Environmental Impact

According to a Franklin Associates report on Life Cycle Inventory Analysis of Recycled Resins, the resources consumed to produce one pound of recycled HPDE resin are:

- 0 gallons of oil
- .22 kWh electricity
- 277 grams CO₂
- 202 ml water

The report also states that production of recycled resin uses 90% less energy and emits 78% less greenhouse gases than virgin resin.
Plastics 101

- #1 PET – Poly Polyethylene Terephthalate
- #2 HDPE – High Density Polyethylene
- #3 PVC – Poly Vinyl
- #4 LDPE – Low Density Polyethylene
- #5 PP – Poly Propylene
- #6 PS - Polystyrene
- #7 Other – Any other type of plastic

PET Polyethylene Terephthalate

- Recyclable items: Soft drink, water and beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers, parts trays
- Products made of recycled PET: Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, new containers
HDPE (high density polyethylene)

- Recyclable items: Milk jugs, household cleaner bottles, trash & shopping bags, food containers, cereal box liners, shampoo bottles, toys
- Products made of recycled HDPE: Laundry detergent bottles and baskets, bottles, crates, pallets, recycling and trash containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing, car parts, toys

PVC (vinyl)

- Recyclable items: Window cleaner & detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, wire jacketing, medical equipment, siding, windows, pipe
- Products made of recycled PVC: floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing, decks, paneling, mudflaps, flooring, speed bumps, roadway gutters, mats
- Characteristics – tough and weathers well
LDPE (low density polyethylene)

- Recyclable items: bread bags, frozen food bags, dry cleaning bags and shopping bags, squeezable bottles, tote bags, clothing, furniture, carpet
- Products made of recycled LDPE: Trash cans & liners (trash bags), compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties, floor tile
- Characteristics: Flexible resin with many applications

PP (polypropylene)

- Recyclable items: Yogurt & food containers, syrup & ketchup bottles, caps, straws, medicine bottles
- Products made of recycled PP: Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, pallets, trays, containers
- Characteristics: Thermoplastic polymer, high melting point, used to make molded containers often chosen for liquid product
PS (polystyrene)

- Recyclable items: packaging material, egg cartons, compact disc cases, food trays, medicine bottles, displays
- Products made of recycled PS: Insulation, egg cartons, rulers, foam packaging, carry-out containers
- Characteristics: can be made into rigid or foam products (well known as trademark Styrofoam). Can leach potential toxins. Foam materials are called Expanded Polystyrene or EPS and can be densified and sold to recyclers in this form

Other (miscellaneous)

- Recyclable items: containers, sunglasses, DVDs, signs and displays, computer cases, “bullet proof” materials, hot tub, airplane windows, medical devises
- Products made of recycled #7 Other: Plastic lumber, custom made products
- Characteristics: There are a wide variety of plastic resins that don’t fit into #1–6 plastics they are lumped into #7 category. PLA is made from plants (polyactide) and is compostable
Problem Plastics to Recycle in NM

- #3–7 mix
  - With pictures of bales there are markets available for this material although pricing is low
- MRP (mixed rigid plastics) – plastics such as baskets, toys, trash cans, household plastics, stiff plastics most times out of MRFs or thrift stores
  - With pictures and the right mix can often be recycled
- AG plastics such as drip tape, green house covers (clear, white and black)
  - In baled form these can be recycled

Problem Plastics

- # 5 PP
  - Baled or purge form in clean condition (void of foods) can be recycled
- LDPE Grade A and B Shrink/Stretch Wrap
  - Baled in full loads of 40 bales can be recycled
- Plastic bags Grade C film – trash bags, grocery bags, all types of colored films
  - Clean baled mixes can be recycled

Harbor Green can recycle all these items
Harbor Green

- Full and Combo loads accepted
- Sandwich bales accepted
- Minimum weight 36,000# total
- Transportation paid for by Harbor Green
- Pricing letters sent out each month
- Pricing reflects the market changes
- Terms 30 days

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