



# From Garbage to Stuff: How We Recycle Plastics

Dr. William F. Carroll  
OxyChem

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Chemistry Department, Phillips Hall 401  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



Is that recycling bin the springboard to giving material a new life or is it simply a blue wastebasket? What about surplus materials from industrial processes? Do they find their way out the back door to the landfill? This presentation discusses the four critical steps in recycling - collection, separation, reprocessing and remanufacture - and how they relate to plastics. The technology, the cost and the efficacy of the processes all matter. And the operative word, plastics, really is plural. Presentation includes a primer in the basic kinds of plastics, how they differ and how they're used in common articles, especially packaging. The presenter brings a few common articles for demonstrations, and promises not to recycle an old quote from "The Graduate."

\*\*\* About the Speaker \*\*\*

Dr. William F. Carroll, Jr. holds a B.A. in Chemistry and Physics from DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, an M.S. from Tulane University in New Orleans, and a Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, majoring in Organic Chemistry. Bill started his industry career in 1978 and after a year with Rohm and Haas Company, Bristol, PA, moved to what is now known as Occidental Chemical Corporation. He is currently Vice President, Chlorovinyl Issues for OxyChem and works on public policy issues and communications related to chlorine and PVC. He is also Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana and teaches polymer chemistry there. Bill is a past President (2005) of the American Chemical Society, a member of the ACS Budget and Finance Committee, and past chair of its International Activities Committee. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a member of the US National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and chair of the Science Advisory Board for DePauw University. He has been an active member of and chaired various committees for a number of chemistry, plastics, fire protection and recycling organizations. He has served on expert groups commissioned by the United Nations Environmental Program, the State of Florida, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. He received the Vinyl Institute's Roy T. Gottesman Leadership Award for lifetime achievement in 2000.

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Gather at 5:30. Eat at 6:00 at Sweetwaters Restaurant, 1104 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire (near the intersection of Clairemont (US 12) and State Highway 37). Reservations should be made by contacting **Dave Lewis** at **715-836-4744** or email **lewisd@uwec.edu** before noon on Monday, April 21.

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