

## Ag Plastics Recycling Making Progress in a Down Market

Several years ago there were almost no markets but today ag plastics recycling is steadily gaining in NY. The Recycling Agricultural Plastics Program (RAPP) is part of the Cornell Waste Management Institute and is largely funded through DEC and the Environmental Protection Fund. Approximately 10% of NY's used agricultural plastics are now being recycled. About 1 million pounds are being recycled per year.

Polyethylene films are the largest volume collected. Approximately half the material recently shipped has been processed into trash bags at two plants, one in NY City. Revolution Bag, produced from New York sourced recycled agricultural plastics is one example. NY ag plastics have also shipped for plastic



to lumber and to three different plastic to fuel plants.

RAPP contracts with local agencies such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Cornell Cooperative Extension to help educate and collect materials. Two county Solid Waste Departments, Madison and Delaware, have assumed the full collection role through their recycling programs.

RAPP helps coordinate shipments to market.

RAPP is actively seeking new solid waste partners to expand farm access to recycling. Feel free to contact us at [CWMI@cornell.edu](mailto:CWMI@cornell.edu) and visit our website at <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu>

*Submitted by Nate Leonard, State Field Coordinator, Recycling Agricultural Plastics Program*