

Plastic Film Collection Standard Operating Procedure

January 2023

Prepared in collaboration with Deschutes Brewery, Crater Lake Spirits by Bendistillery, and The Environmental Center.

Purpose

Our vision is for local businesses to recycle plastic film and when possible, opt for reusable alternatives.

Project goals for 2023 include:

- Divert 30,000 pounds of film from Knott Landfill to recycling
- Collaborate with 15% of all beverage manufacturers in Central Oregon, potentially loop in distributors as well.
- Experiment with reusable alternatives.

Context

In 2021-2022, Crater Lake Spirits by Bendistillery and The Environmental Center's Rethink Waste Program (RWP) convened a Plastic Film Focus Group consisting of local businesses looking to divert plastic film from Knott Landfill to local recycling opportunities.

Given that plastic film is not ordinarily accepted for recycling curbside or for drop-off for large volumes in Deschutes County, the Focus Group decided on a partnership with Far West Recycling, a plastic film aggregator based in Portland, OR. Deschutes Brewery has taken the lead on bailing and delivery test bails to Far West Recycling. Each participating site is responsible for collecting/storing onsite and coordinating with Deschutes Brewery for local delivery. In 2022 Deschutes Brewery, Crater Lake Spirits by Bendistillery, Sunriver Brewing, Worthy Brewing, and Crux Fermentation Project piloted this procedure with test bails diverting a total of 4480 pounds via delivery to Far West Recycling. The Environmental Center's Rethink Waste Program provides waste reduction and recovery insights and coordinates project expansion.

Terminologies

- **Recycling:** to break down a product via chipping, shredding, grinding into feedstock (such as pellets) for manufacturing back into another consumer product. Due to the chemistry of plastics, recycled feedstock needs to be supplemented by virgin plastics in order to create a new product. By contrast, materials like aluminum can essentially be recycled indefinitely.

- **Aggregator:** there isn't a universal/technical definition for this term, we use it here to refer to a facility that buys product from multiple sources, then sells (usually via brokers) larger quantities to a facility or multiple facilities that break product down.
- **Collection List:** these are the materials that are accepted for recycling by the aggregator we are delivering to. See list below.
- **Contamination:** anything outside the collection list is considered a contaminant. The more contamination, the less valuable the bail becomes. If there is significant contamination, the recycling program is at risk of being discontinued.

Tools

Needed for onsite collections

- **Storage/transportation bags:** please use plastic film bags to store plastic film so that the entire bag can be placed in the bailer and recycled
 - Deschutes Brewery uses Walter Nelson Co. 55gal clear can liners #ARBR3760NP
- **Collection List Signage:** please post a collection list near the collection areas
 - Sample [Collection Signage](#)

Other

- **Bailer:** Deschutes Brewery currently utilizes their cardboard bailer. However, they would find it more efficient to eventually procure an additional bailer so that the cardboard does not have to be moved back and forth when bailing occurs.

Roles & Responsibilities

- **YOU (each individual site):** Responsible for collecting and storing plastic film on site, avoiding contamination.
- **YOU (each individual site):** Responsible for coordinating with Deschutes Brewery operations team to deliver your film to Deschutes Brewery warehouse:
 - 399 SW Shevlin Hixon Dr Bend Oregon 97702
 - Monday - Thursday 7am -3:30pm; Friday 7am - 1pm
 - Contact Scott Hughes at shughes@deschutesbrewery.com or call the shipping desk 541-312-1995 to scheduled a time to deliver your film to Deschutes Brewery
- **Deschutes Brewery:** Responsible for baling, storing bales, and delivering to Far West Recycling once a month as the transportation schedule allows.
- **Deschutes Brewery:** Responsible for tracking delivery (diversion) data and sending out information upon request
- **Rethink Waste Project:** Responsible for coordinating quarterly Plastic Film Project Check-ins to share progress and to reevaluate processes as needed through 2023

List of Locations Collecting on Site and Delivering to Deschutes Brewery

- Deschutes Brewery
- Crater Lake Spirits by Bendistillery
- Sunriver Brewing
- Worthy Brewing
- Crux Fermentation Project

Procedures

Procedure for Collecting on Site

- Designate a central collection area where all the plastic film will be stored until it is delivered to Deschutes Brewery.
 - This central collection area should be protected from rain and debris that could contaminate the plastic film
 - There should be signage posted near the central collection area indicating what is collected and what is not accepted
- You may also need to establish primary collection points around your facility if the central collection area is not conveniently accessible to where the work is happening.
 - In other words, if your team is unpacking product in one building and the central collection area is in another building, you will want to place a plastic film collection bin in the unpacking building as primary collection point so your team can easily separate the acceptable film from other product that is not acceptable.
 - Once the primary collection point bins/bags are full, empty them into the central collection site.

What is accepted for recycling

- Clear, clean plastic film aka pallet wrap

What is not accepted for recycling

- Avoid these items:
 - Moisture
 - Other recyclables
 - Colored film
 - Tape/Labeling
 - Residue/dirt
 - Ink/writing

Deschutes Brewery team members will not have capacity to sort material that is not accepted. It is essential that each site collects only acceptable material.

Procedure for Local Delivery to Deschutes Brewery

- Contact Scott Hughes at shughes@deschutesbrewery.com or call the shipping desk 541-312-1995 to schedule a time to deliver your film to Deschutes Brewery
- Deliver to: 399 SW Shevlin Hixon Dr Bend Oregon 97702
- Delivery windows: Monday - Thursday 7am - 3:30pm; Friday 7am - 1pm

Procedure for Delivery from Deschutes Brewery to Film Processor

- Once a month as transportation allows, Deschutes Brewery will deliver plastic film to Far West Recycling
 - Deliver to 12820 NE Marx Street Portland, OR 97230. Anytime between 7a and 3p on weekdays.
 - Delivery trucks should back up to loading docks. As you pull in, there is a scale you can pull onto and the office to the left will give you a green light. The docks are forward and to the left.
- Note from Deschutes Brewery
 - With enough participation it would be nice to have a dedicated baler for the plastic located in the warehouse.