

MRFF Report Release Sponsor Quotes

PepsiCo

Brad Rodgers, PepsiCo Foods Packaging R&D Director for Discovery & Sustainability

“Flexible packaging has many positive attributes – highly efficient, great product protection, and low environmental impact. However, recovery has been one of its weak points. This study is shedding light on pathways that can be deployed to improve flexible packaging recovery and will improve flexible packaging end-of-life options. PepsiCo is proud to be actively engaged in this industry collaboration.”

The Dow Chemical Company

Jeff Wooster

“With the completion of this research we are closer to our vision of being able to recycle all packaging. Dow is pleased to have been a part of this ground breaking research.

The results show us that with the proper equipment design flexible packaging can be separated at the MRF.

“Consumers want to recycle all their packaging and this project is developing solutions that will eventually make that a reality. The research has shown that it is possible to both capture a flexible plastic packaging stream and improve the quality of the paper stream.

“This is an important step in developing a more circular economy for flexible packaging.”

NestlePurina Petcare

Larry Baner, Sr. Packaging Research Scientist - Global Packaging & Design

“We simply need to be part of this initiative. The vast majority of our dry petfood packaging is packed in flexible packaging. Our large woven polypropylene petfood bags could be recycled today if there was a way collect them and send them to plastic recyclers. On top of that our consumers expect that all packaging should be recyclable in their community’s single stream recycling system but currently that is not possible. As responsible corporate citizens we want to be part of the solution not part of the problem.

“We now know how flexibles flow through a material recovery facility (MRF) and we know that the technology already exists for separating flexibles out to of the materials streams. Although there is still a lot of work to be done to define the best way to separate flexibles from single stream recyclables , this research gives us hope that there will be solutions.

“Access to our sponsor partners who are working on the same problems we have and to our research partner (RRS) with their deep knowledge and experience in packaging recovery and recycling has been invaluable. In one year we have been able to gain a deep understanding of the hurdles and challenges of recovery and recycling flexible materials. The data collected in this study is invaluable in starting the discussion and directing future research on this topic.

“Data and research. There can be no progress in this society wide issue without properly defining the problem. The data and research produced to date allows us to start meaningful discussions throughout the industrial and public sector on possible solutions.

“I think our consumers and communities already recognize that all used packaging has some inherent value to it and should be recovered and recycled – we are in a catch up mode today in industry. As previous recycling efforts with containers (e.g. PET and HDPE) have shown once we have a defined supply of available recovered packaging material the market will find a way to capture value from it in the most efficient way.”

SPI
Patty Long, Senior Vice President Industry Affairs

“SPI has been proud to support the critical work being done by the MRFF team, which will ensure that recovery systems continue to evolve with the changing packaging stream, and that valuable plastics continue to be put to their highest and best use.”

AMCOR
Gerald Rebitzer, Director of Sustainability

“Flexible packaging has been so successful because of its material efficiency,” said Gerald Rebitzer, Director Sustainability for Amcor. “It creates a cascade of environmental benefits throughout the entire value chain, and avoids waste at source. By working collaboratively towards a recovery option for flexible packaging, we can further improve the environmental credentials of this packaging type.”