

ISRI's Position on Minimum Recycled Plastic Content Legislation¹

Overview

Plastics are an incredibly diverse, versatile group of materials that are used in nearly all aspects of daily life, from life-saving medical supplies to light-weight food packaging. Despite the benefits plastics offer, many people in the United States are concerned about high levels of plastic waste entering the natural environment. Nevertheless, the petrochemical industry continues to produce plastics at higher volumes and lower prices than ever before. To avoid further environmental harm, it is imperative that all plastics be handled responsibly at end of life. Using recycled plastic as a feedstock to manufacture new products is an environmentally responsible activity that also strengthens the economy by creating jobs and investment opportunities.

ISRI supports:

- Legislation that expands the use of recycled plastic in applications that are appropriate, noting these levels will vary by application and type of plastic;
- Efforts by manufacturers and brand owners to increase the use of recycled plastic resin beyond legislated levels and applications, when possible;
- Manufacturers incorporating the principles of Design for Recycling® (DfR) to ensure their products are more easily recycled;
- Stakeholder efforts that seek to increase plastic recycling through public education, outreach and advocacy to meet growing demand for recycled plastic; and
- Efforts that look at the life cycle assessment of a plastic product to help manufacturers make informed choices on the inclusion of recycled plastic resin.

Such efforts will help spur the demand for recycled plastics while also increasing the commitment by stakeholders throughout the supply chain to ensure plastics are responsibly manufactured, collected, and recycled into new products.

¹ As adopted by the ISRI Board of Directors on July 24, 2020.