#3-7 BALE AUDIT RESULTS

Study Performed February – March 2021
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RRS would like to acknowledge the project sponsors:
Association of Plastics Recyclers
Foodservice Packaging Institute
Keurig Dr. Pepper
Polypropylene Recycling Coalition
Sustainable Packaging Coalition

We would also like to acknowledge the Michigan State University Recycling Center and EFS-Plastics for their partnership on logistics.

Thank you to Stina, Inc. for providing valuable input on the methodology.
AUDIT METHODOLOGY

- Methodology reviewed by Association of Plastic Recyclers and other project funders
- ~200 lbs. sample taken from middle section of each bale
- Sorted into following categories:
  - Rigid Plastic Packaging
  - Bulky Packaging/Plastics
  - Other Rigid Plastic Packaging (resin not identifiable, plastic pieces)
  - Non-Rigid Plastic Packaging (films and foams)
  - Other Rigid Non-Packaging Plastics (not packaging durable items, pieces of durable items)
  - Other Remaining Materials (paper, metal, mixed residual, fines)
- Secondary sort Rigid Plastic Packaging and Bulky Packaging/Plastics by resin. Rigid Plastic Packaging also sorted by packaging format
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Bales on average consisted of 87% plastic; contamination from other materials (paper, metal, mixed residual) and fines comprised 13% of bale on average.
- Major plastic fractions included PET (22%), HDPE (15%), and PP (31%). Not significantly changed from 2015 bale audits.
- Large variation in plastic fraction makeup between bales. PP generally found to make up 25% of bale or more, but large spread for PET and HDPE.
- Unidentified plastics approximately 11% of bale.
- Results on following slides presented as averages of sampled bales.

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BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY AS % OF TOTAL BALE WEIGHT

- Rigid Packaging, 67%
- Bulky Packaging/Plastics, 7%
- Non-Rigid Packaging, 4%
- Other Rigid Packaging (resin not identified, packaging pieces), 1%
- Other Rigid Non-Packaging, 6%
- Other Remaining Materials and Fines, 13%

Average Sample Size: ~205 lbs.
BREAKDOWN BY RESIN AS % OF TOTAL BALE WEIGHT

Average Sample Weight: ~205 lbs.