

# Navigating the Recycling System

Date: 11/29/17

Packaging Material: Poly-coated ice cream container

Collection System: Curbside

Elements	Will Successfully Navigate?	Notes
<b>End Markets (Feedstock for Manufacturing)</b>		
<b>Supply/Demand</b> – Is this material being consistently used in the manufacturing of new products?		The virgin fiber contained in the boxes is desirable, but not with double poly coating.
<b>Design</b> - Are brand companies creating market demand by purchasing products containing this recycled material?		It is in limited items currently
<b>Specifications</b> – Are there products with specifications allowing for the use of recycled content?		
<b>Contamination</b> – Are there contaminants in the material that hinder the end application?		
<b>Profitability</b> – Does it have a positive profitability analysis?		Limited end markets impact profitability
<b>Reprocessing (Paper Mills, Plastic Reclaimers, etc.)</b>		
<b>Supply/Demand</b> – Is there demand for the reprocessed material?		The virgin fiber contained in the boxes is desirable, but not with the double poly coating.
<b>Design</b> - Are there design flaws that prevent reprocessing and recoverability?		The poly coating at this time negatively impacts most processors of mixed paper
<b>Specifications</b> - Can material be combined or is it compatible with other currently recycled material?		
<b>Contamination</b> - Does the material cause harm or contamination to other materials?		
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to reprocess the material? Are there markets in different geographic areas?		



If you have questions about how your material performs in relation to any of the squares, feel free to reach out to ASTRX by contacting Dylan deThomas or Trina Matta at [info@astrx.org](mailto:info@astrx.org).

<b>Sortation (MRF - Materials Recovery Facility)</b>		
<b>Supply/Demand</b> – Do reprocessors want to buy the material? Are there markets? Are they positive?		Reprocessors do not want the material b/c of the potential to contaminate other fibers.
<b>Design</b> - Are there design flaws that impact sortation? Does its form enable it to be properly and consistently sorted (size, flatness, 3D, labeling, etc.)?		It could sort with other containers but may contaminate other fibers
<b>Specifications</b> - Do new bale specifications need to be developed?		There are no bale specs currently
<b>Contamination</b> - Can the products damage the recovery of the recovery of other materials? Are there contaminants (moisture, food, etc.) that impact sortation?		The coating could contaminate other fibers at the reprocessors
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to sort the material?		Cannot be currently sorted into its own bale.
<b>Education</b> - Do MRFs know that it is possible to sort the material?		Not currently accepted
<b>Profitability</b> - Is there adequate volume to justify recovery, particularly if it must be marketed independently?		
<b>Collection (Curbside and Drop-Off)</b>		
<b>Contamination</b> - Does this material hurt the recyclability of other materials?		See sortation
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to collect the material? Are there collection carts or bins? Vehicles?		Material would flow with other containers
<b>Education</b> - Do local governments know all the materials that their MRF will accept?		Not currently accepted
<b>Consumer Engagement (Access and Participation)</b>		
<b>Design</b> - Does it have a How2Recycle label to describe recyclability and any actions consumers need to take to recycle it, such as removing components or returning to drop-off locations?		Not currently accepted
<b>Specifications</b> - Is access to recycling collection automatic or do residents ask for/pay for the service?	N/A	Not currently accepted
<b>Contamination</b> - Do consumers know how to prepare their materials for recycling (no food residue)?		Not currently accepted
<b>Education</b> - Do consumers know the material is accepted? Do they know how to recycle it (via curbside, or community or store take-back)?		Not currently accepted
Comments-		