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PAPER RECOVERY ALLIANCE and PLASTICS RECOVERY GROUP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why were the PRA and PRG formed?

Industry leaders acknowledged that limited recovery infrastructure and end market opportunities were barriers to increased recovery of foodservice packaging items. Companies also recognized that because no single company maintains enough influence to affect broad change alone, finding economically viable and sustainable solutions to these challenges would not be achieved without broad industry collaboration. Thus, the Paper Recovery Alliance (PRA) was formed in late 2011, with the Plastics Recovery Group (PRG) forming a short time later in early 2012.

Why are there two separate groups focused on foodservice packaging recovery?

FPI members, in forming the two groups, recognized that there were different challenges and opportunities for paper and plastic, demanding separate marketplace evaluations. In addition, the much-needed end market development is very different for paper and plastic products. While recognizing these differences, the two groups collaborate where possible to benefit both groups and foodservice packaging recovery in general.

What do the two groups intend to do?

The PRA and PRG intend to:

- Advocate for the recovery and processing of used foodservice packaging;
- Determine the economic and operational viability of current and emerging initiatives in the value chain;
- Identify and communicate recovery and processing best practices;
- Serve as a catalyst for infrastructure development and increased recovery of material;
- Develop a "tool box" of training and education materials for stakeholders related to collection, processing and end markets; and
- Partner with stakeholders when appropriate.

The PRA and PRG do not intend to:

- Inhibit competition or innovation in the marketplace;
- Subsidize the collection and processing of the products;
- Conduct lobbying activities that may be in direct conflict with FPI or its member companies;
- Engage in commercial operations; or
- Be legally responsible for the movement of recovered materials.

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In addition, the two groups have identified a few important "rules of the game:"

- Operate collaboratively in a transparent manner;
- Use a science and market-based approach;
- Consider the interests of the entire industry;
- Consider all recovery options including, but not limited to, recycling, composting and energy recovery;
- Allow circumstances (based on material, product, location, recovery, etc. options) to determine solutions; and
- Establish practical, scalable initiatives, i.e. no window dressing/green-washing!

Should there be legal concerns about competitors working together on these projects?
The PRA and PRG members strictly adhere to antitrust guidelines, and legal counsel closely monitors the group's activities and meetings. Members are prohibited from discussing or sharing in any manner price, cost or market share information. Finally, the PRA and PRG are neither making demands of its members or of the industry nor dictating action(s) by its members that would alter the marketplace.

Why are the PRA and PRG housed within the Foodservice Packaging Institute?
The founding members of the PRA believed strongly that this initiative should be led and driven by the broader industry collaborative. As the industry's trade association, the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) was the clear choice presenting advanced strategic positioning to the PRA. When the PRG later formed, it was clear that while there were a number of other associations working on plastics recovery, none were fulfilling the needs particular to the foodservice packaging industry. Again, FPI was the logical choice.

Who participates in the Paper Recovery Alliance and the Plastics Recovery Group?
PRA and PRG members may include stakeholders from all parts of the value chain, including raw material suppliers, converters, operators/retailers, collection service providers, reclaimers and material recovery facilities, recovered feedstock end users. In addition, other associations, non-governmental organizations, colleges/universities and governmental officials may be invited to participate in the PRA/PRG as appropriate.

Current members of the PRA and or the PRG include:

- Absolute Plastics
- Americas Styrenics
- BASF
- Cascades
- Chick-fil-A
- CKF, Inc.
- Convermex
- D&W Fine Pack
- Dart Container (including Solo Cup Company*)
- Dyne-A-Pak
- Eco-Products, Inc.*
- Fabri-Kal
- Genpak
- Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP*
- Huhtamaki, Inc.
- International Paper*
- KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation
- LBP Manufacturing, Inc.
- McDonald's Corporation (with HAVI Global Solutions*)
- MeadWestvaco Corporation*
- MicroGREEN Polymers
- Milliken
- NatureWorks LLC
- Pactiv Foodservice/Food Packaging*
- Resolute Forest Products
- SCA Tissue North America
- Seda North America
- Starbucks Coffee Company*
- Tim Hortons*
- White Castle
- Yum! Brands Inc.*

**Indicates Founding PRA Member*

How are the PRA and PRG funded?
The PRA and PRG are self-funded projects within the Foodservice Packaging Institute; PRA and PRG members make financial contributions to cover the expenses of their respective groups.

What have the PRA and PRG accomplished so far, and what are the plans moving forward?
From its beginnings in 2011 into 2013, the PRA and the PRG have so far:

- Helped to bring members into alignment on recovery knowledge
- Identified the connection points between foodservice packaging materials, infrastructure, markets and supply
- Started building key allies and partners in the recovery arena
- Researched composting, recycling and energy recovery options for foodservice packaging
- Produced data on foodservice packaging in the U.S. and Canada
- Gathered information on MRFs, pulp/paper mills, plastics reprocessors and composting facilities potentially capable of handling foodservice packaging
- Identified the key threshold points for MRFs to evaluate foodservice packaging recovery
- Organized first-ever Foodservice Packaging Recovery Summit with the National Restaurant Association
- Identified barriers limiting market place pull

Based on this foundation, the PRA and PRG have narrowed down this complex project into seven key elements of work, spanning 2013 into 2015:

- Continue gathering technical data required for the project;
- Prove and solve market viability;
- Establish action partnerships with key allies;
- Grow a MRF-based systematic approach;
- Support expanding composting options;
- Grow front-of-store recovery options; and
- Increase communications on foodservice packaging recovery.

Where can I get more information?
For more information on the PRA and/or the PRG, including membership information, please go to the "Stewardship" page on FPI's website at www.fpi.org or contact FPI President Lynn Dyer at (703) 538-3551 or ldyer@fpi.org.