Welcome to the May PIRAP newsletter. It has continued to be a busy period with the plastics industry taking leadership in exploring how to increase plastic recycling and reduce marine litter. The government released a call for evidence on using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste. We are also expecting consultations later in the year on a deposit return scheme (this will include plastic, glass and cans) and banning plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic stemmed cotton buds.

Please continue to share this newsletter and encourage companies you work with to get involve in PIRAP. If you able to, adding the PIRAP logo to your email signature is a great way to tell your customers you are a PIRAP supporter and encourage them to sign up. Please contact me and I would be happy to send you a copy of the logo.

**Marine Litter Platform**

The Marine Litter Platform is a collaboration between the plastics industry, government, brands, retailers, academics and NGOs to deliver the best solutions to the global issue of marine litter.

The plastics industry and over 30 companies and organisations – including Co-op, Danone Water, Marks and Spencer and Waitrose have agreed to take collaborative action.

The Marine litter Platform is being organised by the BPF. To find out more please click [here](#).

**Plastics Pact**

The Plastics Pact, which is part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s New Plastics Economy and being run by WRAP, has been signed by 42 businesses including brands, manufacturers and retailers as well as 15 organisations including the BPF. The Pact members are responsible for over 80% of the plastic packaging on products sold through UK supermarkets.

The Pact supporters have committed to the following targets by 2025:

- Eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use plastic packaging through redesign, innovation or alternative (re-use) delivery models.
• 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
• 70% of plastic packaging effectively recycled or composted
• 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.

To find out more please click here.

**Call for evidence on single use plastic waste**

The deadline for responses to the call for evidence on single use plastic waste is 18th May. The call for evidence is to explore how changes to the tax system or charges could be used to reduce the single-use plastic we waste. It will also explore how economic incentives can drive innovation.

The full document explaining the call to evidence is available here.

**Consultation on banning plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds**

The Prime Minister announced at the Commonwealth Head of Government Summit that after consultation they are prepared to ban plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds.

The government said it will work with industry to produce alternatives and allow time to adapt.

The announcement is available here.

The BPF’s response to this announcement is available here.

**Recent pledges made**

• Co-op to use 50% recycled plastic in water bottles – more information is available here.
• M&S make a 50% recycled content mac- more information is available here.
• Nestlé to make all packaging 100% recyclable or reusable by 2025 - more information is available here.
• Aldi by 2022 will make 100% of its own label packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable and by 2025 packaging across all products (where it does not have a detrimental effect on product quality or safety, or increase food waste) – more information is available here.

**New product designs**

• Ecover have launched a bottle which is made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic. The new bottles are clear allowing them to be easily recycled back into clear PET bottles and the caps use less plastic estimated to save 14 tonnes of PP. To find out more please click here.
Delphis Eco, a London-based ecological cleaning products marker has launched the first 100% recycled HDPE packaging across its whole range. The bottles are made from recycled milk bottles. The company will be rolling this out to their whole range. To find out more please click here.

Pledge to use recycled content – European Commission

An EU-wide pledging campaign has been launched calling for voluntary pledges to boost the uptake of recycled plastic. The aim is that by 2025 ten million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way into new products on the EU market. Pledges have to be submitted by 30 June 2018.

The document states that by 31 October 2018 the Commission will assess the pledges received and if not deemed to be enough other steps will be taken which may include regulatory action.

To read the full document please click here.

RECOUP update

RECOUP produce Packaging Recyclability Guidelines for industry, for designers of plastic packaging and Packaging Technologists and the Packaging Industry. They have been told a few times that there does not seem to be a toned-down version; a guide to plastic packaging and recyclability for Lead Product Developers and others in the supply chain who require immediate and simplified answers.

It is considered that there are two ways we could reach relevant people with simplified instructions.

Recyclability By Design ; Summary version ; Core Principles

Work is close to completion on a Summary Version of RBD, outlining the ‘Core Principles’ of recyclability. This is an alternative version of the existing document, outlining technical aspects of plastic packaging recyclability in a concise way.

Will include the polymer specific tables.

Supplement to Recyclability By Design ; ‘How do you define ‘recyclable’?

This will be a version for non-packaging technologists, sales / marketing personnel, and anyone who needs to make decisions on plastic packaging who needs information on the impact of their decisions, including potential for recycling.

Will include new cut-down versions of the polymer tables; and a description of the ‘traps’ that designers fall into.
Case study

BPF member Palm Equipment produce kayaks from marine plastics

A Eureka moment came to Fathoms Free founder Rob Thompson whilst participating in an ocean clean-up. “The knowledge that the bags full of waste would end up in landfill played upon my mind until it occurred to me: why don’t we make kayaks out the plastics we gather.”

What followed has been a passion project for Rob, teaming up with Beach Care, Keep Britain Tidy and Exeter City Council to eventually arrive at a prototype polyethylene material created principally from Marine waste, particularly Ghost gear from the sea bed.

Rob approached Somerset based Palm Equipment, already with a track record of producing kayaks using post production material, to begin experiments using his prototype re-cycled plastic. “It’s something we believed was close to impossible” states Bob Slee, Technical Director at Palm “It ran successfully on the first attempt, with no changes to our regular oven program and the properties are more than good enough for recreational kayaks like our Islander Sit-on-tops.”

The project is firmly rooted in the circular economy, based on the principle of diverting profits back into supporting our conservation activities and providing an ocean-friendly product for environmentally conscious customers.

Trails continue with the aim of products being available later in 2018.

For more information click visit Fathomsfree.org or Islanderkayak.com.

Dates for your diary

- BPF Sustainability Seminar – 12 June, London
- RECOUP conference – 27 September, Peterborough

New PIRAP supporters

Impact recycling was formed by Impact solutions to bring a new dimension to plastic recycling and apply their knowledge to help create the circular economy. Impact solutions have continued to introduce new technologies and products to the market. BOSS has been developed from a research and
development project to solve the problems that plastic recyclers face when dealing with mixed plastic recycling.

www.impact-solutions.co.uk/impact-recycling/

ImerPlast UK Ltd is UK’s leading producers of compatibilized recycled polyolefin compounds.

Based in Castleford, Leeds, ImerPlast UK classifies and compounds MPO, PE, PP and PS waste. Where appropriate, a unique additive package is added to ensure that the recycled compounds behave like virgin polymers. Markets served include construction, packaging, automotive and horticulture. The company also offers an extensive range of formulation and toll compounding services.

ImerPlast UK has received the EuCertPlast certification underscoring the company's commitment to processing recycled plastics according to environmentally-respectful best practice.

ImerPlast UK Ltd is a member of Imerys - world leader in mineral-based specialties for industry.

If you have any updates or case studies relevant to PIRAP for the newsletter please contact hjordan@bpf.co.uk.

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.