

APBA Presentation to CAST



Plastic Bag & Film Recycling and Sustainable Grocery Bag Policies

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Presenting on behalf of APBA
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Who Is APBA?



Founded in 2005, the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA) is a group of American plastic bag manufacturers that represent a thriving industry employing 30,800 American workers. APBA's current areas of focus include:

- Increasing recycling opportunities
- Litter prevention
- Increasing bag reuse
- Correcting misperceptions concerning litter and waste
- Educate the public and lawmakers on the impacts of bag legislation

Facts About Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are ...

- Are more environmentally competitive than other options
 - Very efficient in LCA catalog categories
- 100% recyclable, reusable
 - Recycled into building materials, playgrounds, and new bags
 - Re-used by 9 out of 10 people
- Made from natural gas, not oil, in the U.S.
- Only a fraction of 1% of the waste and litter streams



Sustainable Life Cycle Assessment Factors

Global Warming Potential (GWP)
Water Depletion
Cumulative Energy Demand
Terrestrial Acidification
Freshwater Eutrophication
Marine Eutrophication
Human Toxicity
Terrestrial Ecotoxicity
Freshwater Ecotoxicity
Marine Ecotoxicity
Fossil Fuel Depletion
Photochemical Oxidant Formation

Bag Laws – Impact on the Environment

Plastic bags generate 80% less waste than paper bags

Water Usage

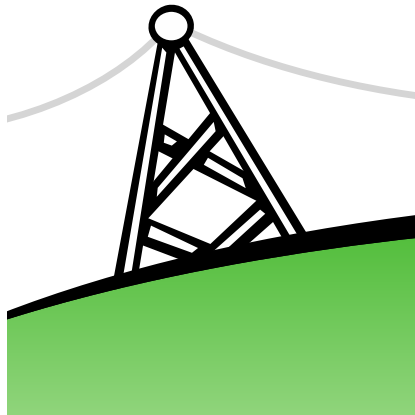
The production of plastic bags consumes **less than 4%** of the water needed to make paper bags



Energy Consumption

Plastic grocery bags require **70% less energy** to manufacture than paper bags

Recycling one pound of plastic takes **91% less energy** than recycling one pound of paper.



Transportation

For every **7 trucks** needed to deliver paper bags, only **1 truck** is needed for the same number of plastic bags. This means fewer emissions in our towns.



Bag Laws – Impact on Business

- **Seattle Survey**
 - Carryout bag costs increased by 40 to 200% following the bag ban.
 - 30% of store reported increase in shoplifting
- **National Center for Policy Analysis Study**
 - Los Angeles County stores in bag ban areas saw sales decline nearly 6%, while those in areas without a ban reported average sales growth of 9 percent.
- Stocking paper and reusable bags can cost stores an additional **\$4,000 every year**



Recycling is the better option.



Know Your Plastic Bag

Not Recycled (PP/PVC/Co-layer)



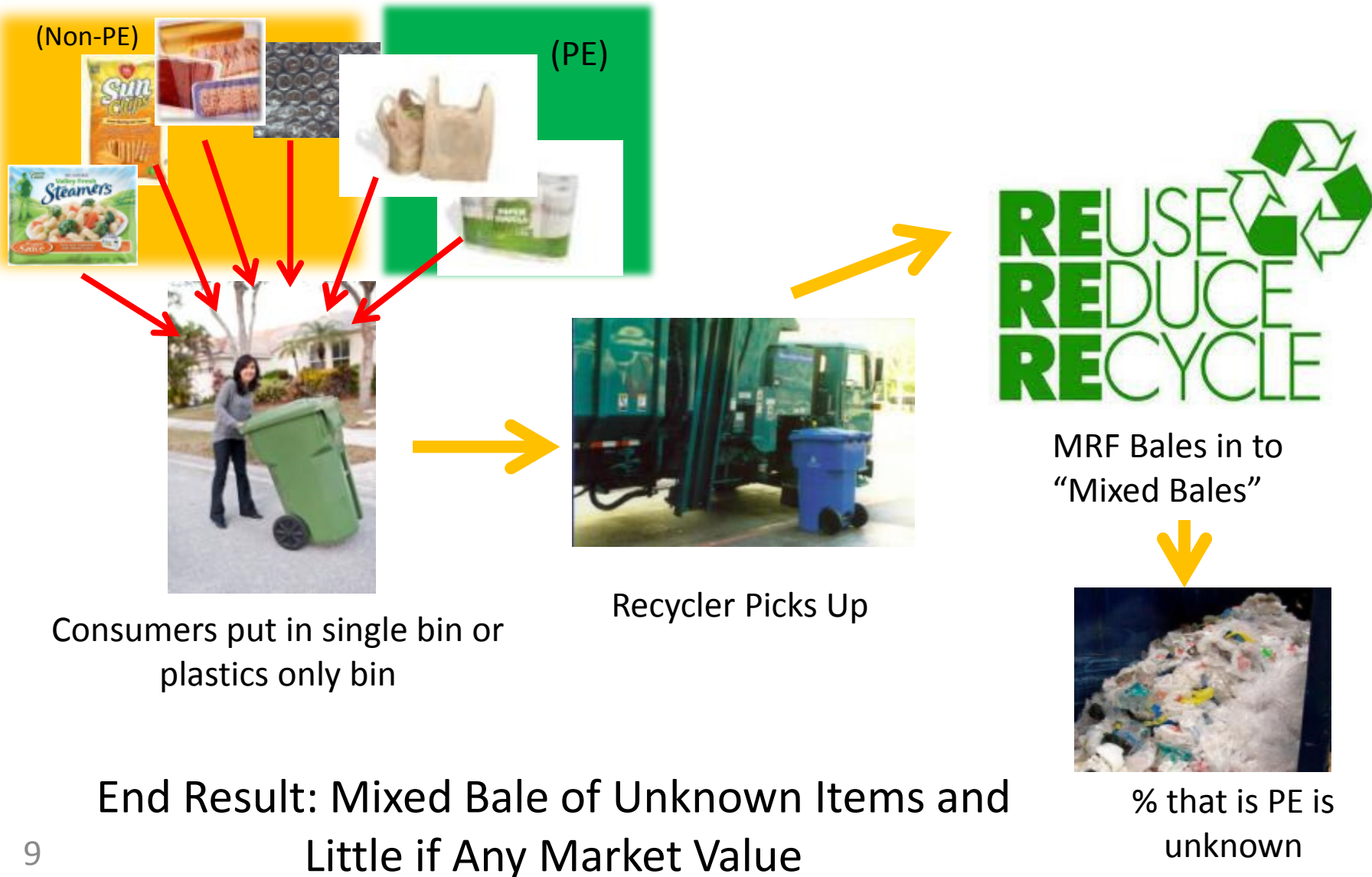
Recycled (HDPE/LDPPE/LLDPE)



Plastic grocery bags are 0.6% of the waste stream.

8All bags make up only 15% of the waste stream... 2010 Illinois Report

The Curbside Challenge



Mixed Bale Problems

- Single layer plastic issues (Non-PE Films)
 - Different melt temps (PVC/PP)
 - could shut down processing lines
 - Different density
 - Percentage of Non-PE film is growing in the waste stream
 - Challenge is getting worse...cost to solve MRF process is higher
- High labor cost to sort (more than resin value)
- 10-90% would be thrown away after sort...
- Failure to extract some material could shut down processing lines
- Not a financially viable way to recycle films

In-Store Take Back Programs

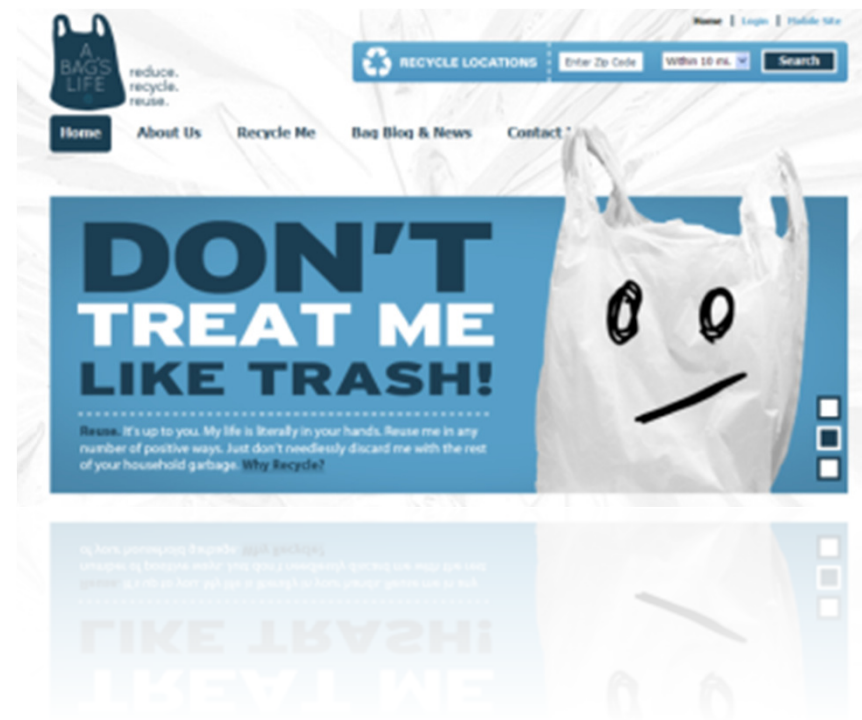


Benefits of Take Back Systems

- **Consumer**
 - If they forget plastic bags for recycling, they can bring them their next trip
- **Retailers & Grocers**
 - Viable income stream – Depending on the market it can range from \$250 to \$400 per ton
- **Recycler**
 - Easy to process since a high percentage is PE and it's very clean
 - Low logistics cost
- **City**
 - No cost to implement
 - Increases MRF efficiency—removes film from curbside
 - Reduction in plastic bag waste

Educating What Can Be Recycled

- ✓ plastic grocery bags
- ✓ plastic retail bags
- ✓ newspaper bags
- ✓ cereal liner bags
- ✓ produce bags
- ✓ sandwich bags
- ✓ plastic dry cleaner bags
- ✓ merchandise shrink film
- ✓ water / soda bottle over wrap
- ✓ pallet stretch film
- ✓ towel and tissue over wrap



Education is Always an Option

In some communities, retailers don't offer take back programs. In these instances, education is needed.

- **Retailer Education:**
 - Asking customers if they need a bag for their purchases
 - Don't double-bag purchases
- **Consumer Education:**
 - Only take the number of bags needed
 - Reuse plastic bags as often as possible to reduce the environmental footprint
 - Don't litter

**REDUCE, REUSE,
RECYCLE**

Questions?

