

# Compare disposal cost to benefits of recovery

# Comparing the cost and benefit of a recovery program

Use this worksheet to help you collect information needed for the online calculator or as a way to document the values you entered online to calculate your results.

Calculating your current disposal costs might help you in your decision to invest in a recovery program. Even though we encourage businesses to recycle for the environment, we understand that recycling efforts must make financial sense too. Step 2 allows you to calculate the cost of your plastic bag and/or plastic film disposal and then estimate the economic benefit of setting up a recovery program in the second section of the calculator.

## Film Disposal Calculator

Keep track of the values you enter into the online calculator here.

**Enter average monthly disposal:**

 tons/month

Collect invoices from your waste hauler for the previous 3 months. Add the weights for each month together and divide by 3 to estimate your average monthly disposal

**Enter the percentage of film in your waste:**

 %

Observe your waste stream and estimate the average percent by volume of your waste that is film. Note: not all film is readily recyclable.

**Enter your disposal cost:**

 \$/ton

**Enter your pull charge per container:**

 \$/pick up

**Enter your disposal container size:**

 cubic yards

## Estimated costs of plastic film disposal

Write in the values produced by the online calculator.

Monthly Disposal Weight Estimate (all materials):

 tons /month

Cost of Waste Disposal (all materials):

 /month

Cost of Plastic Film Disposal Only

 /month

**Note:** If you generate significantly less than one ton (2000 lbs) of plastic film per month you should consider searching for a recycling company that can either pick up material or accepts dropped off material. If you generate more than one ton and have extra space for storage proceed to step 2 below to determine the potential economic benefit of setting up a plastic film recovery program.

## Next, calculate the benefits of a Recovery Program

### Recovery Program Benefit Calculator

Keep track of the values you enter into the online calculator here.

**Enter the local market value for baled film:**

\$/lb.

The best approach is to call some of the buyers listed in our recycling directory to find out what they're paying for truckload quantities (40,000 lbs). In order to get an accurate price you will need to make sure your material can meet their quality specifications and find out whether or not the price they quote is for material that's picked up or delivered by you to their location. If you want to test hypothetical numbers you might try 0.05 for a low end and 0.22 for the high end. Contact Moore Recycling Associates for additional market information.

**Enter labor costs (including overhead):**

\$/hr.

**Enter average labor hours required per bale:**

hrs.

**Enter average bale weight:**

lbs.

**Cost of baling wire:**

\$/lb.

**Cost of collection bags:**

lb.

[www.progressivebagalliance.com](http://www.progressivebagalliance.com) for suppliers of plastic bags

### Optional Section:

If you don't have baling equipment, you might want to evaluate the estimated cost of equipment.

**Enter capital cost of baling equipment:**

\$

**Enter economic life of equipment:**

months

**Enter annual estimate of service costs:**

% of capital cost

**Enter interest rate:**

% annual

### Estimated benefits from your recovery program

Gross benefit per lb. of plastic film recovery:  /month

Net benefit of film recovery (after marginal labor & supply costs):  /month\*

\*Note: Estimate does not include the cost of storing and shipping the equipment.