



# #3-7 BALE AUDIT RESULTS

Study Performed February – March 2021



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*RRS would like to acknowledge the project sponsors:*

*Association of Plastics Recyclers*

*Foodservice Packaging Institute*

*Keurig Dr. Pepper*

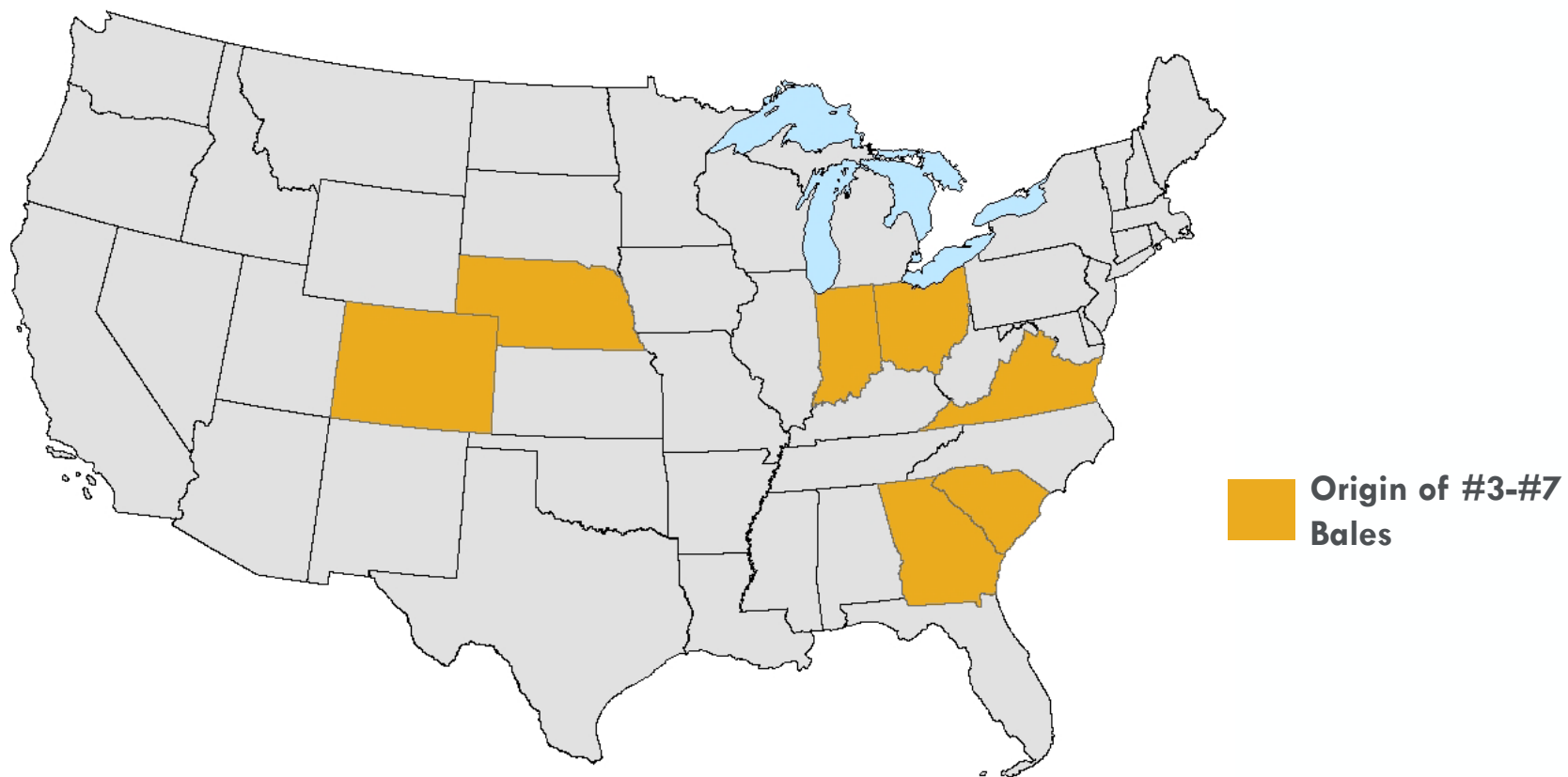
*Polypropylene Recycling Coalition*

*Sustainable Packaging Coalition*

*We would also like to acknowledge the Michigan State University Recycling Center and EFS-Plastics for their partnership on logistics.*

*Thank you to Stina, Inc. for providing valuable input on the methodology.*

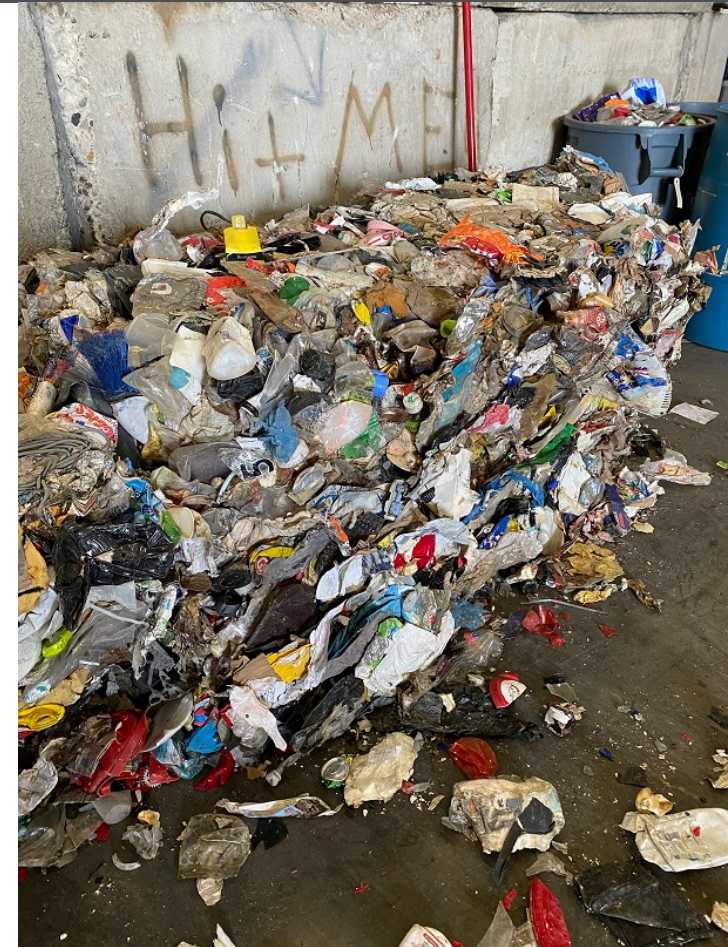
# 9 BALES SOURCED FROM 8 STATES



**Origin of #3-#7  
Bales**

# AUDIT METHODOLOGY

- Methodology reviewed by Association of Plastic Recyclers and other project funders
- ~200 lbs. sample taken from middle section of each bale
- Sorted into following categories:
  - **Rigid Plastic Packaging**
  - **Bulky Packaging/Plastics**
  - **Other Rigid Plastic Packaging** (resin not identifiable, plastic pieces)
  - **Non-Rigid Plastic Packaging** (films and foams)
  - **Other Rigid Non-Packaging Plastics** (not packaging durable items, pieces of durable items)
  - **Other Remaining Materials** (paper, metal, mixed residual, fines)
- Secondary sort Rigid Plastic Packaging and Bulky Packaging/Plastics by resin. Rigid Plastic Packaging also sorted by packaging format

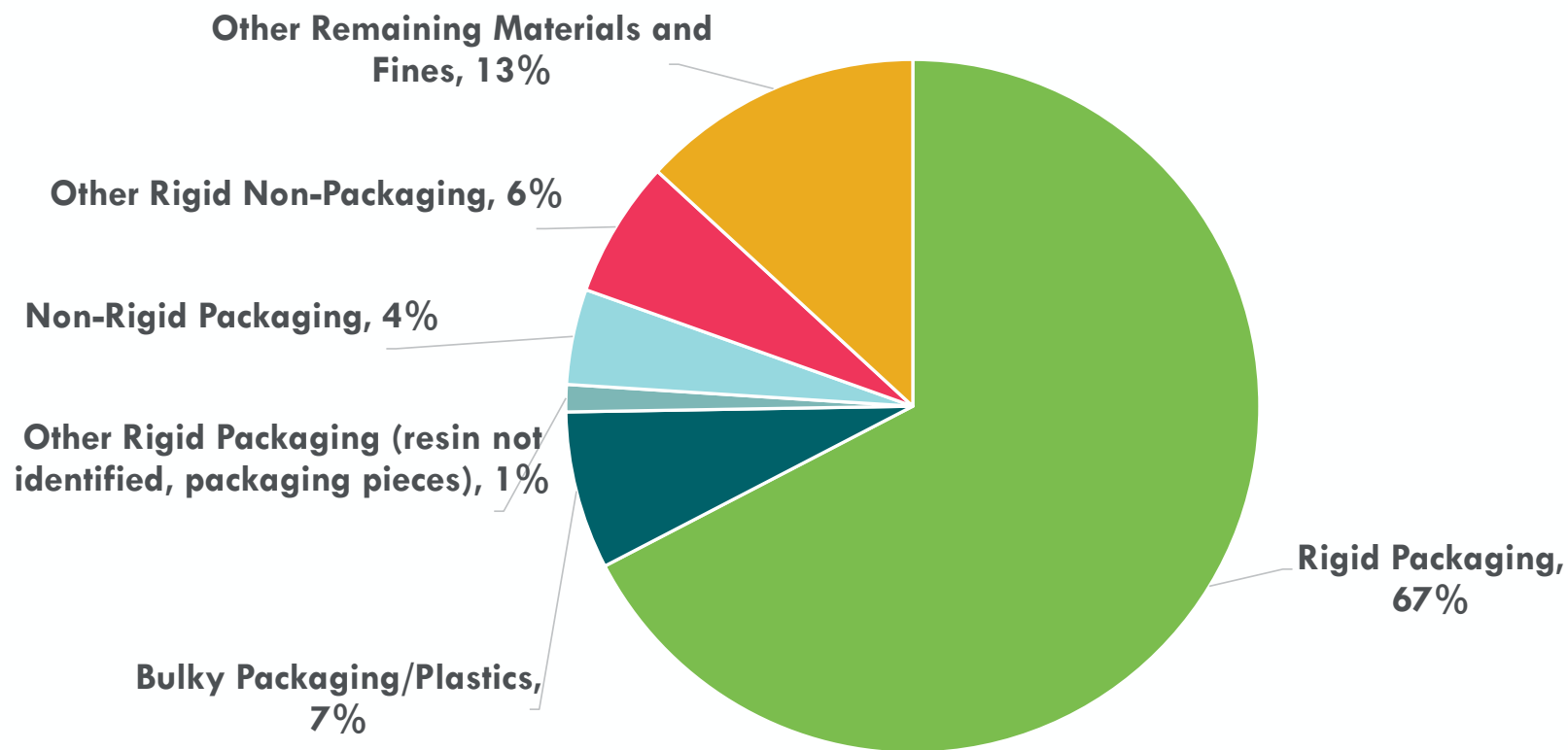




# KEY TAKEAWAYS

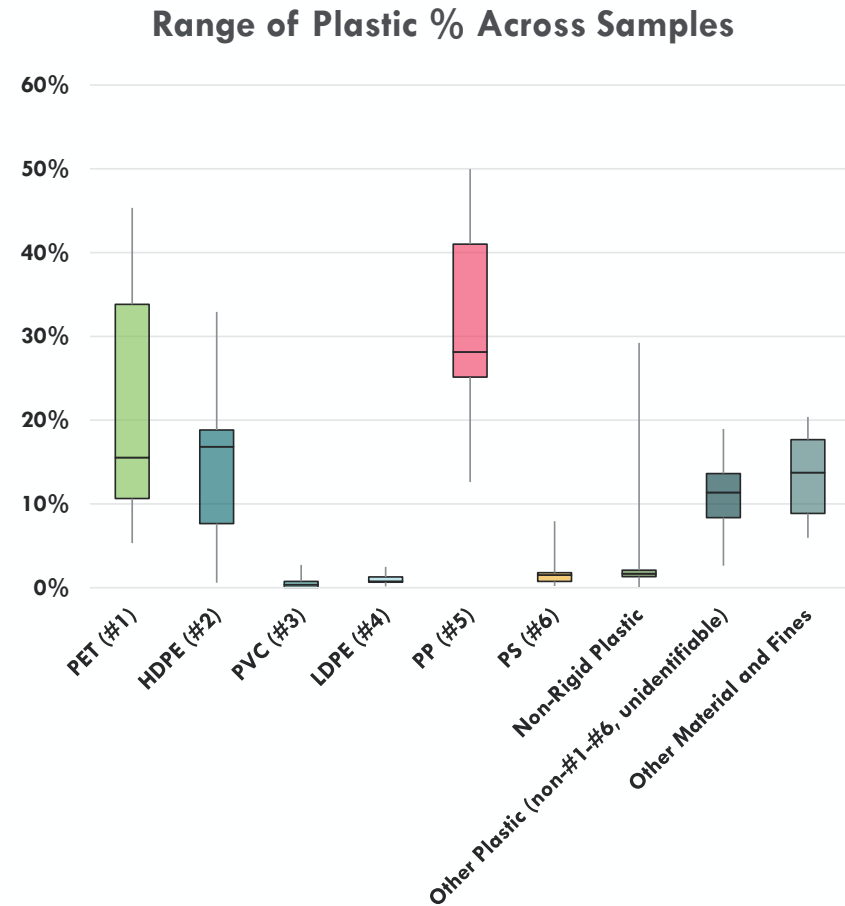
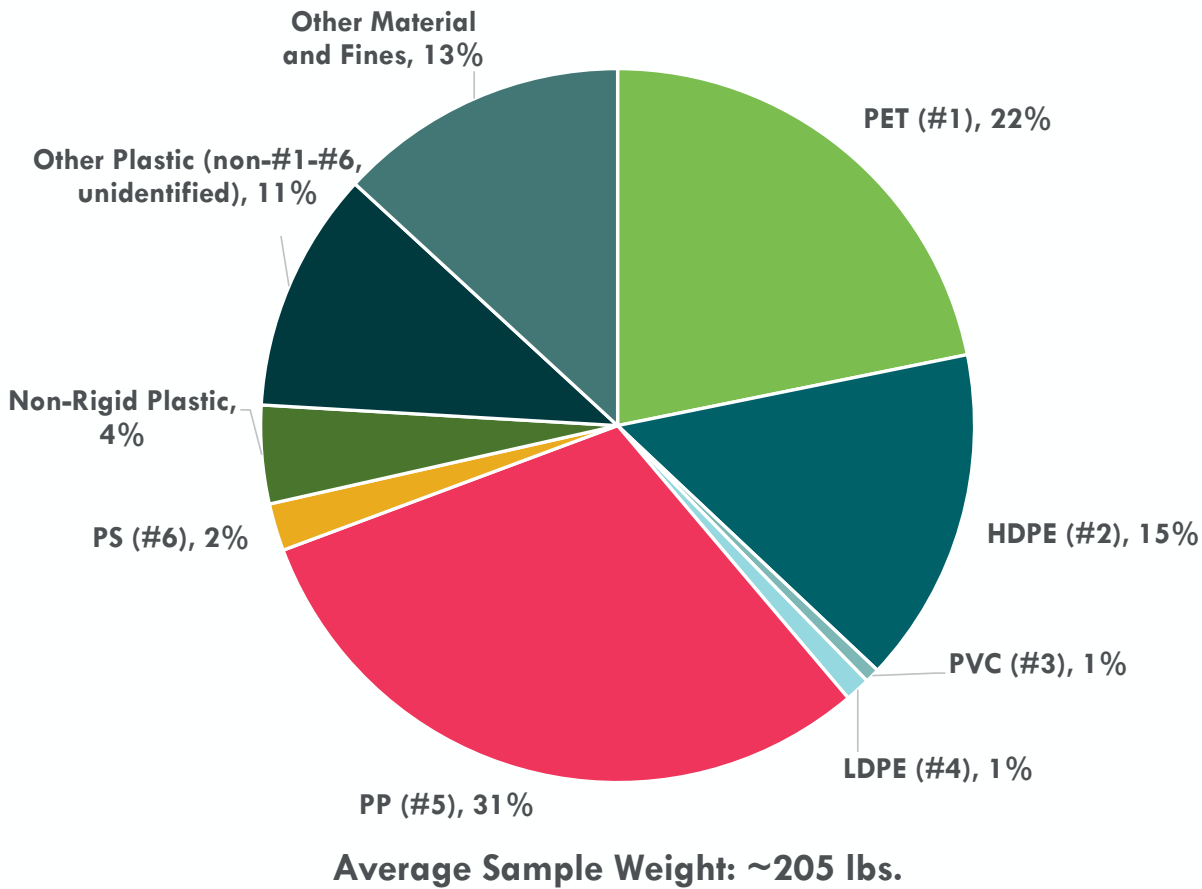
- Bales on average consisted of 87% plastic; contamination from other materials (paper, metal, mixed residual) and fines comprised 13% of bale on average
- Major plastic fractions included PET (22%), HDPE (15%), and PP (31%). Not significantly changed from 2015 bale audits
- Large variation in plastic fraction makeup between bales. PP generally found to make up 25% of bale or more, but large spread for PET and HDPE.
- Unidentified plastics approximately 11% of bale
- Results on following slides presented as averages of sampled bales

# BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY AS % OF TOTAL BALE WEIGHT



Average Sample Size: ~205 lbs.

# BREAKDOWN BY RESIN AS % OF TOTAL BALE WEIGHT





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