



Press release

IK-Initiative ERDE: ambitious collection goals for 2022



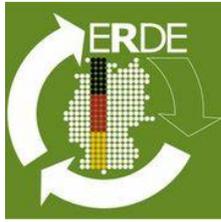
Silage films, stretch films, bale nets, baler twine, perforated film, PP non-wovens and asparagus film are among the agricultural plastic products collected by the ERDE initiative. © ERDE

Bad Homburg, February 2022

About half of the land in the Federal Republic of Germany is used for agricultural purposes. In total around 83 000 tons of crop plastics is used on farms in Germany per year. The *IK-initiative ERDE* offers a nationwide solution for the return and recycling of used crop plastics. ERDE is jointly supported by environmentally conscious members of the IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V. in cooperation with RIGK GmbH.

In 2022 ERDE will continue to offer farmers and contractors a cost-effective, nationwide return option for their used crop plastics. An app available for download on the ERDE website (<http://www.erde-recycling.de>) provides quick and easy information on collection dates and locations in 2022. The collection targets for 2022 are ambitious: In addition to including mulch film in the national collection scheme, the goal is to collect and recycle 65 percent of the silage and stretch films put on the German market - about 34 000 tons. In addition to that, ERDE will increase the collection of bale nets by 20 percent to 720 tons. For baler twine the target is to increase collections by 45 percent to 200 metric tons.

The latter two collection groups are a challenge for the system: both products often end up as misdirected waste in the private recycling bin, where they disrupt established recycling processes. Baler twine can already be recycled within Europe, while recycling routes for bale nets will only open up this year. Pre-cleaned, bundled collection through collection systems like ERDE helps make recycling processes technically and economically viable.



Recycling routes also already exist for the fairly new collection fraction non-wovens – for this product group the goal is to increase the collection volume by at least 80 percent. The demand from farmers for disposal options is substantial and growing across all product groups.

Under the umbrella of IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V. and in cooperation with system operator RIGK, ERDE organises the recovery and recycling of used crop plastics, such as silage film, stretch film, asparagus film, perforated film, bale nets, baler twine and PP non-wovens, through collection partners throughout Germany. Supply agencies and farmers collect the crop plastics, pack and deliver them – swept clean and free of the worst of the dirt – to a collection point (www.erde-recycling.de/rund-um-die-abgabe/sammelstellen-termine.html). Collection points set the collection prices individually. Recycling companies process the collected goods into new plastic feedstocks.

Any producer or distributor of crop plastics that supplies the German market can become an ERDE member. The following 25 ERDE members take responsibility for their products and the environment: ape Europe, ASPLA S.A., Groupe Barbier, Berry bpi, Berry Fiberweb France, CLAAS Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH, Cordex - Companhia Industrial Textil S.A., Coveris Flexibles Austria GmbH, Daios Plastics S.A., DUOPLAST AG, KARATZIS S.A., Manupackaging Deutschland GmbH, NOVATEX, PIlppo OYJ, Plastika Kritis S.A., POLIFILM Extrusion GmbH, Ab Rani Plast Oy, Reyenvas S.A., RKW Agri GmbH & Co. KG, Sotrafa S.A., Tama Group, Tecfil S.A., Tencate Geosynthetics, TRIOWORLD GmbH und WKI Tegafol Sp. z o.o-

Further Information:

IK-Initiative ERDE

Dr. Lorena Fricke - Managing Director

Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 43

61348 Bad Homburg

Telefon +49 (0) 6172 92 66 30