Plastics Recycling Subcommittee Meeting—October 1, 2013
9:30-noon in Fitchburg, WI

In attendance: Rick Eilertson, George Hayduckso, Joe Van Rossum, Wayne Wegner, Jim Feeney, Dan Mohs, Kelly Mech, Rebecca Mattano, Anna McCabe, Roger Springman, Ted Hansen, Jim Birmingham, Karin Sieg, Meleesa Johnson, Becky Curtis, Rick Meyers, Brad Wolbert, Claudia Alvarez, Cynthia Moore, Dan Werner, Waneta Kratz By phone: Charlene Lemoine, Chris Miller, Dan Krivit, Jill Haygood, Mark Albert, Peter Gelhar, Phil Stecker, Nina Butler, Dean Hoegger

Following is a summary of comments made related to workgroup recommendations presented at the meeting. Recommendations are found under the Plastics Recycling Subcommittee tab here.

Comments:

Bottles Workgroup

- add to introduction a statement that references that the recommendations presented are prioritized by likelihood of success and considered immediate actions that can be taken to improve away-from-home recycling of plastic beverage bottles
- add “highly visible” to 1a
- clarify to “promote within one or more particular sports” to 1c
- include an education component to “train the trainer” in 2
- discussion: does not address population that doesn’t even recycle at home; need for quantitative analysis to know where the volume we’re missing actually is

Rigids Workgroup

- get interested parties into a group to work with WEDC
- regarding the need to address bale quality: full picture of transporting material that doesn’t get recycled—Placon would be willing to sponsor these actions
- it is inefficient to receive high volumes at low quality
- not necessarily a need for secondary sorting at a PRF, but there is a need for MRFs to prioritize bale quality

Film and Bag Workgroup

- Easy-to-Recycle Film collection
- Potential to tie-in with ag plastics collection at rural drop-off film collection points

  • Ag Plastics
    - Concerns about consistency in market/recycler/lack of cost neutrality/profitability
    - Framework for collection tied in with other film collection
    - Truckload quantity produced by having multiple balers
    - Concern of contamination is reduced when baling occurs on a local level instead of on a large scale
    - There is a need for a cost analysis of the ag plastic recycling process; this will tell you what costs should be paid for by whom

  • Hard-to-Recycle Plastic Film
    - Decision made to not go forward with energy recovery recommendations to the COR due to too many unanswered questions lacking expertise from this group.