

# TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES – PET (PLASTIC) RECYCLING

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# CURRENT TRENDS IN PET/PLASTICS

- Food Security and role of plastic packaging.
- Closed-Loop Systems (e.g. B2B) gaining popularity.
- Moves away from energy recovery where large capacities exist
- Material being seen as a resource/secondary resource i.e. not “waste”.
- 100% mechanical recycling looks unachievable, other forms of disposal (e.g. recovery) also needed.
- Landfill ban achievable? Ultimately some waste always moves to landfill in other countries (e.g. China).
- Levies/taxes on packaged goods to cater for disposal with EPR being very popular.
- Competition between EPR schemes.
- “Eco” Plastics.
- RIC codes.
- Light-weighting and down-gauging.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PET/PLASTICS

- Limited reuse PET.
- Large and growing availability of material.
- Large pool of available unskilled labour, fits well with the low/no skill entry requirements to conduct the labour.
- SMME development.
- Improved jobs, transition from low/no skill to skilled and semi skilled.
- Government does not have to start from scratch, public and private sector can compliment each other.
- Build upon positive consumer behaviour, willingness to recycle.
- National anti-littering campaign.
- Brand Owner Commitment for recycled content.
- 10% import duty on PET.

# OBSTACLES TO MOVING FORWARD

- Distances make recovery of low-value resource difficult and expensive from remote areas.
- Limited skills available in SA, public and private.
- Producers who have little/no understanding (or even willingness to accept) principle of EPR.
- Development of end-use markets necessary to sustain collection.
- Access to feedstock.
- Price sensitivity.
- Quality of material.
- Relationship between national gov. and industry.
- Labelling and polymer identification codes.