



COALITION *for* RESOURCE RECOVERY

NYC Paper Foodservice Packaging Recycling Pilot Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why doesn't everybody recycle paper food packaging?

Historically, many mills have had difficulty recycling paper food packaging because of the coatings used and food contamination.

2. What questions are you seeking to answer for this pilot?

CoRR's goal is to recycle paper foodservice packaging into valuable, high-quality materials. This pilot will help to ensure that contamination rates can be kept to a minimum and to assist in identifying the types of recycling mills that would be the best fit for the spent packaging.

3. What is the climate change benefit of this program?

If all paper plates, cups, and food packaging in the country were recycled, 5.4 million tons of waste would be diverted from landfills each year --- equivalent to removing 3.7 million passenger cars from our roads annually. While the potential of the recycling concept being tested is significant, the climate change benefit of the pilot program is minimal due to the fact that by nature of being a pilot, it is being conducted at a limited number of stores.

4. Is all of the paper food packaging added to the recycling bin going to be recycled?

CoRR's goal is for all of the paper packaging collected in the pilot to either be recycled with mixed waste paper or old corrugated cardboard. A portion of the material may be utilized for lab testing.

5. What is the packaging made into?

Old corrugated cardboard is used to make a variety of products including new cardboard boxes.

6. What about plastic cups, napkins, stirrers?

Due to the scale of the pilot, and the importance of a pure stream, items such as napkins, stirrers, and baguette bags will not be accepted or promoted for this test. CoRR's goal is to collect as many materials that can pass lab recyclability tests as possible. CoRR also is evaluating launching pilot programs to recycle plastics and food waste.

7. If the pilot goes well, what is phase II?

If the pilot goes well, CoRR and Pret A Manger will expand the number of participating stores.

8. How do you pre-screen packaging for its recyclability?

The packaging was testing using the Fiber Box Association's Wax Alternative Protocol. The protocol is available at:

<http://www.corrugated.org/Upload/Files/WaxAlternativesStandard.pdf>. Testing was conducted by Western Michigan University's Recycling and Coating Pilot Plants. The protocol does not account for impacts of prohibitives and outthrows that may be collected in bags of spent material.



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9. What about public space recycling?

CoRR recognizes the importance of recycling packaging discarded in the store, at home, or in public spaces. CoRR feels that the lessons learned from the in-store pilot can be applied to public space and residential recycling for future tests.