

# Plastic Film & Flexible Packaging Collection Mechanisms in the United States

	HOW IT WORKS	WHERE IT'S AVAILABLE	ACCEPTED MATERIALS	ADVANTAGES + CHALLENGES
	<b>STORE DROP-OFF (SDO)</b> Drop-off collection at grocery stores and other retail locations	Nationwide. <a href="#">BagandFilmRecycling.org</a> maintains a directory of SDO locations. <a href="#">Earth 911</a> also lists drop-off locations.	"Clean and dry" flexible PE packaging that complies with design guidance from the <a href="#">Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most widespread collection system for flexible plastics</li> <li>• H2R SDO label helps consumers understand accepted materials</li> <li>• Bins may be removed without notice</li> <li>• Drop-off collection is less convenient than pick-up collection</li> </ul>
	<b>MUNICIPAL DROP-OFF</b> Drop-off collection at a local recycling center or depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Tacoma, WA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Shoreline Transfer Station for residents of King County, WA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Waste Diversion Center for Longmont, CO residents</a></li> </ul>	Clean, dry flexible PE packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members can drop off flexible plastics along with other recyclables</li> <li>• No unified list of communities that offer this collection option</li> <li>• Drop-off collection is less convenient than pick-up collection</li> </ul>
	<b>SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: RIDWELL</b> Subscribers pay a monthly fee for every other week collection of flexible film and other hard-to-recycle items.  Ridwell also runs special collection events at schools.	Select neighborhoods in regions around these cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denver, CO</li> <li>• Seattle, WA</li> <li>• Portland, OR</li> <li>• Austin, TX</li> <li>• Minneapolis, MN</li> <li>• San Francisco, CA</li> </ul> <a href="#">Ridwell service areas</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean, dry flexible PE packaging</li> <li>• Polypropylene and multi-material flexible packaging accepted periodically as a "featured category"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient pickup</li> <li>• Emphasis on transparency into the partners that recycle collected materials</li> <li>• Rotating "featured categories" offered in addition to core categories</li> <li>• Not yet available widely across the U.S.</li> <li>• Participants pay to recycle</li> </ul>
	<b>SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: RABBIT RECYCLING</b> Available as an on-demand service or a subscription with various collection frequencies.  Rabbit Recycling also provides recycling services to local businesses.	Select zip codes in the greater Philadelphia area  <a href="#">Rabbit Recycling service areas</a>	<b>Clean, dry soft plastics</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snack bags and wrappers</li> <li>• Food packaging</li> <li>• Produce bags, cling wrap, frozen food bags, etc.</li> <li>• Juice pouches</li> <li>• Plastic shopping bags</li> <li>• Plastic mailers</li> <li>• Bubble wrap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient pickup</li> <li>• Accepts multi-material flexible packaging</li> <li>• Snack bags and other food packaging with residue must be cut open and wiped clean</li> <li>• Limited geographic availability</li> <li>• Participants pay to recycle</li> </ul>
	<b>CURBSIDE COLLECTION PLOTS</b> Bags and films may be collected loose and commingled with other recyclables, in a dedicated bucket, or bag-in-bag.	<a href="#">Hickory Hills, IL</a>  TotalRecycle region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Pottstown, PA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wyomissing, PA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lower Providence, PA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Palmer, PA</a></li> </ul> Past pilots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Seattle 2022 <a href="#">pilot and results</a></li> </ul>	Clean, dry flexible PE packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient pickup</li> <li>• Pilots make use of local infrastructure and partners</li> <li>• Often short-term and limited in geography</li> <li>• Results may not be replicable in other localities</li> </ul>
	<b>NEXTREX</b> Drop-off collection at grocery stores and other retail locations  Trex also runs collection events at schools and community organizations.	Nationwide, except Hawaii  <a href="#">List of participating collection partners by state</a>	<a href="#">Clean, dry flexible PE packaging</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material goes directly to Trex, the largest user of recycled flexible plastics</li> <li>• Testing protocols for NextTrex label differ slightly from H2R SDO label - possible source of confusion</li> <li>• Drop-off collection is less convenient than pick-up collection</li> </ul>
	<b>HEFTY RENEW</b> Participants buy program bags to fill with accepted materials. Filled bags are collected curbside or at drop-off locations depending on the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Atlanta, GA</li> <li>• Greater Omaha, NE</li> <li>• Lincoln, NE</li> <li>• Boise &amp; Ada County, ID</li> <li>• Chattanooga, TN</li> </ul> <a href="#">Hefty ReNew communities</a>	<a href="#">Plastic bags and wraps as well as other plastic packaging, foam products, and plastic foodware</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepts multi-material flexible packaging</li> <li>• Historically, little transparency about what was happening to collected materials. More visibility into end uses now, such as <a href="#">material from Omaha being used to manufacture plastic lumber</a>.</li> <li>• Some material currently used in cement kilns or converted to fuels via pyrolysis, rather than recycled</li> </ul>
	<b>TERRACYCLE</b> TerraCycle offers two models for flexible plastic packaging recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Zero Waste Boxes" for purchase</li> <li>• Brand-specific mail-in programs</li> </ul>	Available in the contiguous US	Different <a href="#">Zero Waste Boxes</a> have different acceptance guidelines, ranging from candy/snack wrappers to cereal bags to all plastic packaging. <a href="#">Brand-specific programs</a> only accept packaging from the sponsoring brand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some programs accept multi-material flexible packaging</li> <li>• Participants pay to recycle</li> <li>• Little transparency about what happens to materials that are collected and sent in to TerraCycle</li> </ul>
	<b>ECOENCLOSE FILM TAKE BACK</b> Individuals may fill a PE (poly or bubble) mailer with other PE film items to mail in for recycling.	Not specified  Mailing destination is in Louisville, CO.	Clean, dry flexible PE packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not a well-known program</li> <li>• Few public details on scale, efficiency, and recycling outcomes of the program</li> </ul>
	<b>MBOLD FLEXIBLES PARTNERSHIP</b> MBOLD partners have invested in a state-of-the-art flexible packaging and film recycling facility in Rogers, MN, which is expected to begin operations in 2023.	This initiative is aimed at film recycling in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region.	The partnership is initially targeting agricultural film for recycling. Eventually various forms of film waste from program partners will be collected and recycled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional model makes use of existing capabilities and reduces need to transport material long distances</li> <li>• Admirable example of value chain collaboration</li> <li>• Not yet operational</li> </ul>
	<b>NEXTREX COMMERCIAL</b> Intended for companies that use and/or collect large volumes of PE film	Not specified	Baled PE film material from store drop-off as well as other distribution and industrial sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material goes directly to Trex, the largest user of recycled flexible plastics</li> </ul>
	<b>INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b> Individual companies establish their own flexible plastic collection and recycling relationships.	Varies	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored to each company's specific needs, such as location and materials</li> <li>• Each company must do the work to find partners</li> </ul>

<<< AVAILABLE TO CONSUMERS >>>

>>> COMMERCIAL COLLECTION >>>