

# Jan Dell, Independent Engineer, The Last Beach Cleanup

My volunteer team and I just completed a comprehensive survey of the recyclability of post-consumer plastic items in California. The results and details [are shown on our webpage](#). We performed the survey to provide credible data in the public domain to help CalRecycle and the new CA Recycling Commission take effective action to improve recycling and reduce contamination at minimal taxpayer cost.

We surveyed:

- 1) **Plastic acceptance at the 75 Single Stream Residential Material Recovery Facilities in California.** We created [a MRF map](#) and [posted the detailed Excel table online](#).
- 2) **Post-consumer plastic processing capacity at recycler/processor facilities in California.** We created [a Plastic Processor map](#) and [posted the detailed Excel table online](#).

Coupled with July 2020 plastic bale value in California ([from RecyclingMarkets.net](#)), the recyclability of a range of consumer plastic items were evaluated. The source of the data is clearly referenced with a traceable account.

**Key Result: Only PET#1 and HDPE#2 bottles and jugs currently meet the requirements of (1) viable market, (2) acceptance by MRFs and (3) can be reprocessed in the state.** No other type of consumer plastic comes close to meeting the recyclability criteria. Also attached is the MRF Acceptance graphic that shows that a wide range of single use plastics are not accepted by most MRFs in California. However, due to incorrect labeling on many products, curbside bins are filled with plastic contamination.

We welcome CalRecycle and Commissioners' questions and suggestions on the survey, data and results. If we have omitted a MRF, Plastic Processor or other information, we stand ready to update the information presented.

Best regards,  
Jan Dell