

# Navigating the Recycling System

Date: 11/17/17

Packaging Material: Bags/wrap/film

Collection System: drop-off

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?	Yellow	Trex is primary market
<b>Design</b> - Are brand companies creating market demand by purchasing products containing this recycled material?	Yellow	It is in limited items currently
<b>Specifications</b> – Are there products with specifications allowing for the use of recycled content?	Green	
<b>Contamination</b> – Are there contaminants in the material that hinder the end application?	Yellow	
<b>Profitability</b> – Does it have a positive profitability analysis?	Yellow	Limited end markets impact profitability
<b>Reprocessing (Paper Mills, Plastic Reclaimers, etc.)</b>		
<b>Supply/Demand</b> – Is there demand for the reprocessed material?	Yellow	
<b>Design</b> - Are there design flaws that prevent reprocessing and recoverability?	Green	
<b>Specifications</b> - Can material be combined or is it compatible with other currently recycled material?	Green	Bags, wrap, film can be combined if all PE
<b>Contamination</b> - Does the material cause harm or contamination to other materials?	Green	Separately collected so it doesn't contaminate other materials
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to reprocess the material? Are there markets in different geographic areas?	Green	



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?	N/A	
<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.)?	N/A	
<b>Specifications</b> - Do new bale specifications need to be developed?	N/A	
<b>Contamination</b> - Can the products damage the recovery of the recovery of other materials? Are there contaminants (moisture, food, etc.) that impact sortation?	N/A	
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to sort the material?	N/A	
<b>Education</b> - Do MRFs know that it is possible to sort the material?	N/A	
<b>Profitability</b> - Is there adequate volume to justify recovery, particularly if it must be marketed independently?	N/A	
<b>Collection (Curbside and Drop-Off)</b>		
<b>Contamination</b> - Does this material hurt the recyclability of other materials?		
<b>Infrastructure</b> - Is an investment required to collect the material? Are there collection carts or bins? Vehicles?		
<b>Education</b> - Do local governments know all the materials that their MRF will accept?		
<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?		Bags/wrap/film must be returned to stores with drop-off locations
<b>Specifications</b> - Is access to recycling collection automatic or do residents ask for/pay for the service?		Bags/wrap/film must be returned to stores with drop-off locations
<b>Contamination</b> - Do consumers know how to prepare their materials for recycling (no food residue)?		
<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)?		
<b>Comments-</b>		