PIRAP newsletter - March 2016

Welcome to the first PIRAP newsletter!

The newsletter is designed to keep all signatories up to date on the work taking place through PIRAP. It will also offer the opportunity to share case studies showcasing the good work already taking place.

If you have a case study you would like to be included in a PIRAP newsletter please email hjordan@bpf.co.uk.

WRAP update

Fluorescent Ink Market Optimisation Project
WRAP is following up on earlier work which indicated that fluorescent marker technology can facilitate enhanced sorting techniques for use in plastic packaging enabling accurate separation of the more complex PTT (Pots Tubs and Trays) stream. The follow up project aims to optimise the marker technology in terms of cost effectiveness, prove its endurance throughout a full cradle to grave life cycle and demonstrate that it is effectively removed during any normal recycling process avoiding legacy marker issues in recycling loops.

Optimisation of the recycling process for PET Thermoforms collected from the domestic waste stream
WRAP’s earlier work to establish potential end markets for recycled PET thermoform waste identified a number of barriers that needed to be overcome in order for the recycling process to have a chance of economic viability. This follow up project aims to optimise a process specifically designed to recycle PET thermoforms as distinct from PET bottles. The focus will be to develop a sorting process that can accurately separate trays from bottles to optimise the granulation and washing stages. This would reduce excessive yield losses encountered when thermoforms are subjected to bottle processing conditions. The project will also establish a baseline quality specification that can be consistently achieved at lowest process cost in order to remain attractive to end markets at all states of the market cycle.

WRAP project on consistency in household recycling and collection systems
WRAP has announced the second phase of its cross industry project to examine ways to bring greater consistency to household waste and recycling collections in England. The consistency project brings together representatives from local authorities, waste management contractors, recyclers, producers and the retail sector to examine opportunities for greater consistency in household collection and recycling services. It creates both the potential to rationalise collections around three main systems and an opportunity to standardise collection containers used, subject to accommodating different housing types. The first phase considered a range of scenarios, models, approaches to consistency and areas for further investigation. These will now be taken forward by the advisory group and form the second phase, which will lead to the publication this summer of a vision for greater consistency in collections, what this will mean for recycling in England and the opportunities it presents for stakeholders.

Case studies

BPF’s member MBA Polymers work with Electrolux to supply recycled polypropylene for Vacuum
Electrolux’s Ultra Silencer Vacuum is made from 55% recycled polypropylene which saves 2 litres of crude oil, 80 litres of water and reduces manufacturing energy consumption by 90%. Working with MBA
polymers meant they could have a sustainable supply of the recycled material. To find out more please click here.

**BPF’s member Centriforce have worked with Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions and V10 Polymers to set up a close loop recycling scheme**

Mixed plastic waste from Balfour Beatty's sites is collected by V10 polymers and delivered to its Blackfen reprocessing centre where it is sorted, cleaned and granulated. The recycled HDPE/LDPE is then manufactured by Centriforce into Stokbord® heavy-duty protection tiles which are used by Balfour Beatty as cable protection. To find out more please click here.

**RecoMed**

The British Plastics Federation and Axion Consulting are working with the NHS to recycle PVC medical devices. The scheme is currently working with six hospitals and to date have collected 834kg of PVC. The RecoMed containers have been placed in the recovery ward of each of these hospitals as this is where the most PVC devices are used. The plastic collected is shredded and supplied to a specialised recyclers who provides 100% recycled horticultural products such as tree ties. To see the case study on the original pilot scheme please click here.

**Increasing plastic recycling**

Pledge 4 Plastics and Recycle Now have worked together to produce communication material templates for local authorities’ and other partners to use in a plastic recycling campaign. The templates include ‘Around the Home’, ‘Transformation’ and ‘Energy saving’ message. Pledge 4 plastics and Recycle Now are also working together to produce a new Plastic Recycling Resource Pack, ahead of further activities planned for 2016.

The communication material is available on the recycle now website and will soon also be available on the Pledge 4 Plastics website.

Pledge 4 Plastics have also launched 'The Secret Lives of Recycled Plastics' animation, an education resource revealing how recycled plastics can be reborn into so many new product. With over 170,000 views and a social media reach of over one million the animation has been a real success.

Please click here for more information on Pledge 4 Plastics and to watch the video.

Recycle now have also launched an initiative with the Scout movement to encourage beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers to recycle more - to find out more click here.
**Events**

- **Steering group meeting** - 21st April - BPF House, London - Small group of PIRAP signatures looking at the development of PIRAP. This will lead into a larger stakeholder meeting later in the year. Invitations for supply chain representatives will be sent out soon. If you feel you could contribute to this group please contact hjordan@bpf.co.uk.
- **BPF Event**: 3D printing: A Game Changer for the Plastics Industry - For more information please click [here](#).

---

**New signatory**

Pulse Plastics Ltd specialises in the production of plastic edge and inner bore protection for transporting and packaging coils of sheet steel. Pulse uses recycled HDPE and PP to manufacturing its product and consumes 1000 tonnes per annum of waste material.

To see the full list of signature please click [here](#).

PIRAP is an industry action plan that highlights where improvements may be made to enhance collection rates, adopt best-in-class collection methods, optimise sorting infrastructure and develop end markets for recycled plastics.