

What's in a bale?

Tracking food-grade polypropylene in the USA's recycling streams

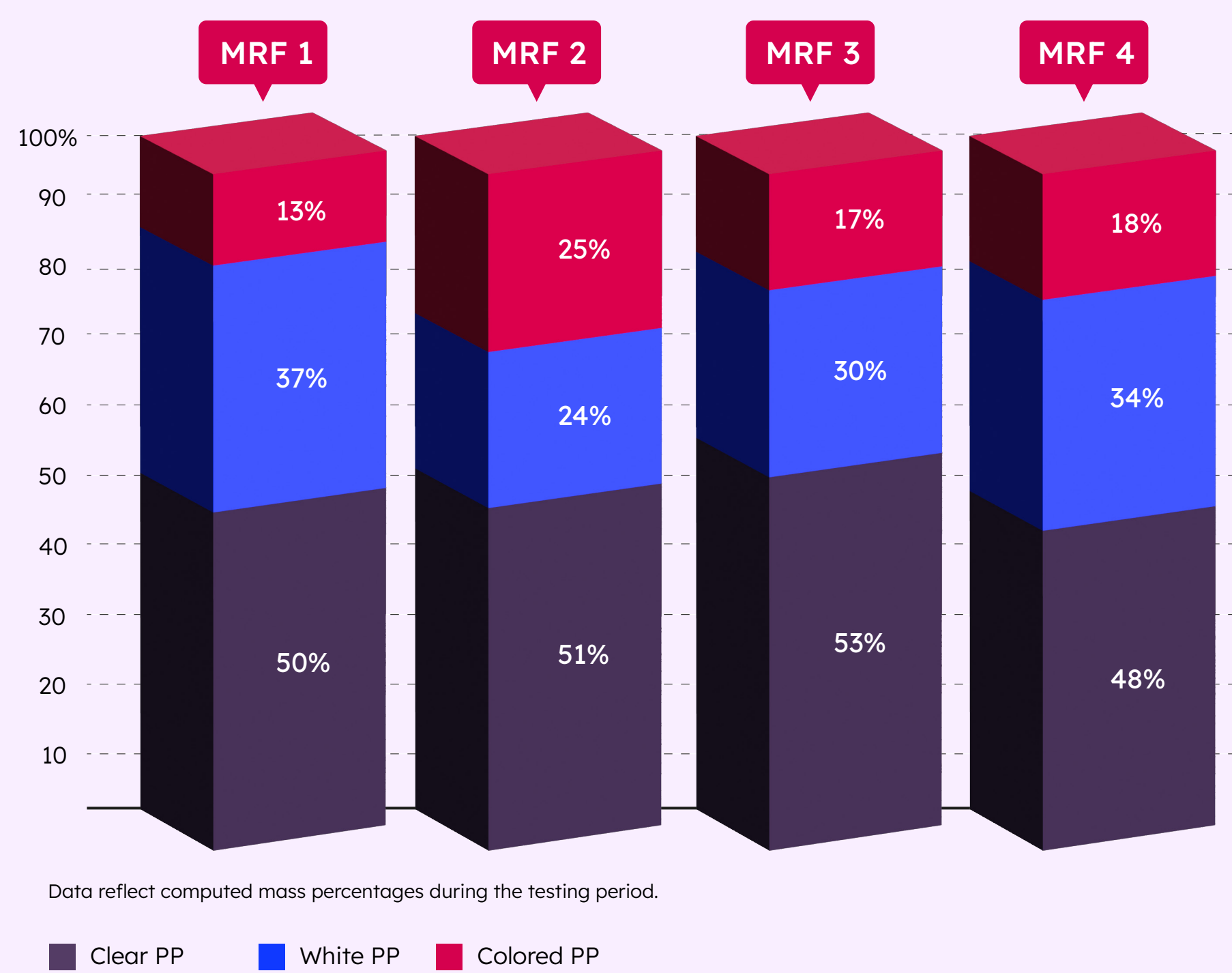
In the largest-ever study of post-consumer food-grade polypropylene (PP), we used AI to analyze 385.84 tons of PP at some of the USA's largest plastic recovery facilities, across 4 states.

Here's what we found:

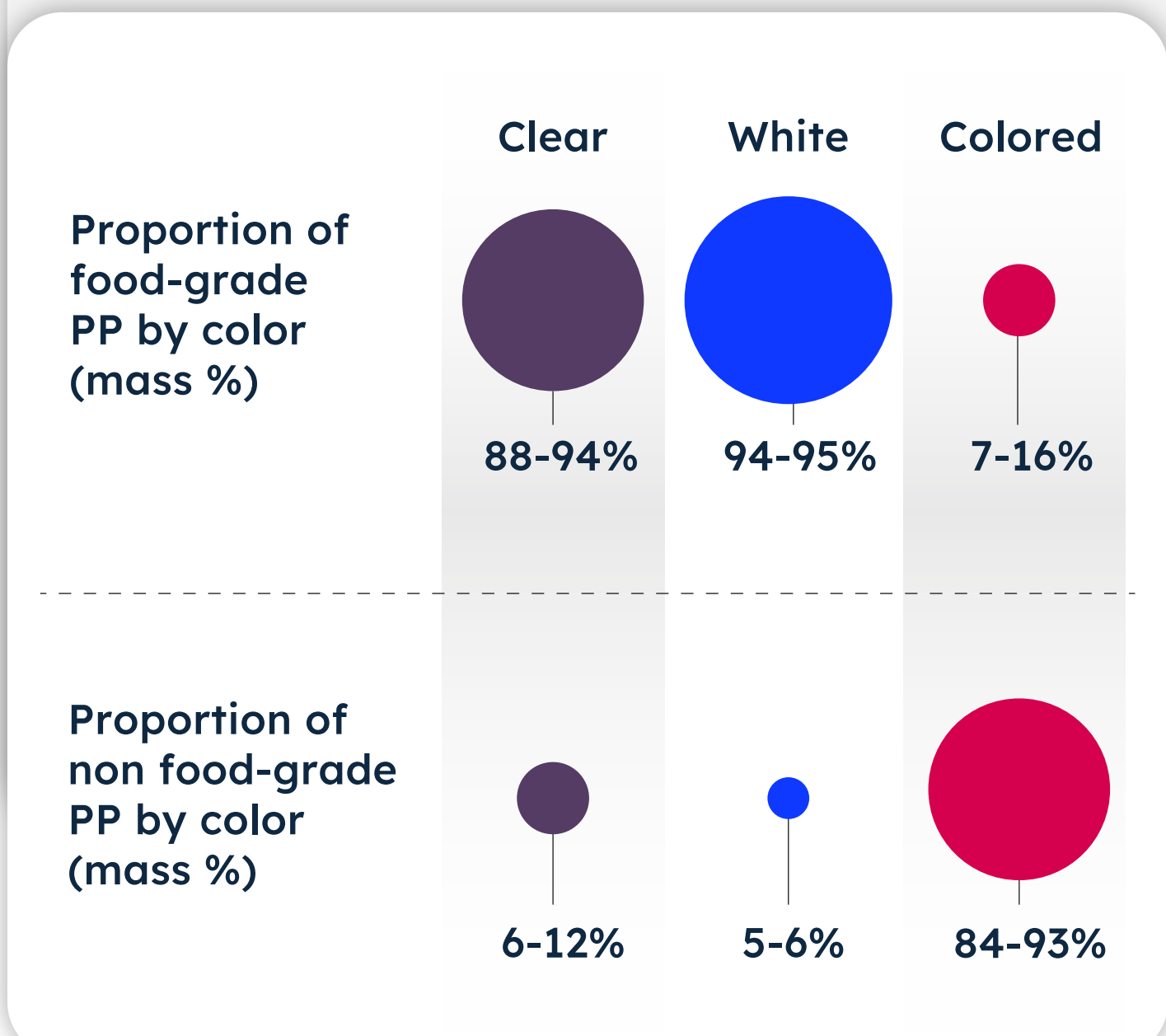
There is an **abundant supply of post-consumption polypropylene**, available for recycling.

Of all the PP objects we detected:

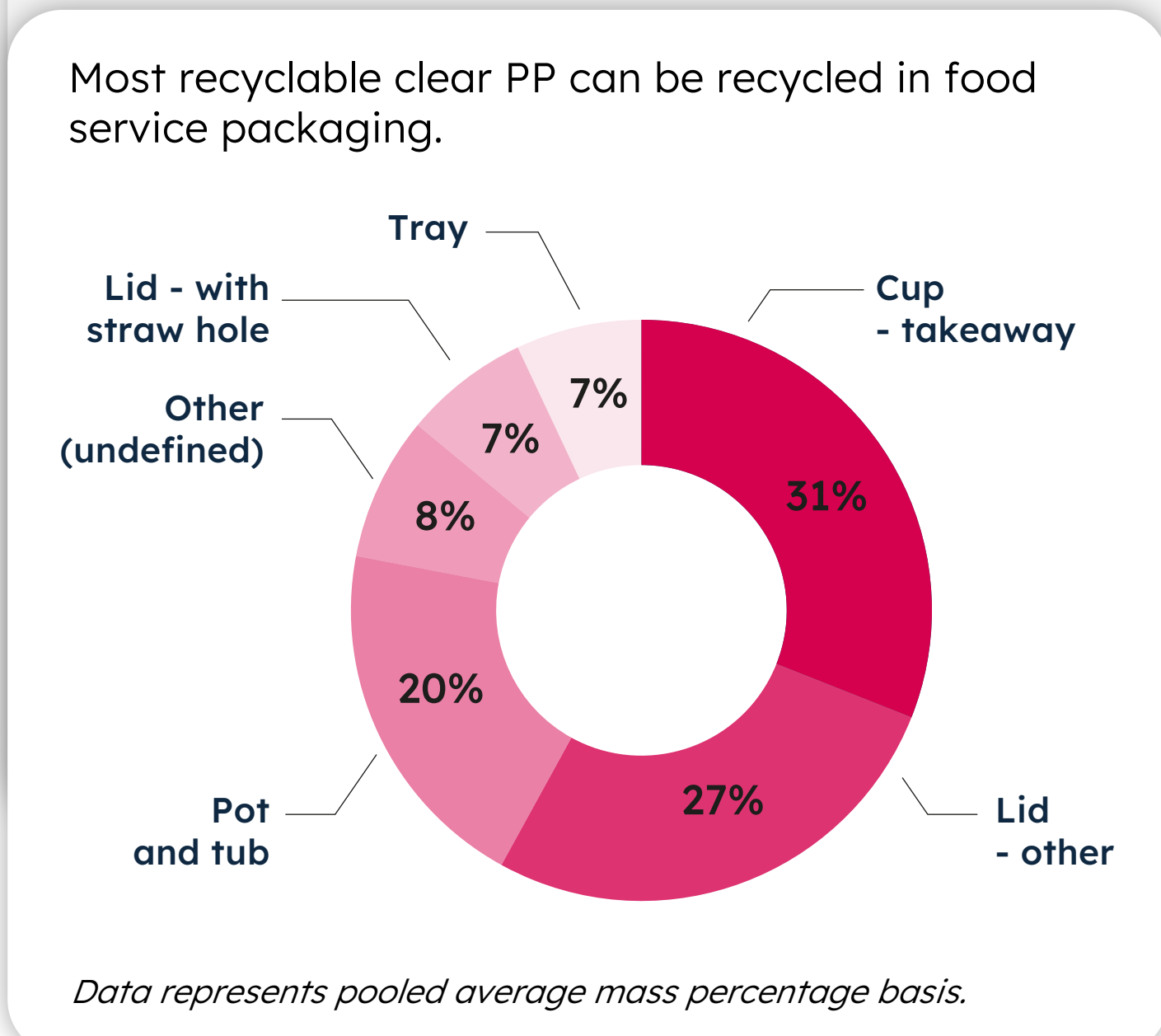
- >81%** were high-value clear or white PP
- >50%** were clear packaging
- >31%** were white packaging



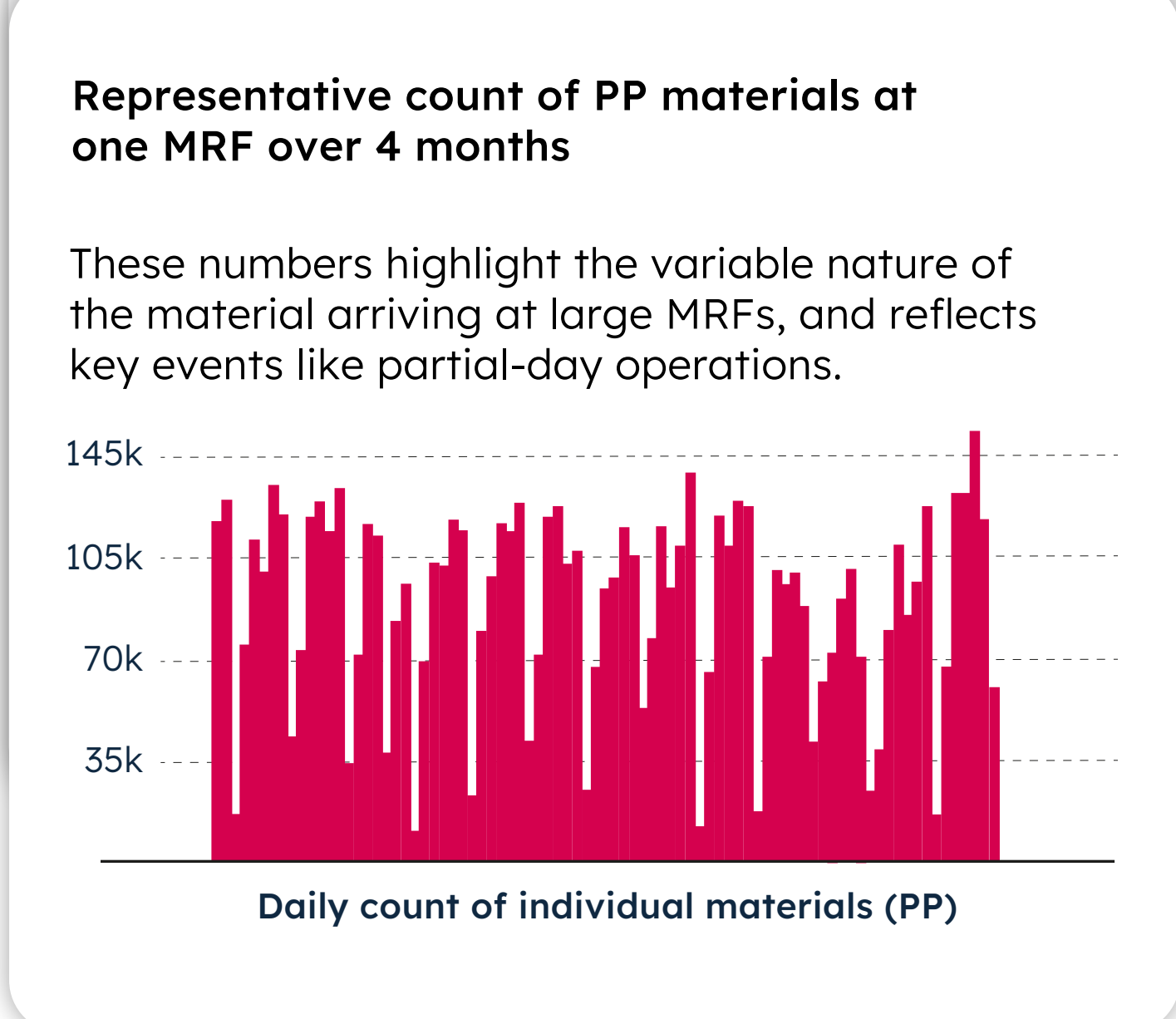
Most recyclable PP can be used for food service packaging
Clear and White PP accounted for the majority of food-grade PP.



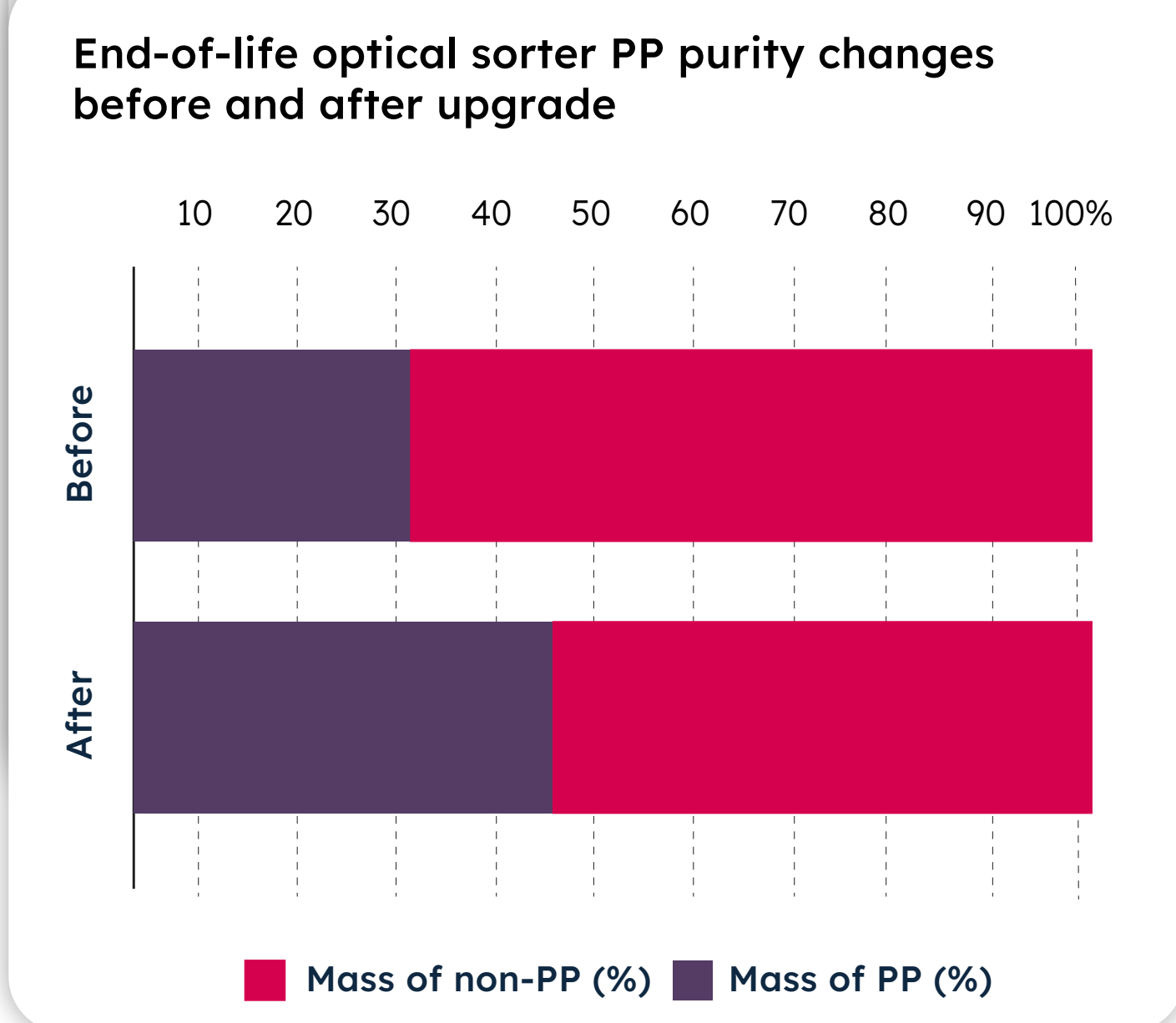
Food service packaging dominates clear PP supply
Takeaway cups comprised the largest fraction at around 31% (mass basis), followed by lids, then by pots and tubs.



PP volume shifts on a day-to-day basis
Creating a steady supply of recycled PP means accounting for fluctuations in supply and facility performance.

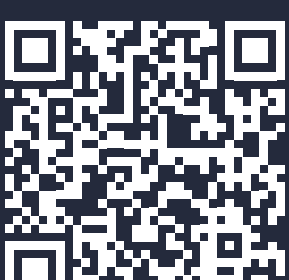


Maintenance improves recovery rates and increases supply of recycled PP
An optical sorter upgrade substantially increased PP purity by 13%.



Building a circular future for PP depends on action across the entire ecosystem

From design to recycling, every stakeholder has a role in keeping PP in use and out of waste, strengthening supply and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable system.



Download the report

Our mission is to use AI to digitize the waste value chain and accelerate our transition to a circular economy.

Get in touch

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