

# Design your collection strategy & educate

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### Tips for Designing a Successful Collection Program: Education and Quality Control Are Key!

Contamination is often the biggest barrier to successful recycling as you strive to balance achieving high volume, low labor costs, and high quality. Sustainable programs also require efficient collection and transport of recyclables. Consider the tips below when designing your program.

- Assess where most of the plastic film you plan to collect is routinely generated
- Select collection bins or racks
  - Open frame racks (found at industrial supply stores) capable of holding open a large transparent plastic bag have proven to be very effective. They enable your business to maintain quality control.
  - You might also consider cages or rolling carts for collection of scrap plastic film in areas that are out of the customer area of your business.
- Select plastic collection bags that can be recycled along with the film you're collecting
  - (e.g., bags made of HDPE, LDPE or LLDPE).
  - Bags both consolidate and protect the recovered film.
- For maximum handling efficiency choose bags sized approximately 38"x 65".
- Transparency, strength, size, and cost are significant decision factors for collection bags
- Place collection bin(s) near the plastic film generation point if possible, but avoid potentially wet areas.
- For convenience, make sure you do not make it more difficult to recycle the material than to discard it, so place recycling bins near the trash bins
- Be sure to include clear signage on both trash and plastic film collection bins
- If you are working with a hauler or recycler who is picking up bagged film with other recyclables such as cardboard or baled plastic film, work with them to find how best to prepare the material for pick up.
- Display samples of plastic film and bags to illustrate acceptable types of film for recycling to employees.
- Combine training with regular staff business meetings, such as weekly safety meetings.
- Consider dedicating cost savings to a dedicated employee fund as an incentive to recycle.
- If you plan to bale film, go to our section our baling, storage, and loading. If you have space for storage and you're generating more than a ton per month, consider baling your film. The calculator tool in this site may help you build a business case for the investment.