

Improving the recyclability of plastics

YOUR LINK IN THE VALUE CHAIN

Representatives from Plastics|SA, Sustainability Retailers Forum, Plastics Recycling Organisation (SAPRO) and the Plastic Converters Association (PCA) formed a working group at the end of last year with **one common goal in sight: finding suitable and workable plastic recycling solutions that will not only benefit the environment and consumers, but also our economy by creating jobs and increasing the amount of recycled plastic that ultimately finds its way into recycled plastic products.** The following recommendations were agreed upon to provide a clear path for moving forward and guiding processes that require detailed implementation plans:

Design with recyclability in mind

Training sessions will be scheduled with retailers to provide knowledge and skills in the implementation of The Design for Recyclability Guidelines developed by Packaging SA. These sessions will assist in the design of products with the focus on end-of-life solutions/applications, environmental labels and messages.

Ongoing consumer education

Ongoing consumer education and raising the public's awareness on the need and benefits of recycling is crucial. This education must start at grassroots level in schools, be aimed at consumers of all ages in partnership with all concerned bodies and be paired with the proposed labeling standards.

Limiting fillers

The amount of fillers used in the manufacturing of plastic products must be limited in terms of the initial extrusion and moulding materials where the density of the material does not exceed the SG target of <1. The amount of filler, if any, will vary depending on the product and the type of plastic raw material used in the production process.

On-pack labeling

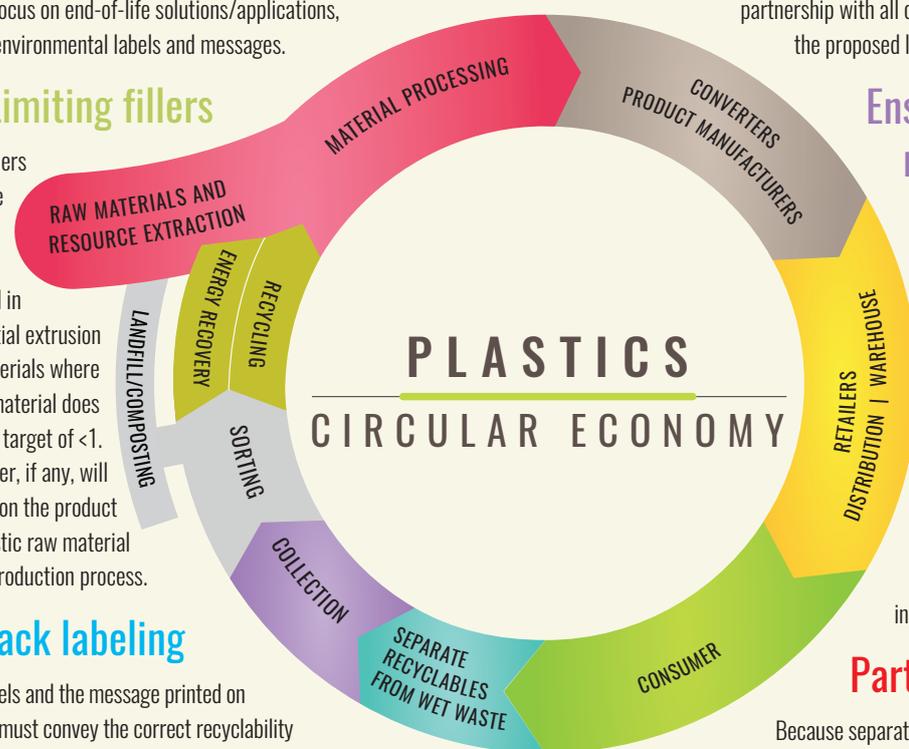
Information on labels and the message printed on plastic products must convey the correct recyclability status of the product to the consumer in a clear, simple message in order to assist collectors, sorters and recyclers in correctly identifying raw materials for sorting into homogeneous polymer types for recycling.

Ensuring quality recycling input and output

More than 74% of our waste collected for recycling comes from households and was removed from landfills where they became contaminated. In order to improve the quality of recycled material, recycling processors will be encouraged to adopt international standards for the quality of both their incoming and output materials.

Partnerships

Because separation at source is a vital component of the value chain, waste management companies are encouraged to invest in advanced processing plants for the separation of waste which are geographically distributed to suit the available waste.



Recyclable packaging and eliminating single-use packaging alone is not going to rid our beautiful land of litter.

Human interaction with used packaging needs to be addressed at all levels. Plastic waste remains a valuable resource, which must be collected for recycling and re-used in a durable product in line with the circular economy principles. However, packaging can only be recycled if captured in waste collection, whether formal or informal. The South African plastics industry, in partnership with important role players such as our brand owners and retailers who help us develop better packaging solutions and drive more effective recycling initiatives, remains committed to reducing the amount of plastic waste that lands up in the environment and in our oceans.

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