

Resource	2021-22 Consumption & Recovery Data Report – Flexible Plastics Reclassification
Version	1
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Packaging Recycling potential in APCO Consumption and Recovery Reporting

The determination of packaging recyclability supports the evaluation of progress against the following 2025 Target:

- 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging.

Throughout the Consumption and Recovery report, the term *good recycling potential* is used as an umbrella term for reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging.

The method for determining packaging recycling potential uses scores based on the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP) assessment framework. Generalised PREP extracted scores have been developed for each packaging material type and packaging component combination.

A recycling potential classification scoring framework has been developed for both Business to Consumer (B2C) and Business to Business (B2B) packaging sectors of use. The assessment framework is based on scoring against the following three criteria:

- Collection system widely available (C).
- Sortable and technically recyclable (S/T).
- End-market available for recovered material (M).

An overall 'recycling potential' classification score has been determined for each packaging format, based on the scores for the three criteria above. The overall score is simply the lowest of the three criteria scores.

Reclassification of B2C Flexible Plastics in 2021-22 Consumption and Recovery Report

Across the period of 2017–18 to 2020–21 the 'collection system widely available' recycling potential classification score for flexible B2C plastic packaging that was accepted by the REDcycle program was 'Good recycling potential (2)'. For 2021–22 this score has been changed to 'Not recyclable (0)'.

The B2C scoring framework is summarised in the following table:

Table 1: Recycling Potential Classification Score Basis for Each Criterion – B2C Packaging

Classification (score)	C	S/T	M
Good recycling potential (2)	The material is widely collected at kerbside (>80% of the kerbside population has access to a council service), or is a certified compostable plastic.	The material can be readily sorted at a MRF and causes no significant issues for reprocessors, or is a certified compostable plastic.	There is a well-established market for the use of the recycled material, or is a certified compostable plastic.
Poor recycling potential (1)	The material is less widely accepted at kerbside (between 60–80% of the kerbside population has access to a council service).	The material can be readily sorted at a MRF but will cause some issues for reprocessors leading to a loss of value.	The material will be classified as an outthrow or it will have a reduced market value that makes its recovery marginal.
Not recyclable (0)	The material is not widely accepted at kerbside (<60% of the kerbside population has access to a council service).	The material can either not be readily sorted at a MRF or it impacts on the recovery of other materials at the reprocessor.	It is not economical to separate this material for use in other applications.

While the formal cessation of the REDcycle program was announced in November 2022 and outside of the 2021-22 reporting period, the determination to reclassify B2C REDcycle flexible packaging to 'not recyclable' was made based on the rationale that there was reasonable public knowledge and data to suggest that there was negligible recovery of post-consumer REDcycle material throughout the 2021-22 reporting period.

As such, a conservative approach was taken to reclassify REDcycle flexible plastics throughout the 2021-22 reporting period given the high visibility of the REDcycle program throughout the 2021-22 reporting period.