

Status of Recycling Markets in the Northeast

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

October 22, 2019

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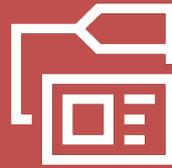


About NRRA

- Members are primarily municipalities, also businesses, and individuals
- Founded nearly 40 years ago



Cooperative Marketing



Enable communities
to manage their own
recycling programs



40 programs, including
single stream and
municipal solid waste



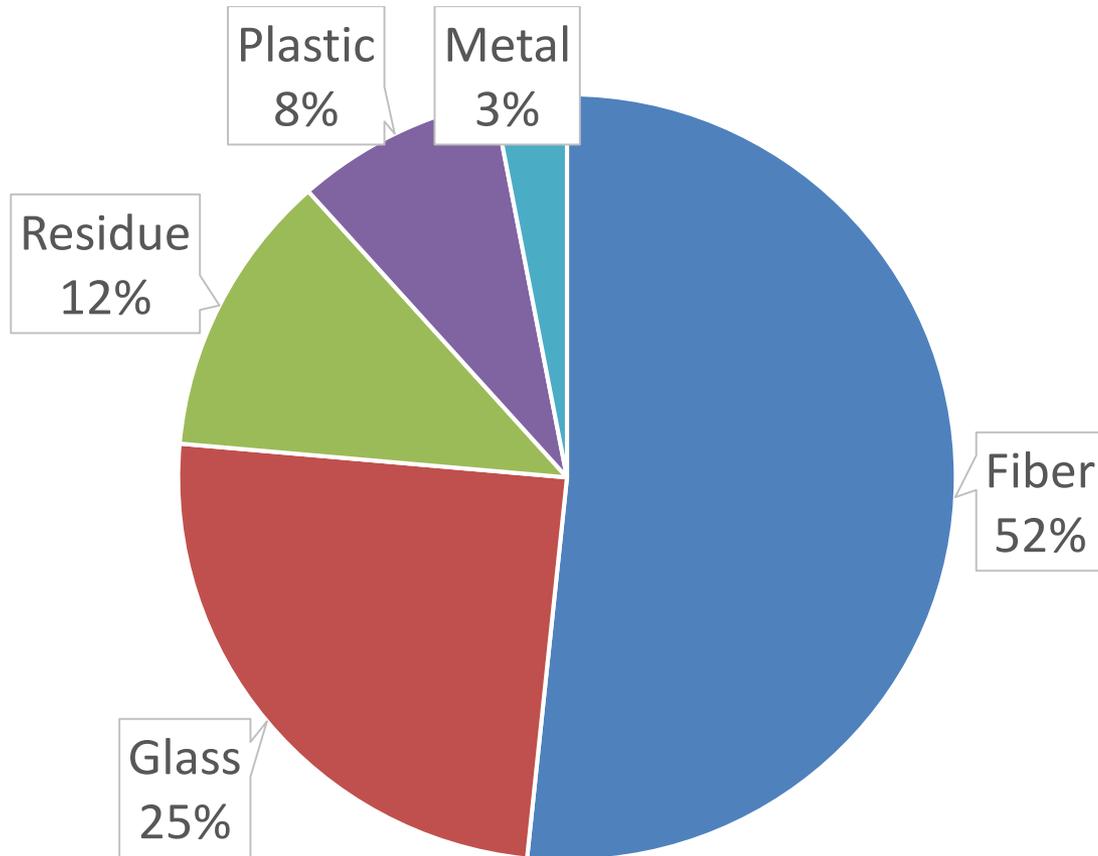
Connect sellers of
recyclables to
purchasers



Education

- Workshops
- Facility tours
- Networking
- Annual conference
- Technical assistance
- School club programs

Average Outbound Ton



[Source: Northeast Recycling Council \(2019\)](#)

Typically lower value commodities
because more contamination

Typically requires less space and
equipment for collection and storage

Higher contamination key factor leading
to China's National Sword

Single Stream Recycling
(versus source separation)

China's National Sword Policy

- Ban effective Jan. 1, 2018
- All plastics, unsorted mixed paper & textiles
- Some glass and metals
- 0.5% contamination limit versus prior 2%

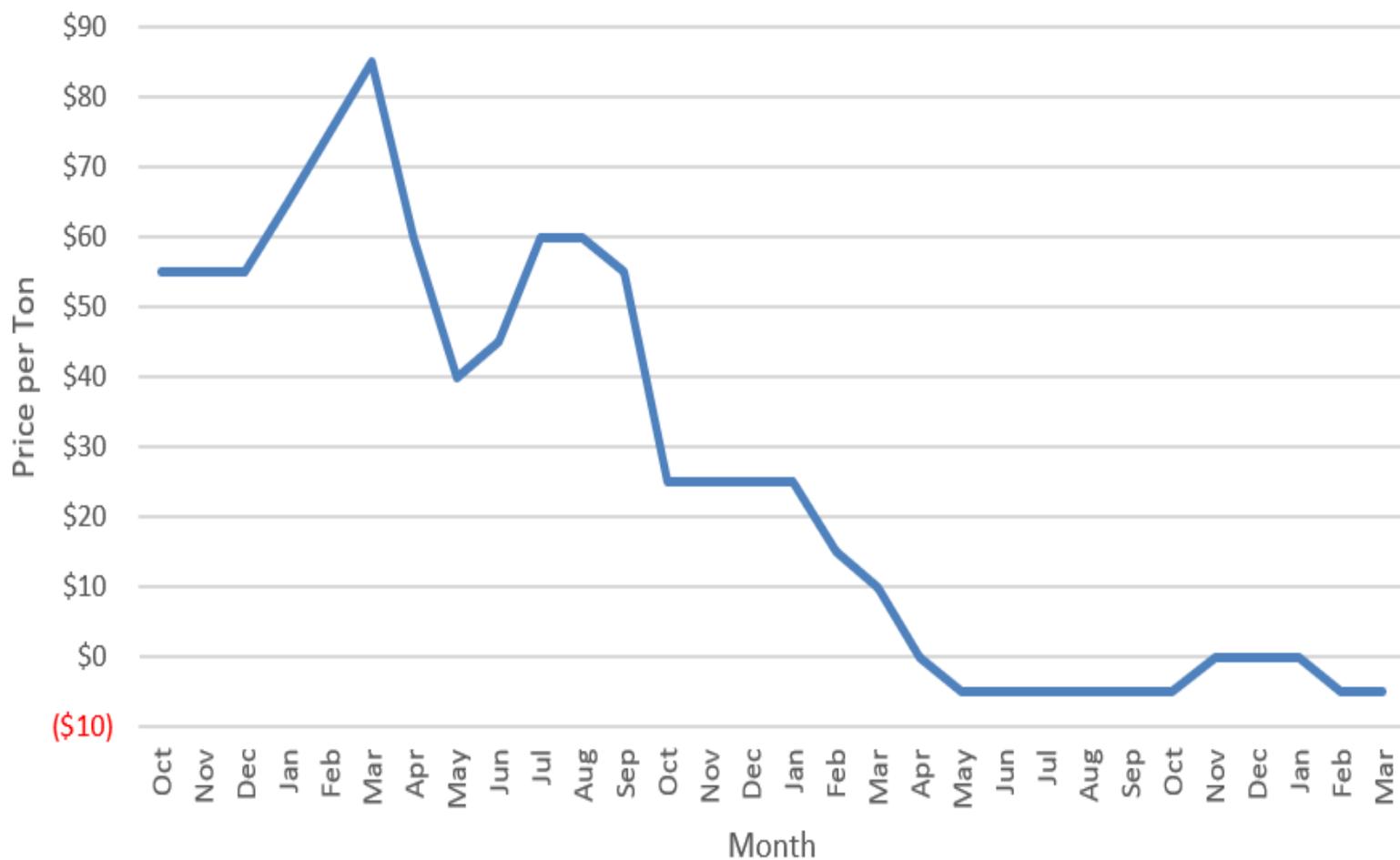


- Biggest impact from China's National Sword
- Pre-Sword, China purchased 55% of world's scrap paper

Fibers



Trading Price of Mixed Paper October 2016 to March 2019



(Source: NRRRA)

Silver Lining



Domestic investment
in paper mills



22 new and existing
mills increasing
capacity for mixed
paper



[Source: Northeast
Recycling Council
\(2019\)](#)



Glass

- Markets were poor before China
- NRRRA has programs for recycling and crushing glass into aggregate

Glass Recycling



Glass bottles and jars only



65+ communities in NH, VT
& MA



Canadian vendor cleans and
crushes



Made into fiberglass
insulation back in US

Processed Glass Aggregate

- Glass bottles and jars
- Pyrex, ceramics, porcelain, window glass, mirrors (NH & VT)
- Crush into aggregate
- Subbase for road and infrastructure projects
- 60+ communities in NH, VT & MA



Connecticut PGA Requirements (Strict)



Glass food or beverage containers



Less than 5% by volume non-glass contaminants



Crush to 3/8" or less



Use as fill as substitute, up to 10%,
for sand or gravel



[CT Gen Stat § 22a-208z \(2012\)](#)

Glass Recycling & PGA Sites

Glass Sites - PGA

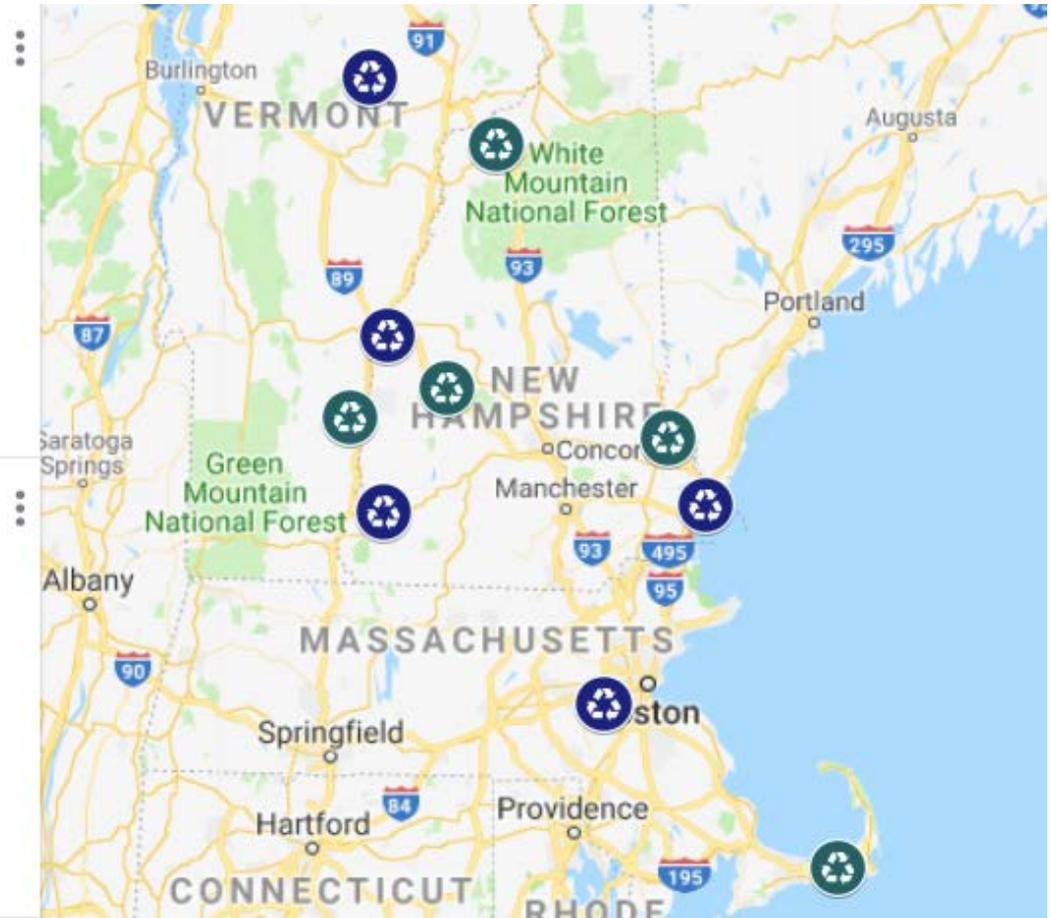
 Individual styles

-  New London, NH (30)
-  Springfield, VT (5)
-  Rochester, NH (20)
-  Dennis, MA (5)
-  Littleton, NH (pending)

Glass Sites - Recycling

 Individual styles

-  Lebanon, NH (4)
-  Keene, NH (31)
-  Hardwick, VT (29)
-  Wellesley, MA (1)
-  Rye, NH (1)



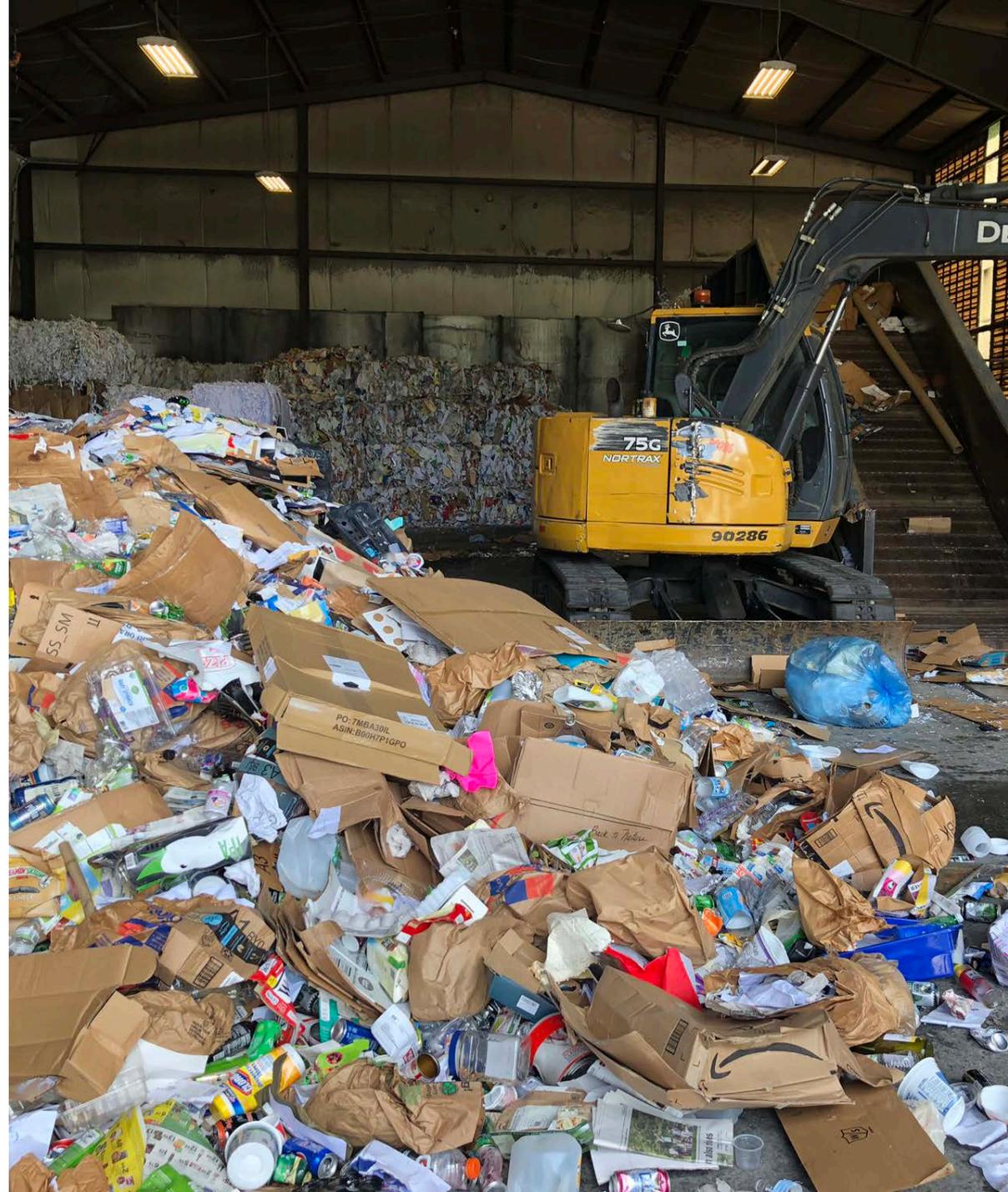
Metal & Plastic

- Smallest portion by weight of blended ton, but highest value
- Scrap plastic exports from the U.S. dropped by 35% from 2017 to 2018
- Sword had little direct impact on value of metals



Northeast Markets

Less effected by
China's National
Sword since less
sales to China
pre-Sword
compared to
West Coast





Materials Recovery Facility Financials

Tipping Fee with Contract	\$38.00
Processing Costs	(\$82.00)
Commodity value per ton with residuals	\$45.83
Total	\$1.83

[Source: Northeast Recycling Council \(2019\)](#)

Effect on Single Stream Communities



Depends on status of pre-Sword contracts



Post-Sword contracts seeing higher costs



Some switching from single stream to source separation



Some burning or landfilling recyclables temporarily (if state permits it)



Effect on Source Separating Communities

- Less impact because higher quality of commodities
- Less impact on plastic since NRRRA sells domestically

Source Separated Commodity Values

Sample Market Pricing for August 2019			
		Revenue / (Cost) Per Ton	
		Low	High
Metal	Aluminum Cans	\$500	\$880
Plastic	#2 HDPE Natural	\$180	\$370
Plastic	#1 PET	\$140	\$260
Plastic	#2 HDPE Colored	\$140	\$180
Metal	Steel Cans	\$70	\$142
Fiber	Sorted Office Paper	\$95	\$105
Fiber	#8 Newsprint	\$45	\$65
Plastic	#1 - #7	\$40	\$60
Fiber	OCC (Cardboard)	\$25	\$50
Fiber	Mixed Paper	(\$35)	(\$5)
Glass	Glass PGA	(\$60)	(\$35)

Source: NRRRA (assumes material baled and shipped in full loads)



Advice for Single Stream Communities

- Clean up your stream
- Educate residents about contamination
- Cart tagging campaigns
- Avoid making big changes



Northeast Resource Recovery Association
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USDA Support

This material is based upon work supported under a grant by the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utilities Service.



Thank you For Recycling

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