

Dark film isn't friendly for the environment. Or it's just a false assumption?

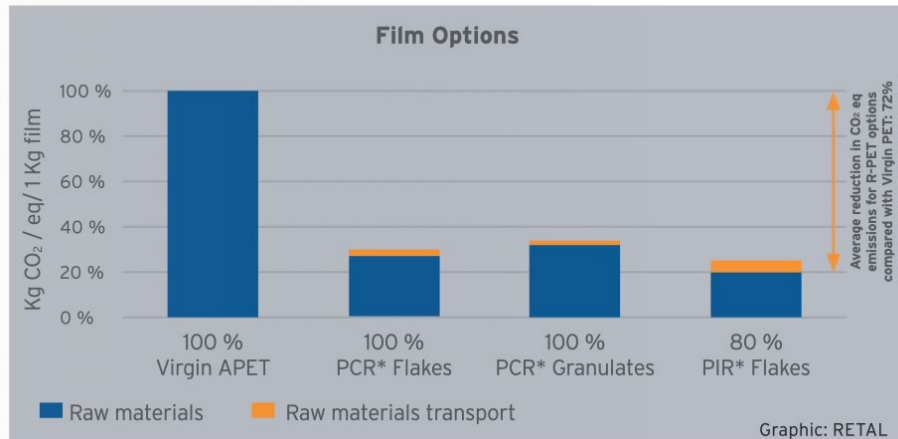
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Carbon footprint (CF) calculation study in Retal Baltic Films just showed that such assumption is not quite applicable to all plastics and products.

We've made the calculations with different types of our films and found out some interesting results. But before that, some information to better understand the concept. Black or brown APET film is a perfect grade for using the post industrial waste for recycling purposes. To produce it, we can collect not only our, but also client's (brand owner, thermoformer) production waste in film or flake form and produce a new film. By doing this we can return up to 40% of plastic, used in production. It's not something new to be done, but new is what we found out about it. It seems that the use of such flakes not only return the plastic to the loop, but also has the lowest carbon footprint behind the production of such product. Let's see the table below: As we see, products that contain 80% of PIR flakes showed the best results in regards of CO₂ and despite of additional transportation from our customer, we still have it as lowest CO₂ generating product. Up to 80% PIR is used because we have to cast outer layers of the film

using Virgin resin for safe contact with food. Even having this amount of Virgin, dark film is the best option to implement the waste from post production. Our use of non carbon colorants, support the recyclability of these films and this means they should not be misunderstood when considering the environmental aspects. Sustainability is not only about the recyclability but also economic concern. Here we also have a clear advantage. This grade, despite the demand and prices of recycled materials are in all time heights, is even less expensive than any other rPET or Virgin material. Adding all additional transportation, administration and shredding costs together we still get the

lower product price than regular from Virgin or rPET resin. Having all these benefits, we can no longer state that dark films are bad for recycling. Yes, in many cases this is true, but not here. That is why we can reassure our customers, that sourcing dark film from us is not only cheaper, but also more sustainable solution for their packaging.



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