



RECYCLING OF PET TRAYS:

IK WORKING GROUP SUCCEEDS WITH PILOT PROJECT – ETIMEX TAKES ON A LEADING ROLE

The PET trays working group of the IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e. V. announces the successful completion of a pilot project on closed-loop recycling of PET trays. In the course of this project, the members of the IK working group, together with a producer of optical sorting units, rented a sorting line end of August 2018. Out of 30 tons of mixed PET material collected from the dual systems (yellow bag/yellow container), clear mono-PET trays were separated out and subsequently shredded, washed and processed into flakes. These flakes were then used by an IK member company to produce PET film, of which they made new PET trays.

“For lack of suitable sorting and recycling technology, recycling of PET trays has been considered difficult so far. The successful conclusion of this project, however, proves that PET trays can in fact be recycled into PET trays again. From a legal point of view, however, food contact is not allowed with such recycled PET trays, but we will find a solution”, states Sebastian Kremer, chairman of the working group, with regard to the results of this large-scale test. In fact, further tests with significantly more input material are planned to be run in order to respond to open questions relating to industrial sorting, material recycling and product use.

The IK PET trays working group was created end of February 2018 and has been aiming at further increasing the market for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) trays by ensuring their recyclability. The working group consists of companies belonging to the PET packaging value chain, including manufacturers of PET trays, PET blisters, PET surface films and optical sorting units, as well as PET recycling companies.

The IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e. V. (German Association of Plastics Packaging and Industrial Films) represents the interests of manufacturers of plastics packaging and films in Germany and Europe. The branch of mainly medium-sized enterprises employs more than 90,000 people and generates yearly sales of 15 billion euros. Plastics packaging currently accounts for a 44% share of the German packaging market.

The IK is the largest supporting member of the German Association of Plastics Converters (GKV) and therefore is also involved in matters concerning the entire plastics processing industry.

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