



## The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

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### **APR RESPONDS TO COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS CLAIMS**

#### ***Higher allowables contradict industry practice***

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers, the leading trade organization representing the plastics recycling industry in North America, responded today to the recent article “Recycling stream can handle up to 10% compostable plastics,” published January 20, 2014 in Plastics News. While the headline is interesting, details are lacking. The actual report cites a PLA/PBAT mixture or neat PBAT being added to LDPE and tested for changes in melt viscosity and film elasticity and film tensile strength.

“APR is interested in promoting plastics recycling for its highest value. Our APR Design® for Recyclability Guidelines emphasize material selection decisions in consumer items that do not create contamination problems for the recycled plastic,” stated Steve Alexander, APR’s Executive Director. Similarly, APR’s Model Bale Specifications include the exclusion or limitation on non-targeted polymers. For Mixed Color LDPE Film bales the limit for all not prohibited, non-targeted materials and water is 2%. The suggestion of higher allowables contradicts industry practice.

Non-polyethylene included with polyethylene for recycling can create yield losses and productivity problems in both reclaiming and next item manufacturing. Contamination can change the total performance profile and service life expectations of the reclaimed polyethylene.

There is no future for the plastics recycler to buy non-polyethylene contamination in PE bales and then incur costs of removing and disposing of it as trash. There is no license to wilfully contaminate bales of recyclable plastic.

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The APR, as well as the European Bioplastics Association, encourage the separate collection of different polymers so maximum value can be achieved. Bale quality is needed for LDPE, PLA/PBAT, and PBAT plastic film recycling.

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*The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) is the national trade association representing companies who acquire, reprocess and sell the output of more than 90 percent of the postconsumer plastic processing capacity in North America. Founded in 1992, its membership includes independent recycling companies of all sizes, processing numerous resins. [www.plasticsrecycling.org](http://www.plasticsrecycling.org)*