



# Not My Problem?

## Environmentally Preferred Plastic Bags

...“Sure, I care about the environment. Don’t we all? My plastic packaging can be recycled ... my supplier assures me that it is made with some recycled content. They even put the recycle symbol right on the bottom of the bag!” ...

Sound familiar? I know I’ve heard it before. But there’s really more to it than just picking a bag. It stretches all the way back to the creation of the bag. Every one in the supply chain needs to share the same environmental concerns to make a real impact.

In other words, even if your packaging is recyclable and contains a high recycled content, it may not be environmentally friendly. The manufacturer of the bag must share your commitment. Far more environmental damage can occur in the making of a bag than from careless use or disposal at the consumer level.

So what can be done? How can you be assured that your supplier adheres to the highest environmental standards? Further, what are those standards?

In order to address these issues, Bags, Inc. is supporting a voluntary industry certification program currently under development. This program, called the Environmentally Preferred Plastic Bag (EPPB), independently certifies that suppliers adhere to the highest levels of environmental practices.

EPPB Certified Manufacturers:

- Emit no pollutants into the atmosphere and waterways
- Use toxin-free inks and colorants
- Use certified post-consumer recycled plastics
- Prevent all plastic pellets from entering our waterways

### Standards for EPPB Certification

Standards for EPPB certification are currently under development. Each certified company will submit to an independent audit based on the final criteria and become eligible for certification as they meet the criteria in each of five separate areas:

- **Recycled Content**
- **Air Emissions**
- **Heavy Metal Free Additives**
- **Pellet Containment**
- **Community Service & Education**

These standards are designed to address all areas of the creation process, from handling of raw materials through the actual manufacturing of the bag to the general housekeeping surrounding the facility. They’re designed to assure adherence to the highest levels of environmental commitment.

### The Bottom Line

It’s true ... it’s everyone’s problem. Not all plastic bags are created equally! Help ensure that your suppliers share your concern for the environment. Ask about their commitment.

For more information, please contact:

**Bags, Inc.**  
6205G Lookout Road  
Boulder, CO 80301  
Toll Free: 888-740-2247  
E-Mail: [efbags@bagsco.com](mailto:efbags@bagsco.com)  
Website: [www.bagsco.com](http://www.bagsco.com)  
Buy On-Line: [www.bagsweb.com](http://www.bagsweb.com)

