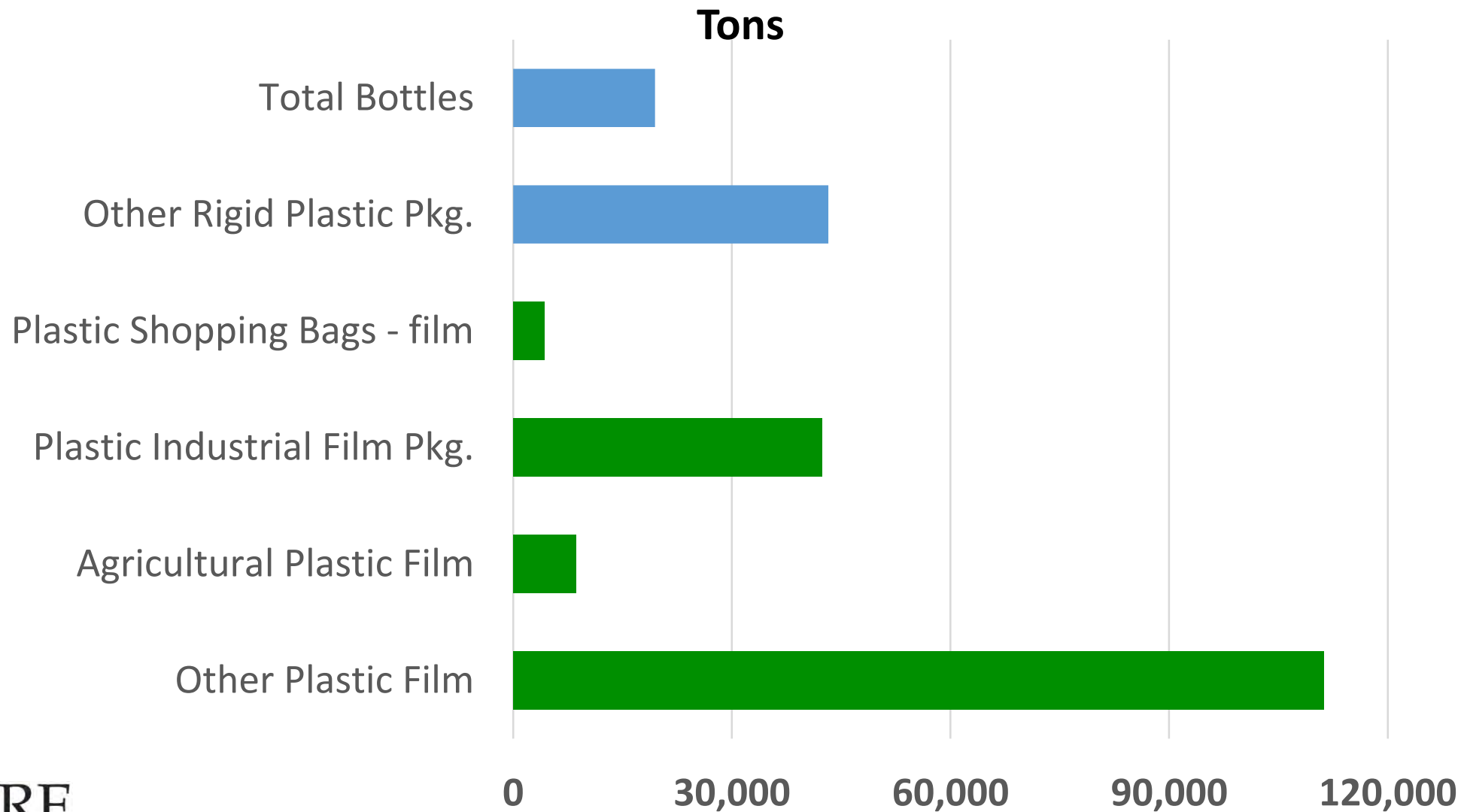
## **Institutional:**

Estimate hospitals and universities together generate 3,500 tons of rigid plastic

## **Industrial:**

Conversations with manufacturers from major sectors and transfer stations that handle their waste turned up very little rigid plastic.

# Plastic in the WI Waste Stream



- Given the amount of film in the waste stream, we have also been focused on increasing film recycling through the Wrap Recycling Action Program.
- Seeking more champions and partners to increase awareness and access to commercial generators.

