



News Release

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Killinger (202) 249-6619

Email: jennifer_killinger@americanchemistry.com

RECYCLING OF PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAPS CLIMBS 50% IN FIVE YEARS

American Chemistry Council Launches New Group Dedicated to Increasing Recycling of Plastic Film

WASHINGTON, DC (February 6, 2012) – The recycling of post-consumer plastic bags and wraps – a category known as plastic film – reached a record high of nearly 972 million pounds in 2010, according to a [national report](#) developed by [Moore Recycling Associates, Inc.](#) on behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC).

This represents an increase of more than 117 million pounds, or 14 percent, over 2009 and an increase of 50 percent since 2005, when Moore Recycling began tracking this category of plastics recycling. Over past five years, the recycling of plastic film grew seven times faster than recycling overall, according to data from EPA.

ACC attributes the recent uptick in plastics film recycling to a combination of increased access to collection points via grocery and retail chains, better labeling on bags, and a rise in consumer awareness. Recovered polyethylene film is used to make durable plastic and composite lumber for outdoor decks and fencing, home building products, garden products, crates, piping, and new film packaging like plastic bags.

To continue building on the growth of plastics film recycling, ACC has formed a new [Flexible Film Recycling Group](#) (FFRG). The new group includes members representing the full plastics film value chain, from resin suppliers to film manufacturers, brand owners and recyclers.

“We’re excited to see strong growth in the recycling of plastic bags and wraps and even more excited about opportunities for increased recycling in the near future,” said Steve Russell, vice president of plastics for the American Chemistry Council. “The FFRG looks forward to working with all parts of the polyethylene film value chain to make it even simpler to recover and recycle this valuable plastic material,” Russell added.

Initially, the FFRG will focus on increasing plastics film recycling by improving consumer awareness and promoting the growth of recycling infrastructure, particularly among smaller and mid-sized retailers, dry cleaners and other outlets.

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The FFRG plans to expand the “[A Bag’s Life](#),” consumer education campaign to include other plastic product wraps and to partner with the Association of Postconsumer Plastics Recyclers and other allied trade groups to bolster the recovery of plastic film.

Founding members of FFRG include Avanguard, Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil, SC Johnson, Sealed Air, and Trex.

For more on recycling plastic bags and film, please visit
<http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org/plasticbag/index.html>

About the Plastics Division

The American Chemistry Council’s Plastics Division represents leading companies dedicated to providing innovative solutions to the challenges of today and tomorrow through plastics. Ongoing innovations in plastics have led to medical advances and safety equipment that make our lives better, healthier and safer every day. And, advances in plastics are helping Americans save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease waste. Because plastics are such a valuable resource, the Plastics Division is leading efforts to “reduce, reuse, recycle and recover,” including through outreach, education and access to advances in recycling technology.

www.americanchemistry.com/plastics

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

