



2005 NATIONAL POST-CONSUMER PLASTIC FILM and BAG RECOVERY REPORT

Moore Recycling Associates

Executive Summary

Moore Recycling Associates surveyed post consumer plastic film and bag markets to determine tonnages recovered in 2005. Scrap plastic film is a relatively new commodity compared to other plastics recyclables such as PET and HDPE bottles. A variety of manufacturers are experimenting with post-consumer film and plastic bag material as an alternative feedstock; therefore, we acknowledge that while we have recovery data from the primary domestic end-market players we may not have captured all of the material recovered by domestic end users of post-consumer film and plastic bags.

The dominant end use for post-consumer plastic film/bags is composite decking, which has been growing at a rate of 20% annually. We have observed an increase in collection programs, primarily in the retail sector. Despite increase in collection, prices remain steady and strong which indicates that demand is outpacing supply, and that trend is expected to continue as more manufacturers realize the opportunity to use scrap plastic film/bags as an alternative feedstock.

Despite access to U.S. virgin resin sales data we are unable to determine a recovery rate for post-consumer plastic film and bags because we have not determined the volume of material entering the U.S. as transport packaging. In addition to the imported plastic film products for sale in the U.S., an enormous amount of material enters as protective packaging of goods from all over the world. Nearly 40,000 shipping containers enter the U.S. each day, and it is likely that most contain scrap plastic film.

Based on our calculations we estimate that 652,477,000 pounds of post-consumer plastic film and bags were recovered in 2005. This does not include post-industrial scrap material. We omitted material that may have been imported to the U.S. Our conclusion is based on recovery data from 15 reclaimers, or end users, and 28 exporters.