



Dow Chemical Company
Hefty Energy Bag Program
Sarah Blodgett: SSBlodgett@dow.com
Becky Zavala: BZavala@dow.com

October 23, 2017

As our many of our 6,000 members across North America have expressed concern about the use of the term “recycling” in describing a waste-to-energy program (for energy recovery purposes), I am writing to you regarding the definition of the term “recycling.”

The NRC definition of “Recycling” is:

“Recycling is a series of activities by which material that has reached the end of its current use is processed into material utilized in the production of new products.”

The National Recycling Coalition does not consider the Hefty Energy Bag Program as a “recycling program” and ask that the term recycling be removed as a descriptive term for this program. The 'energy recovery' of the bags is not consistent with the definition of recycling and therefore is not a recycling program.

The NRC does not consider the burning of plastics to meet the definition of recycling.

In addition, the NRC embraces Zero Waste, which by definition opposes incineration and any type of high temperature heat/burn treatment:

*“Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, **and not burn or bury them.** Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”*

These policies can be found on the NRC website at: <https://nrcrecycles.org/nrc-policies/> If you have any questions regarding these definitions and the NRC position on the DOW Hefty Energy Bag Program, please contact me at 512-568-8340.

Bob Gedert, President
National Recycling Coalition



202.618.2107
info@NRCrecycles.org
1220 L St NW Suite 100-155 Washington, DC 20005