








Plastics

When plastics become obsolete or unwanted, their **presence in the waste stream poses a significant resource-recovery challenge**

	<i>Plastic type...</i>	<i>Found in ...</i>	<i>Recycled into ...</i>
 PETE	PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)	Soft drink, water and beer bottles	Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, (occasionally) new containers
 HDPE	HDPE (high density polyethylene)	Milk jugs, household cleaner bottles, some trash and shopping bags, cereal box liners	Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, picnic tables, fencing
 PVC	V (Vinyl) or PVC	Window cleaner and detergent bottles, clear food packaging	Decks, paneling, mudflaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps, mats
 LDPE	LDPE (low density polyethylene)	Squeezable bottles, dry cleaning and shopping bags, carpet	Trash can liners and cans, compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties, floor tile
 PP	PP (polypropylene)	Some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws	Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins
 PS	PS (polystyrene)	Disposable plates and cups, meat trays, egg cartons, compact disc cases	Insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vents, rulers, foam packing, carry-out containers
 OTHER	Miscellaneous	Three- and five-gallon water bottles, 'bullet-proof' materials, sunglasses, DVDs	Plastic lumber, custom-made products

Did you know ...

In the U.S., 2.5 million plastic bottles are disposed of every hour

Recycling a single plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours

The world's annual consumption of plastic materials has increased from around 5 million tons in the 1950s to nearly 100 million tons today

