

Increasing Plastics Packaging Recycling from the Residential Waste Stream – Today and Tomorrow

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Coast Waste Management Association Conference
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ENVIRONMENT AND PLASTICS INDUSTRY COUNCIL
(A Council of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association)

EPIC is Working to Increase the Recycling of Plastics

- A council created by CPIA:
- Committed to the responsible use & recovery of plastic resources
- Facilitates development of recycling programs and infrastructure
- Works to identify improvements in processes and markets for recycled plastics
- Works to develop best practices, communication and education materials



Plastics Packaging

- Packaging is being influenced by fundamental changes in society and by global issues
- Industry has responded through technical & sophisticated innovations in packaging
- Factors influencing packaging are:
 - Changing demographics
 - Increased concern over health & safety
 - Need for extended shelf life
 - Ability to deliver products in the most resource efficient and cost effective manner



The Size of Canada's Households is Decreasing

	1961	1981	2001
Population	18,238,247	24,343,181	30,007,095
Households	4,554,736	8,281,531	11,562,975
Average Persons/HHLD	4.0	2.9	2.6



Smaller Households Generate over 50% More Packaging than Larger Ones

- In the United Kingdom, one & two person households on average generate 50% more packaging than a three person household
- In the Netherlands, one & two households generate 56% more packaging

EPIC Participated in the 2007 Metro Vancouver Waste Composition Study

- Goal was to acquire more detailed information about the plastics actually in the residential waste stream to accurately baseline where we are now.
- Study done in conjunction with the Metro study, a subset of the Metro study, same contractor, same samples
- Results are the basis for recommendations to improve plastics recycling in Metro Vancouver and elsewhere in BC.



Almost 80% of Plastics Packaging in the Residential Waste Stream is Potentially Recyclable

Plastic packaging is estimated at around 9% of the residential waste stream & composed of:

- Film & bags (e.g. empty bags of all types/overwrap) 2.7%
 - Plastic bottles (e.g. food/beverage/other) 1.4%
 - Flexible film laminates (e.g. meat/poultry/fish wrap) 1.4%
 - Rigid food containers (e.g. frozen food/bakery/takeout) 1.0%
 - Plastic cushion packaging (e.g. for electronics/durables) 0.8%
 - Tubs and Lids (e.g. dairy/margarine/ice cream/other) 0.7%
 - Other rigid plastic packaging (toiletry/cosmetic/blisterpak) 0.5%
 - Large pails and lids (garden/pool/kitty litter/dog food) 0.2%
- 8.7%



Composition of Metro Vancouver Residential Plastics Packaging Stream

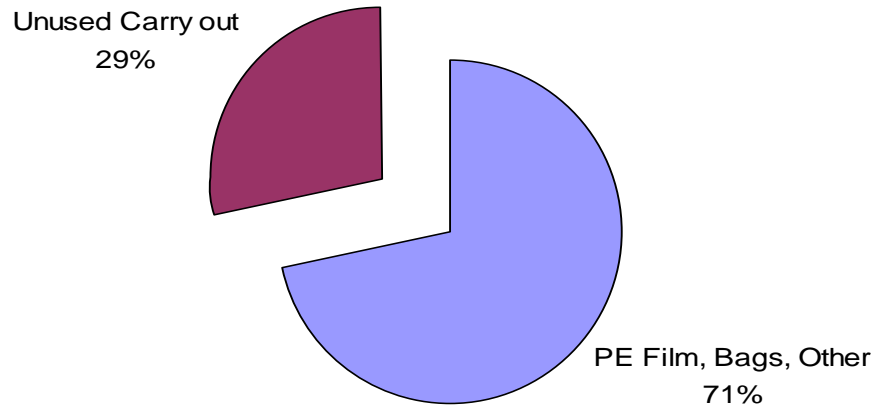


Recyclable Film & Bags in Residential Waste Stream

- Includes empty dry cleaning bags, bread bags, frozen food bags, over wrap for paper towel, toilet paper, diapers & empty carry out bags
- It is a pure Polyethylene film stream
- Excludes the 54% of carry out bags the Metro Vancouver audit confirms were being used as 'kitchen catchers' & therefore not available for recycling.

Recyclable PE Film & Bags in Residential Waste Stream

PE Film, Bags, Overwrap in Residential Waste Stream



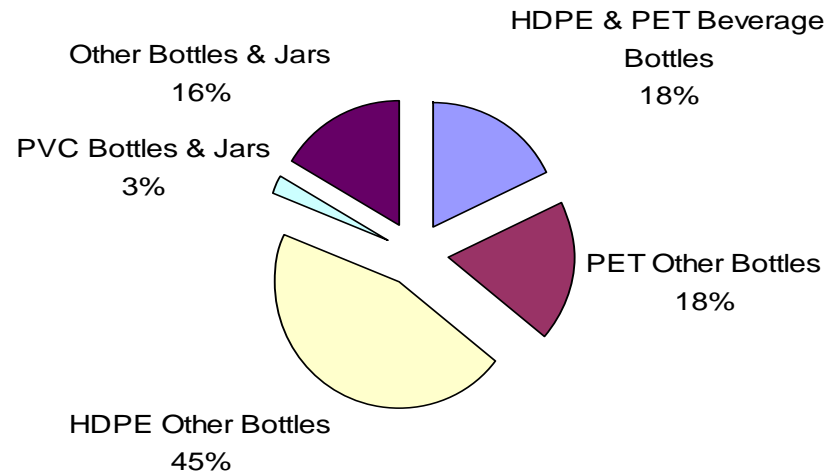
Plastic Bottles

- Includes food, beverage and other bottles
- Almost 90% of the bottles are PET or HDPE
- PVC bottles are less than 3% of the bottle stream



Plastic Bottles, Jugs & Jars in Metro Vancouver Residential Waste Stream

Composition of Plastic Bottles, Jugs, & Jars in Metro Vancouver Residential Waste Stream



Suggested Policy Directions

- The initial phase of the expansion of the Packaging Recycling Regulation should consider targeting plastics which are:
 1. Large in volume
 2. Relatively homogeneous
 3. Recyclable today
 4. Markets exist for them
- The following 3 candidates would address almost 50% of the residential plastics packaging waste stream

Suggested Candidates

1. Film & Bags

- Target plastic dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, overwrap for toilet paper, paper towel, diapers, cased beverages, empty carry out bags

2. Bottles

- Target laundry & detergent bottles, windshield washer fluid bottles, bleach bottles, shampoo & non hazardous household cleaners



Suggested Candidates

3. Cushion packaging

- Target plastic cushion packaging (PS) for electronic and durable goods

4. And Distribution Pallet Wrap (IC&I)

- This is not residential but large gains in plastic recycling possible
- Potentially equivalent by volume to 50% of the residential plastic packaging stream

The path forward

- In conclusion EPIC is committed to increased diversion of plastics
- Epic funded the detailed audit of Metro Vancouver residential waste stream to identify diversion opportunities
- EPIC believes the opportunities we have identified and outlined today are realistic and address 50% of the plastic stream.
- EPIC believes that provincial policy should move us forward on these opportunities.



For more information:

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THANK YOU



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Environment and Plastics Industry Council

COMMITTED TO THE RESPONSIBLE USE AND RECOVERY OF PLASTICS RESOURCES

SEARCH

Whole Phrase

September 23, 2005

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The Environment and Plastics Industry Council (EPIC) is an industry initiative committed to the responsible use and recovery of plastics resources.

Integrated Resource Management

Reduce

Reuse

Recycling

Recovery of Energy

Retention in Landfill

sustainable plastics recycling

plastic waste sent to landfill. EPIC

development of sustainable programs

to effectively manage plastics waste and acts as a

resource to individuals, groups, companies and the

educational community.



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What's New



- ▶ [GLOBE 2006 - Accelerating Business & Sustainable Development Strategies](#)
- ▶ [True or False: Get the Real Word on Plastic Email Hoaxes](#)
- ▶ [The Recycling Equation](#)
- ▶ [Myth Busters: using plastic](#)

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