

## **NERC Spring '21 Conference - Session Comments from Chat Box**

### **Day One Comments**

#### **Understanding & Choosing the Right EPR Model**

From Claire Galkowski: The Mass. EPR bill covers all temporary and permanent residences and schools, so include

#### **Setting Post-Consumer Recycled Content Requirements**

From Lynn Rubinstein: Government Recycling Demand Champion Program works with government and education

From Dan Felton: AMERIPEN does not currently have a Plastics Hierarchy graph or image, but that is a good idea

From Dan Felton: U.S. Company Recycled Plastic Content Goals Analysis – Supply and Demand <https://www.ameripen.org>

From Steve Alexander: APR has PCR Certification program. [www.plasticsrecycling.org](http://www.plasticsrecycling.org)

From Elizabeth Balkan: Here's the op-ed I mentioned: <https://www.wastedive.com/news/deposit-return-system/>

From Dan Felton: While I'm not an expert on chemical recycling, it's my understanding that it likely won't be scaled up effectively enough for another five years or so. While AMERIPEN does not currently have a formal

From Lynn Rubinstein: NERC negotiated a voluntary use of minimum recycled content by publishers in the 1990's

From Dan Felton: AMERIPEN has definitely discussed if and where PCR mandates might fit within packaging producer responsibility laws, taking into account possible considerations or exemptions for particular packaging

From Debra Darby, Tetra Tech: For biobased feedstocks, it depends on how these feedstocks are polymerized.

They can be a drop in technology for plastic application and could be recycled in existing systems like the

From Justin Short, ISRI: ISRI defines recycling as processing materials into specification-grade commodities that a

From Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington: I would be remiss not to mention that WA has a bill for PCR for hou

From Lynn Rubinstein: If you're in the private sector - consider the partner program - APR Demand Champion Pro

From Debra Darby, Tetra Tech: Strapping is used around pallets to hold products on skids, as an example.

From Kendall Christiansen: strapping: think "plastic rope"

From Christine Cassidy: Omni Recycling in Indianapolis recycles both foam and rigid #6.

#### **Recycling Markets Opportunities & Challenges**

From Kim Holmes: [www.pnwsort.org](http://www.pnwsort.org)

From Heidi Sanborn, NSAC: Yes, in CA there is bill # AB 622 to required filters for microfibers on washing machin

From Heidi Sanborn, NSAC: HR 2238 the Plastic Pollution Prevention Act Includes actions to limit microfiber pollu

From Camille Herrera, Driscoll's: Not all food grade rPET requires pelletization. Some thermoformers use flake di

### **Day Two Comments**

#### **Demystifying Compostable Packaging**

From Debra Darby, Tetra Tech: Here are the Links that Nora refers to [https://bpiworld.org/resources/Documents/https://bpiworld.org/resources/Documents/BPI\\_Workshop-Report.pdf](https://bpiworld.org/resources/Documents/https://bpiworld.org/resources/Documents/BPI_Workshop-Report.pdf)

From Reagan Bissonnette, NRRRA: For some of the reasons discussed, Lebanon, NH accepts only BPI certified comp

From Olga Kachook (SPC): Here is the data on the composting infrastructure and urban access: <https://greenblue.org>

From Hunt Briggs: The 1-7 resin codes ('chasing arrows') are not intended to be used by consumers to designate r

From Nora Goldstein, BioCycle: <https://www.biocycle.net/food-waste-composting-infrastructure-u-s/>

From Kendall Christiansen: just FYI - I oversaw food scrap diversion demonstration projects in six cities - over 500

From Kendall: Foodservice Packaging Institute conducted a study in 2018 to study this at a couple facility types. In <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8221dbc8b11929c3f7eef7/t/5ea76640a508eb72372a350b/158802899>

From BillyConnelly-VanguardRenewables: ORFs can separate the bag from the organics, but it wouldn't be a good

From Olga Kachook (SPC): Here is the data on the composting infrastructure and urban access: <https://greenblue.org>. recyclability, but they do cause confusion. Certified compostable products can be made of many different substrates, but recycling facilities, "MRFFs" for technical materials don't typically have capabilities to sort

From Olga Kachook (SPC): The How2Compost label also includes language that tells consumers that the package

From Olga Kachook (SPC): <http://how2compost.info/>

From Hunt Briggs: Compostable packaging as % of total incoming... Foodservice Packaging Institute conducted a survey of N American composters in 2017 to understand this. In short, 38% of composters that accept food  
From Megan Byers: Since the Chat is being archived, just wanted to share a fantastic resource that helps to de-tangle bioplastics and bio-based content from compostability. Excellent presentation by WWF and Closed Loop

### **Renewed Interest in Refillables**

From Jules Bailey: The 25% out of state is on total out of state sales by SKU. Oregon and Washington are essential to be sure that beverages aren't being sold in, say, Seattle. For returns, we take bottles back in our bag program  
From Tobias Bielenstein: Regarding Labels - We have a standard for the label in order that they are easily washed  
From Caren McNamara: Conscious Container is working with wine industry on refilling wine bottles...  
From Debra Darby, Tetra Tech to Everyone: Here are the Links that Nora refers to <https://bpiworld.org/resources>  
From Mary O'Brien to Everyone: I encourage the industry to adopt one adjective and that is "refillable" rather than  
From Caren McNamara to Everyone: We use the word 'refillable' but the CA bottle bill has 'refillables' as exempt  
From Tobias Bielenstein: With PET bottles, we use mostly shrink labels made of plastic. (Currently working on rec)  
From Jules Bailey: The 25% out of state is on total out of state sales by SKU. Oregon and Washington are essentially one beverage market so it can be challenging to be sure that beverages aren't being sold in, say,  
From Jules Bailey: The infrastructure is all paid for by our members in the beverage industry. It was built for  
Caren McNamara: Feel free to reach out to dialogue on wash-off labels [caren@consciouscontainer.com](mailto:caren@consciouscontainer.com)  
Elena Bertocci: PET refillables have begun to be used in Peru recently.

### **US EPR Programs - Mattresses**

From Marie Clarke: There is mattress renovation. There are state specific regulations about what has to be done  
From Mike O'Donnell: Yes, COVID affected both mattress sales and discards in the Spring of 2020. Both  
From Marie Clarke to Everyone: As promised, here is a link to the MRC video: <https://youtu.be/ITfszk7e>

### **US EPR Programs - Paint**

From Laura Honis: Containers are recycled as much as possible, those numbers are in the annual report  
From Laura Honis: You can find reports for each state on PaintCare's website <https://www.paintcare.org>

### **US EPR Programs - Electronics**

Lynn Rubinstein : Here's the link for the ERCC <https://www.ecycleclearinghouse.org/>  
Lynn Rubinstein : ERCC is a membership organization for states that have take-back laws and the regulated comm  
From Lynn Rubinstein : It does not have a separate legal structure. It is actually "NERC" - it's a program of ours.

### **Sponsor Exhibit Hall Resources Available Until May 31, 2021**

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es hotels, apartments, nursing homes etc. It reimburses both municipalities and private haulers.

nal organization to support increased purchase of products with post-consumer resin. Take a look! <http://www.ripen.org/page/recycled-content>

s-solution-plastic-reloop/597277/

s. Here's a link to the report: [https://nerc.org/documents/northeast\\_newspaper\\_recycling\\_taskforce\\_fi](https://nerc.org/documents/northeast_newspaper_recycling_taskforce_fi)

re consumed as raw-material feedstock, in lieu of virgin materials, in the manufacture of new products. Household cleaning and personal care bottles and jugs. (also bev containers and trash bags) Program <https://plasticsrecycling.org/recycling-demand-champions/>

es [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB622](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB622) ition by mandating filters on washing machines and requires a study on best practices for upstream micr rectly, and the reclaimers that supply the PET flake have LNOs for their processing systems.

/BPI\_Workshop-Report.pdf, <https://www.biocycle.net/new-roadmap-tackles-compostable-packaging-b>

ostable products for the food scraps they accept from residential and commercial sources. <https://www.org/work/compostingmaps/> <https://greenblue.org/work/compostingaccess/> recyclability, but they do cause confusion. Certified compostable products can be made of many differen

homes/apartments; waste comp studies found 15% to 20% of food waste still in some form of packagin short, even very high concentrations of compostables didn't have much impact on key metrics like C:N, [6493/Compost-Field-Study.pdf](https://www.org/work/compostingmaps/)

compostable - just a slurry for anaerobic digester [.org/work/compostingmaps/](https://www.org/work/compostingmaps/) <https://greenblue.org/work/compostingaccess/>

is "Not Yet Recyclable"

lly one beverage market so it can be challenging to be sure that beverages aren't being sold in, say, Seat  
oo and sort them out. Both work well.  
off. It's basically two things: quality of glue and quality of paper

;/Documents/BPI\_Workshop-Report.pdf, <https://www.biocycle.net/new-roadmap-tackles-compostable>  
in returnable or reuseable which could be confusing to consumers, especially in bottle bill states.  
from the program so we had to use another word to describe this packaging.  
ycling those labels.)

From

o renovate a mattress and label requirements so that consumers know they are buying a used/renovate  
surged back to pre-COVID levels by last summer.  
QrY

:s for each state.  
g/

unity. They have conversations about how to improve compliance, how can laws harmonize, and we ha

os://nerc.org/projects/government-recycling-demand-champions

nal\_report\_1999.pdf

Fuel is beneficial use, not recycling.

rofiber pollution prevention.

arriers/

w.nrrarecycles.org/news/municipal-compost-conversation-stirs-interest-nrra-mom-meeting

t substrates, but recycling facilities, "MRFFs" for

ig, e.g., never opened, or opened/partially consumed  
porosity, nutrients, etc. but did contri

title. For returns, we take bottles back in our bag program too and sort them out. Both work well.

-packaging-barriers/

ed mattress.

ive tools for the regulated community and states to streamline their implementation efforts.