



Helping BPI Understand the Most Environmentally Friendly Waste Disposal Option



*“As the UK’s leading manufacturer of Polythene Film Products, BPI takes the environmental impact of their manufacturing and recycling activities very seriously. The work conducted by Valpak has therefore been critical to our understanding and management of the production and recovery of silage wrap, with regard to the environment.” **Andrew Green, Managing Director, BPI Recycled Products***

About the Customer

British Polythene Industries (BPI) are one of the leading manufacturers of polythene products supplying over 300,000 tonnes each year for a wide variety of everyday applications. They also have recycling plants which reprocess over 64,000 tonnes of UK plastic waste.

The Challenge

BPI wanted to understand the environmental impacts of their agricultural film. A key question they wanted answered was if it was better to recycle this film or landfill it at the end of its life.

The Solution

BPI asked Valpak to undertake a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of the manufacture and disposal of LLDPE agricultural silage plastic.

This study involved the detailed analysis of the complete life of the silage film from raw material manufacture to disposal. In doing this, two LCA’s were performed:

- Manufacture, collection and recycling of agricultural silage film
- Manufacture and disposal of silage film by farmers at landfill sites

The main activities contributing to the environmental impact of the film were identified so that they could be investigated further and the impacts reduced.

The Benefits

Valpak advised BPI of the main areas of the film’s lifecycle that contributed to the impacts.

Recommendations were made as to how these impacts could be reduced, which included practical advice such as increasing recycled content and re-assessing their raw material sourcing.

BPI has used the results to inform decision-making around the production and recovery of the film.