



Recycling In America

Polypropylene: Building a
Better System for Materials

August 20, 2025

Our Plan for Today

Welcome! What's on your mind?

Setting the Stage: How did we get here?

Perspective from the Field: Guest speakers

Closing: Key takeaways and actions



Polypropylene: Building a Better System for Materials

Speakers



Kate Davenport

*Chief Impact Officer
The Recycling Partnership*



Robert Flores

*Vice President of
Sustainability,
Amcor*



Nicole Janssen

*President,
Denton Plastics*



Bryce Stalcup

*Executive Director,
Waste Commission of
Scott County*

Polypropylene: Full System at Work to Solve Material-Specific Challenges

Chat/Q&A Support



Brittany LaValley

*Vice President,
Material Systems*



Karen Bandhauer

*Sr. Strategic Advisor,
Development*



Eric DesRoberts

*Director,
Material Systems*



Dylan de Thomas

*Vice President,
Public Policy &
Government Affairs*



Poll





Our mission is to build a better U.S. recycling system.

The Recycling Partnership is a purpose-driven NGO.

We are a team of experts, practitioners, and thought leaders with the real-world experience needed to overhaul the U.S. recycling system through on the ground action.

The U.S. recycling system needs all of us...



Reminder: What must be true for the U.S. recycling system to really work?



- 1 **Design for Recycling:** All packaging needs to be designed for recyclability.
- 2 **Ability to Recycle:** All households need access to recycling in their home.
- 3 **Public Participation:** Residents need to fully engage in recycling.
- 4 **Recycling Infrastructure:** Recycling facilities need to effectively process the material.
- 5 **Old Stuff → New Stuff:** Recycling facilities need sufficient end markets.

Building a Better System for Materials: Polypropylene





Polypropylene Packaging

A Growing, But Under-Recovered Packaging Stream

1

Nearly **2 billion pounds** is generated each year – it's now the most common rigid plastic packaging in the U.S.

2

Only 20% of polypropylene packaging is captured in household recycling.

3

MRFs are increasingly accepting polypropylene, but many communities are not communicating it as an accepted material.



Polypropylene Requires Strong Education and Outreach to Achieve High Recycling Rates

What are the potential consequences?

- Low Recycling Rates
- Risk of Not Achieving Compliance
- Risk of Unrecyclable Determination

Polypropylene: Building a Better System for Materials

Q&A Session



Rob Flores

Amcor



Nicole Janssen

Denton Plastics



Bryce Stalcup

*Waste Commission of Scott
County*

Key Takeaways



Increasing Demand: PCR polypropylene use has been disincentivized by the low cost of virgin material – demand is critical.



Polypropylene at Risk: Without immediate investment, polypropylene recycling rates will remain low and could lead to non-compliance in California and other EPR states.



Engagement is Essential: The success of recycling in policy and non-policy states depends on it. Participation and capture must increase—now.

To achieve a sustainable future for polypropylene, we must take action today across all parts of the recycling system.



How?

Companies

Design for recyclability. Use more PCR—including beyond packaging. Advocate for smart policy. Want max impact? Join [the Polypropylene Recycling Coalition](#).

Communities

Work with your MRF to boost resident education. Ready to include polypropylene? Connect with The Recycling Partnership.

Processors

Team up with communities on education. Need support to handle polypropylene? We're here to help—reach out.

Policymakers

Advance [EPR](#) and [the CIRCLE Act](#). The system needs smart, proven policy.

Get in Touch:

The Recycling Partnership

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🌐 recyclingpartnership.org



**The Recycling
Partnership**

Building a Better Recycling System

We're a purpose-driven organization committed to building a better recycling system that delivers economic and environmental benefits for communities and the industry.