

VRA policy on single use plastic.

The Virginia Recycling Association supports the reduction of single serve plastic through education and consumer choice, but does not support banning single use plastic water bottles labeled as number #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE). These plastics have well established recycling markets and are an important feedstock material for manufacturers creating items such as new plastic bottles, carpet, recycled plastic containers, and textiles. There is a well-established collection process in place allowing these plastics to be collected efficiently and effectively and be recycled. These plastics provide material recovery facilities (MRFs) with an important revenue stream which helps lower the overall cost of recycling to residents and municipalities. In addition, these single use plastic bottles provide an effective way for products to be transported to the point of use for consumers and are more cost effective than other alternatives, not to mention the alternatives are not guaranteed to be multi-use or recyclable. VRA supports the recycling of single use plastics and would support other methods to increase recycling rates for single use plastics that help the recycling industry and manufacturers relying on this raw material feedstock.