



**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK  
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATIONS  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING  
CONFERENCE  
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**Expanded Water Bottles  
&  
Plastics Reclamation**

S.M. Navedo, Esq.

## PLASTICS RECLAMATION INDUSTRY

### Buyers of collected post-consumer bottles

#### Post-consumer PET bottles (mmlbs.): 2007

- 641 - Purchased by U.S. Reclaimers
  - 710 - Purchased by Export Markets
  - 45 - PET bottle part of mixed bales exported
  - 1,396 - T o t a l Post Consumer Bottles (mmlbs)
  - 24.6 % Collection Rate
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- PC Bottles Imported: 100mm
  - Total used by US reclaimers: 741mm

## RPET END PRODUCTS

○ Fiber	(383)	(43%)
○ Strapping	(144)	(16%)
○ Food & Beverage Bottles	(136)	(15%)
○ Sheet & Film	(128)	(14%)
○ Non-Food Bottles	(60)	(7%)
○ Engineered Resins	(11)	(1%)
○ Other	(38)	(4%)
○ End products made in US	(900)	
■ 18% higher than US produced RPET		

## PLASTIC RECLAMATION PROCESS

- ◉ SORT BOTTLES
- ◉ GRIND INTO FLAKE
- ◉ SEPARATE POLYMERS
- ◉ WASH PET FLAKE
- ◉ RINSE, SEPARATE, DRY
- ◉ METAL (Aluminum) REMOVAL
- ◉ OPTICAL FLAKE COLOR SORT
- ◉ EXTRUSION & SOLID STATE

## NEW FACTORS FOR PROCESSING WATER BOTTLES

- ◉ More Volume
- ◉ More Business
- ◉ Etc.
- ◉ Bio-Resin Bottles (PLA)
- ◉ PLA/PETG Labels
- ◉ Bio-additives
- ◉ Paper Labels
- ◉ HDPE Caps
- ◉ Light-weighting

## OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

Reclaimers & packaging designers must collaborate.

○ Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR)

([www.plasticsrecycling.org](http://www.plasticsrecycling.org))

■ Design for Recyclability

- Bottles, labels, closures, inks, adhesives, barriers, etc.

■ Critical Guidance

- Testing Procedures to evaluate affect on recycling stream

■ Recognition Program

- Authorizes use of Program Logo

○ National Assoc for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR)

([napcor.com](http://napcor.com))

- Best Practices for PET Collection and Processing

## THE OUTLOOK FOR PLASTIC RECLAMATION

### Demand for Recycling & Recycled Content:

- Sustainability enters the social culture
  - Moves beyond landfill conservation
- Sustainability enters the corporate culture
  - Brand company & retailer inspired
  - Must have some recycled content inventory
- Recycling beyond 1's & 2's
  - APR's Rigids Committee
- Solid Waste Management Paradigm Shift
  - Recycling is critical to all programs