



The Recycled Material Standard

A Guide to RMS at GreenBlue

1. [GreenBlue](#) is a non-profit sustainability organization focused on sustainable materials management and is the parent organization of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition.
2. GreenBlue is developing a new certification standard for making recycled content claims which we call the Recycled Material Standard (RMS). The RMS will offer a chain-of-custody standard for tracking recycled content claims.
3. GreenBlue has enlisted the assistance of NSF International, a globally accredited certification and verification body, to help us develop the standard.
4. The RMS will be founded on a mass balance approach similar to credit-based claims commonly used in certified forest fiber systems.
5. We have assembled a multi-stakeholder advisory group to assist with shaping the standard. The Advisory Committee will also conduct a public stakeholder review process. The list of Advisory Committee members can be found [here](#).
6. We will include post-industrial materials as well as post-consumer materials, and we will include material specific definitions and examples of sources.
7. We are also introducing a commodity trading system for recycled material certificates much like renewable energy certificates (RECs) or carbon offsets.
8. Compliance with the RMS will require third-party auditing.
9. The standard will ultimately cover multiple materials; our first module will focus on plastics.
10. The standard will include labeling options which will be tested with consumers.



Commonly Asked Questions

How is the RMS different from other recycled content systems that already exist or are under development?

There are numerous standards that have been published related to recycled content, however, most standards are developed for specific business segments, e.g. green building, textiles etc. The RMS is focused on materials commonly used in consumer packaging.

The RMS will encompass three different types of claims under two independent tracking systems (chain-of-custody and certificate-based trading). To our knowledge, no other organization is considering a certificate-based trading system for recycled content. The variety and flexibility of the RMS is intended to provide continuity for consumers and brands while meeting the needs of the industry and enabling new mechanisms to encourage the use of recycled content.

More details on the tracking systems can be found on our [website](#).

Why is GreenBlue developing this standard?

Data from the Sustainable Packaging Coalition's database on corporate goals shows that recycled content is one of the most common goals related to responsible sourcing of materials. However, to date there is not a comprehensive third-party certification standard that has been developed specifically for the packaging value chain.

Sustainable Packaging Coalition members represent the entire recycling value chain. Contextual interviews with members have shown support for the development of the standard and the program has been presented at several SPC events; in other words, our members want us to do this.

GreenBlue has experience working with consumers and the Federal Trade Commission through the development and implementation of the How2Recycle program and can apply that experience to the development of a new labeling system.



Commonly Asked Questions

Will the RMS be suited for mechanical and so called “chemical recycling” processes?

Yes. “Chemical recycling” is a term used to describe a host of different technology platforms, also known as “advanced recycling technologies” or “feedstock recycling”.

The RMS will allow for tracking recycled materials from chemical recycling processes using a mass balance approach, supported by a chain-of-custody process. This will help supply chain members make credible recycled material claims while using plastics similar to virgin quality.

What is NSF’s role in the process?

NSF International is assisting with the development of the Recycled Material Standard using their consensus-based approach to developing public health and safety standards. As a globally accredited certification and verification body, NSF has the expertise in developing systems to consistently measure and assess both process and performance. NSF’s consensus-building process is designed for openness and transparency – requiring open discussion and input from a diverse representation of stakeholders, including a stakeholder comment resolution process and a public comment period.

Who will be eligible to audit the standard?

We have not yet set the criteria for eligibility but the intent is to establish criteria and build capacity within the audit community so that multiple certification bodies are able to provide this service.

How can I stay up to date on the development of the RMS?

If you would like to receive updates on progress, please fill out the form [here](#). We will also be conducting a public review of the standard and will welcome input from all interested stakeholders through that process.