Biopolymer Use in Bottles

APR POSITION: The APR opposes biopolymer use in bottles until critical mass levels are achieved that allow for efficient system-wide reclamation.

Value: APR encourages the production of streams of baled bottles that do not contain contaminants. PET and HDPE bottles represent about 95% of all plastic bottles used in the United States. Bottles made of resins other than PET and HDPE, such as biopolymers, are often contaminants in these bales.

Key Messages:

- Biopolymers may be an undesirable inclusion in reclamation systems from a technical standpoint in both PET and HDPE bottle bales as are many bottles coded 3 through 7.
- Biopolymers could lead to a detrimental economic impact for PET and HDPE reclaimers.
- APR encourages discussions on one biopolymer, PLA or polylactic acid, be conducted with NatureWorks LLC, a PLA provider and APR member, to identify and understand the impacts of PLA on the recycling of other bottle materials.

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