The Association of Plastic Recyclers

RECYCLE GROCERY RIGID PLASTICS

BALING RIGID CONTAINERS CASE STUDY

GROCERY CHAIN PROFILE

- 1,000+ high volume supermarkets
- Separate all recyclables (cardboard, plastics, & paper) at store level
- Collect recyclables in collection bins or lined "slim jims"

RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLED

- Wide mouth pails/buckets (bakery, floral, deli), pharmacy stock bottles, hand santi-wipe containers and all other rigid plastics collected in store
- Pharmacy stock bottles
- Departments included for rigid plastics recycling: In bakery, deli, customer service, produce and pharmacy departments and manufacturing plants

HOW THE RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLING SYSTEM WORKS

1. Each department sets aside emptied rigid plastic in transport cart or "slim jim"
2. Rinsing as needed: to ensure the container is free of contaminants
3. Carts move materials from department to designated recycle staging area
4. Carts unloaded several times daily
5. Rigid plastics baled in horizontal baler at return center
6. Bales contain mixed resins, until volume justifies segregating by resin type
7. Truckloads of baled rigid plastic transported to recycler

ECONOMICS

Estimated annual volume of rigid plastics from 1000+ stores and 5 manufacturing plants

PLASTIC TYPE	POUNDS	TONS
Rigids	2,694,409	1,347
Pharmacy Stock Bottles	271,274	135
Totals	2,965,683	1,482

Note: Mixed Rigid Bales are not clearly defined in the marketplace resulting in buyers hesitating to commit to a price not really knowing what is included. Therefore, buyers usually have to agree to a bottom price until they receive and review bale contents. Segregating by resin type brings in more revenue.

BENEFITS	DRAWBACKS
• Divert recyclable from landfill to recycle stream • Associates separate as they handle (labor neutral) • Separation combined with baling by resin type assures higher value. • Avoided waste disposal costs	• Staging and storage require backroom space & compete with product storage