

The RMS is the most comprehensive third party standard available for recycled materials. Through the Attributes of Recycled Content (ARC) certificate trading system, RMS provides a finance mechanism to support investment in both mechanical and chemical recycling infrastructure. RMS labels can be applied to plastic products or packages to help celebrate the use of recycled materials.

HOW ARCs WORK

ARCs are a form of environmental commodity that allow the environmental attribute of recycled materials to be traded separately from the physical commodity. Similar certificate trading systems have been used successfully in other sectors, such as the use of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for renewable energy. An ARC represents the environmental attribute of one metric ton of output produced from recycled input materials. Each ARC carries the attributes – recycled status and material type – of the base materials that supported its issuance.

NO DOUBLE COUNTING

Once an ARC is generated, the base materials that supported its issuance may no longer carry a recycled status. ARCs are traded through a secure online registry system developed by GreenBlue partner APX. The registry tracks ownership of ARCs throughout their lifecycle, and ARCs must be retired by purchasers before any claims of support for investments in recycling can be made.

SUPPORTING NEW INVESTMENTS IN RECYCLING

Because the purpose of ARCs is to provide a finance mechanism to advance investment in both mechanical and chemical recycling, the RMS includes a robust set of criteria modeled after additionality tests established for carbon trading. This means that purchasers of ARCs are helping to direct investments to recyclers to improve the quality and supply of recycled materials.

