



Re: CHANGES TO SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING (Post Consumer Plastics)

Based on changes in the markets - post-consumer plastic film (plastic bags, food wrap, cellophane wrapping/packaging, etc.) have been virtually eliminated with the new "National Sword" program instituted by China. The only viable recycling market for post-consumer plastic film was in China prior to their new program coming into effect.

Post-Consumer plastic film was always a difficult commodity to find a mill for, and often was marketed at a net loss. Many other programs, such as the City of Regina's, never accepted plastic film to begin with due to these factors, However, it is a small portion of the recyclable waste stream- about 1.8%- so as long as we could recycle the material we were able to accept and process it in our recycling programs. After months of stockpiling this material while we tried extensively to find another market for it we have come to the realization that we will have no choice but to start sending the plastic film we process to the landfill.

Since early January 2018, another recycling commodity has been materially affected by this wholesale ban on plastic film. Mixed paper constitutes about 26.5% of the recyclable waste stream, and approximately 85-90% of the work market for mixed paper is in China. The National Sword program now requires a "throw-out" (Contamination) rate of less than **0.5%** by volume of non-mixed paper materials. The quality of our mixed paper product has always been considered to be very good – we averaged 2.0 to 3.0% throw-outs, when the accepted industry standard was 5.0%. In the last month, at a considerable additional cost, we have worked hard to add more resources to our sorting line, adjust our line down to much slower speeds and maximize our equipment to achieve the new 0.5% standard as required by National Sword. We have seen a 30 – 40% improvement in quality- we can consistently achieve a sub- 1.5% throw-out rate on our mixed paper, but are not physically able to meet the new standard of 0.5%. When we cut open our bales of mixed paper product and audit that 1.5% of throw-out materials, it is pieces of post-consumer plastic film that constitute our throw-outs, which get stuck to or wrapped in the paper, and are impossible to completely remove in any sorting system.

This means that about 85-90% of the mixed paper we receive does not currently have a market if we continue to process/accept the post-consumer plastics. In order to ensure we can successfully recycle mixed paper and maintain viability of the recycling program, we are requesting that all municipalities/ customers eliminate the post-consumer plastic film from the resident curbside recycling program immediately. An education and awareness strategy by both of our organizations will greatly assist in reducing the amount of plastic film in the recycling stream and allow us to produce a mixed paper commodity that can be successfully marketed and recycle. This change will also help protect the affordable costs of the program in future years.

We appreciate your assistance in notifying your residents as soon as possible to ensure a successful change in the program effective immediately. Attached is a poster for your use to distribute. Please arrange to have this communicated to your residents and the change to happen effective immediately. Attached is a flyer to help educate residents and businesses on the changes. Your local sales representative will be in contact with you shortly to touch base.

If you have any questions or require any further information, do not hesitate to contact me or your local sales representative.

Sincerely,

Ruebecca Fiddler
Manager
Loraas Environmental Services Ltd.

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING GUIDE



HOUSEHOLD TIN & ALUMINUM

- Aluminum trays
- Aluminum plates
- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum beverage cans
- Tin cans



Reminder:

- Place recyclables loose in the cart

PLASTICS #1 TO #7

- Pop bottles
- Laundry detergent bottles
- Shampoo bottles
- Milk jugs
- Disposable plastic cups
- Food & beverage containers
(yogurt, margarine, etc.)



Reminder:

- Please remove lids & caps
- Empty & rinse all containers
- Must have a #1 to #7 recycling symbol on the bottom



MIXED PAPER & CARDBOARD

- Flattened cardboard
- Newspaper & magazines
- Cereal & cracker boxes
- Office paper materials
- Egg cartons
- Milk & juice cartons
- Phone books & fliers
- *Bagged shredded paper



Reminder:

- Flatten cardboard boxes
- Place paper shreds into a paper or clear plastic bag



- NEW!** Grocery bags
- All stretch plastic film
- Styrofoam
- Electronics
- Scrap metal
- Batteries
- Wood waste
- Plastics without #1 to #7 symbol
- Plasticized, waxed or laminated paper
- Tissues or soiled paper towel
- Mirrors, ceramic, window glass
- Hazardous waste & Bio-hazardous waste
- Household glass
- Lightbulbs

Questions?

Contact us at:

(306) 445-3900