



**The Association of Postconsumer
Plastic Recyclers**

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CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SITE SOUGHT FOR NEW PLASTIC TEST CENTER LAB

PET Packaging Trade Organization is Awarded Grant Funds to Seek Partner

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA, April 8, 2009 – The National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), in conjunction with the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR), today announced that they will seek a suitable California college or university at which to site a Test Center laboratory capable of testing recycling stream compatibility for plastic packaging. The primary funding source for this project is a grant awarded in late 2008 through the California Department of Conservation Beverage Container Recycling Market Development and Expansion Grant Program.

The search for a partner college or university will begin this spring with a Request for Interest and Qualification (RFQ) process, followed by a Request for Proposal and an Information Workshop, both to occur later this year. The full grant period extends through August of 2010 and culminates in the development of a three-year business and funding plan for the Test Center.

“We’re looking for a strong reciprocal relationship with our college or university partner,” said NAPCOR Executive Director, Dennis Sabourin. “While we don’t know exactly what form this relationship will take at this stage, our goal is to create a competent, independent, and financially self-supporting Test Center that utilizes the strengths and assets of our partner. In return, we hope to provide them with a direct link to industry; plastic packaging innovation; test protocols and evaluation criteria; and evolving technology.”

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The impetus behind this project is the increasing concern expressed by all stakeholders – brand owners, package designers, recyclers, and others – that plastic packaging be recyclable. As performance and brand-differentiating plastic packaging innovations are developed, independent testing is critical to ensure that these innovations don't adversely affect the health of the California recycling stream, a stream made up of over five billion plastic containers collected annually. The Test Center will have the capability to run the full range of recycling compatibility protocols and criteria as contained in the *Critical Guidance and Applications Guidance Documents*, developed by the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) for both Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) and High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), the two plastic resins used in the manufacture of over 95% of all plastic bottles sold to the consuming public.

“The APR has developed its *Critical Guidance and Application Guidance Documents* through a multi-year, collaborative process with its reclaimer, plastic resin, packaging manufacturer, and brand company members,” said Steve Alexander, APR's Executive Director. “The consensus process used to develop the guidance protocols is the same as that used for national and international standards preparation. An independent Test Center will be an essential resource to improve the quality of recycled plastic packaging and enhance the efficient and economical use of California recycled plastics.”

The Request for Interest and Qualifications (RFIQ) will be sent to California universities and colleges in April 2009 and is also available on line at <http://www.napcor.com/plastic/bottles/RFIQ.html>. For questions, please email keagles@napcor.com.

Founded in 1987, the **National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR)** is the trade association for the PET plastic industry in the United States and Canada. NAPCOR is dedicated to the promotion of the PET package and to the recycling of post consumer PET containers (<http://www.napcor.com>). **The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR)** is the national trade association representing companies who acquire, reprocess and sell the output of more than 90 percent of the post-consumer plastic processing capacity in North America. The APR was founded in 1992 (<http://www.plasticsrecycling.org>).