

# RPC Position Statement: Plastics Recycling

## Background

All types of polymer are recyclable but the extent to which they are recycled is dependent on local collection and recycling infrastructure which can vary greatly from country to country.

The amount of plastics recycled has increased over recent decades, particularly in Europe, increasing 64% between 2006 and 2016\*, due to improvements in collection, identification and sorting of materials as well as increased awareness among consumers of environmental issues such as recycling.

The benefits of plastic recycling include reducing the amount of material sent to landfill or incineration as well as a reduction in the consumption of energy and fossil fuels required for producing virgin oil-based plastics.

\*Plastics – the facts, 2016, PlasticsEurope

## RPC's Position

RPC's position is that plastic waste should be viewed as a resource and is far too valuable to not be recycled. RPC will work to encourage plastic recycling solutions and play an active role in local markets to increase recycling to an optimal level as long as it makes economical and technical sense to do so. With recycling operations in the company, RPC endeavours to continue to make second-life products from recycled plastic such as refuse sacks, plastic wood, bins and construction membranes to provide an end market for recycled material.

RPC will follow design for recyclability guidelines where possible to ensure that at the disposal stage of the lifecycle products can be sorted and recycled in order to maintain their end-of-life value. RPC has developed and will continue to develop plastic solutions that incorporate both post-consumer and post-industrial recycled plastics to reduce the need for virgin materials from fossil fuel and to divert plastic from landfill or incineration.

Where plastic recycling has reached an optimum level and it cannot be sustainably recycled then RPC supports the waste hierarchy view that the material should be sent to energy-from-waste facilities to produce electricity, heat or fuel for further use.

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