



## NERC Northeast Recycling Market Report

### **Periods Covered**

April 1 - June 30, 2023

July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023

*With Average Percentage of Outbound Tons Marketed per Commodity  
in Calendar Year 2022 Update*

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## Background

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) supports recycling market development and opportunities for improvements in its 11-state region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

In 2018, in partnership with the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA), we formed a *Regional Recycling Markets Development Committee*. The Committee determined that having information about the value of commodities processed by the region's Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)<sup>1</sup> would be helpful for assessing regional market trends and to serve as an educational tool for promoting improved residential recycling and participation. The results have been invaluable to recyclers, MRFs, and also municipalities and state agencies.

This is the 17th report. The first report covered the period April - June 2019 and focused on NERC's 11-state region. The scope of the participating states expanded in the first quarter of 2020 with the receipt of a grant from EPA Region 3. This report reflects information received from 13 MRFs in ten states. Among respondents are single stream, dual stream, and source separated MRFs. The survey is conducted quarterly.

These survey results reflect the differing laws and collection options in the participating states. Five of the states have beverage container deposit laws. As a result, fewer glass bottles, PET bottles and aluminum cans are processed in MRFs in those states. Those MRFs are also likely to have less revenue from those recyclables. In addition, the report reflects a mix of single stream, dual stream, and source separation to collect recyclables with single stream being the most common approach. The type of collection used will have an impact on MRF design and operation. Thus, the data from this report reflects the unique blend of facilities and statewide laws in the reporting states.

A special thank you to Robert (Max) Babits, RRS for providing technical support.

*At no time will any individual company information be shared with anyone outside of NERC staff. No participating facilities will be identified, and no state-specific data will be released.*

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<sup>1</sup> Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is a facility that receives, separates, and prepares recyclable materials from the public for marketing to processors and end-user manufacturers.

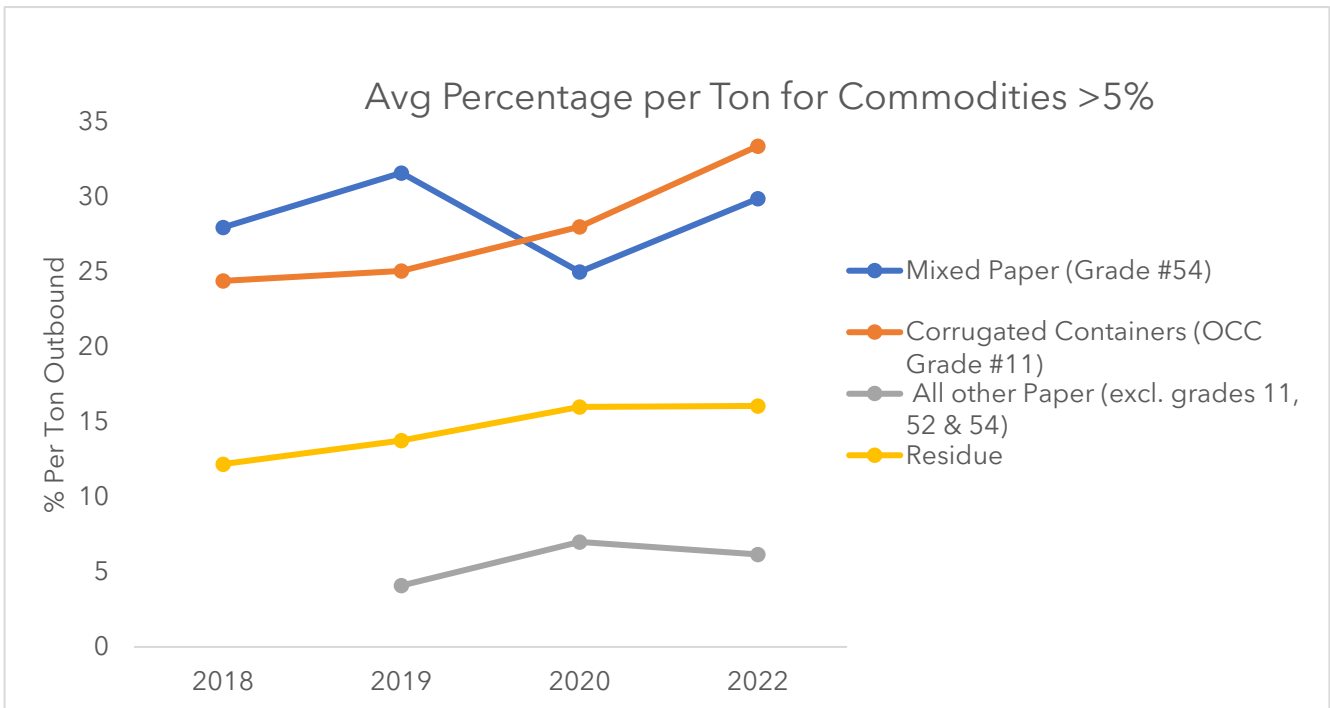
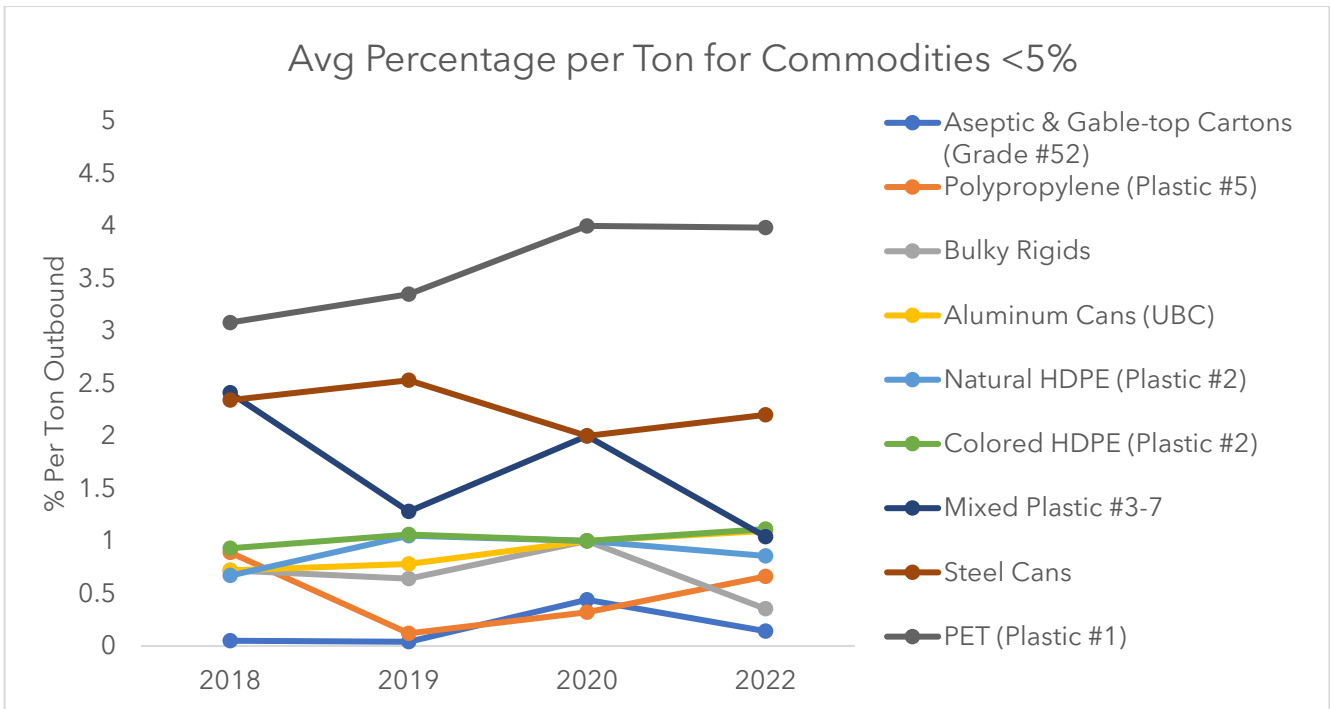
## Average Percentage of Outbound Tons Marketed per Commodity

Twelve MRFs reported the average percentage of total outbound tons marketed for calendar year 2022. The ton includes residue for which a disposal fee is paid. These percentages are used to calculate the average commodity value of a ton of material. The same percentages were used for analyzing data from the periods April - June 2023 and July - September 2023.

### Average Percentage of Outbound Tons Marketed per Commodity in Calendar Year 2022

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Average %</b>
Mixed Paper (Grade #54)	29.878
Corrugated Containers (OCC Grade #11)	33.393
Aseptic and Gable-top Cartons (Grade #52)	0.140
All other Paper (excluding grades 11, 52 & 54)	6.158
Aluminum Cans (UBC)	1.096
Steel Cans	2.200
PET (Plastic #1)	3.984
Natural HDPE (Plastic #2)	0.858
Colored HDPE (Plastic #2)	1.113
Mixed Plastic #3-7	1.040
Bulky Rigids	0.353
Polypropylene (Plastic #5)	0.662
Clear Glass Containers	4.755
Green Glass Containers	2.733
Brown Glass Containers	3.730
3 Mix Glass Containers	11.950
Residue	16.065

## Average Percentage of Outbound Tons Marketed per Commodity 2018-2022



## Average Commodity Value per Ton of Marketed Materials

Thirteen survey respondents reported the average value received/paid for common commodities from residential recycling during the periods April - June 2023 and July - September 2023. These values were then combined into a weighted average to reflect the blended value per ton for recyclables marketed in the region.

Residuals refers to the incoming material that cannot be marketed and goes to disposal. The value without residuals reflects the value of a ton of marketed material without the expense of handling residuals, while the value with residuals reflects the value of each ton processed with the costs of managing residuals taken into account.

Of the responding MRFs, 69% were single stream and 31% dual stream/source separated.

### *April - June 2023*

All Reporting MRFs	Blended Value April - June 2023	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter
Without residuals	\$85.63	10%
With residuals	\$76.99	13%

The increase in this quarter can be attributed to national and regional trends.

	Single Stream	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter	Dual Stream/Source Separated	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter
Without residuals	\$87.15	17%	\$83.55	-5%
With residuals	\$79.97	23%	\$73.18	-10%

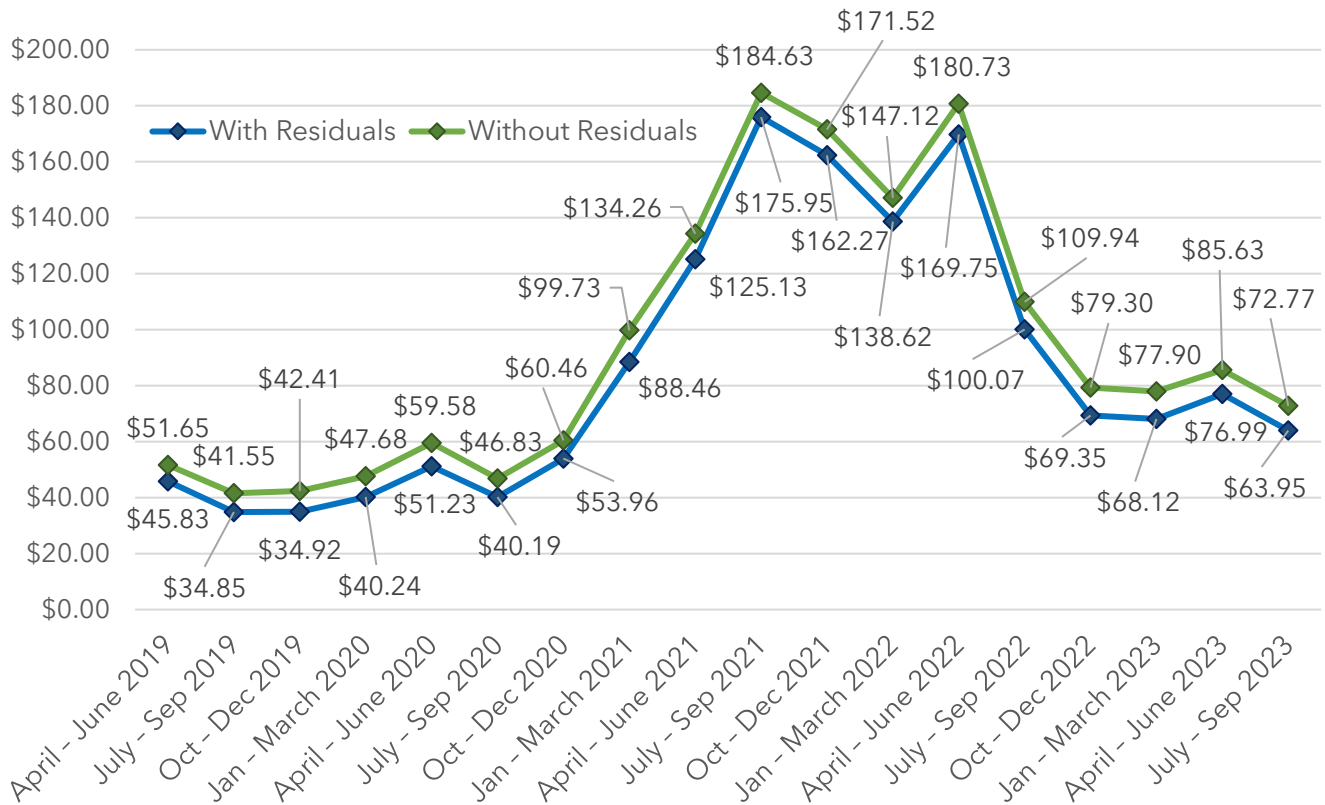
### *July - September 2023*

All Reporting MRFs	Blended Value July - September 2023	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter
Without residuals	\$72.77	-15%
With residuals	\$63.95	-17%

The decrease in this quarter can be attributed to national and regional trends.

	Single Stream	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter	Dual Stream/Source Separated	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter
<b>Without residuals</b>	\$72.97	-16%	\$79.58	-5%
<b>With residuals</b>	\$65.91	-18%	\$67.35	-8%

**Average Value Per Ton Trends: Q2 2019 - Q3 2023**



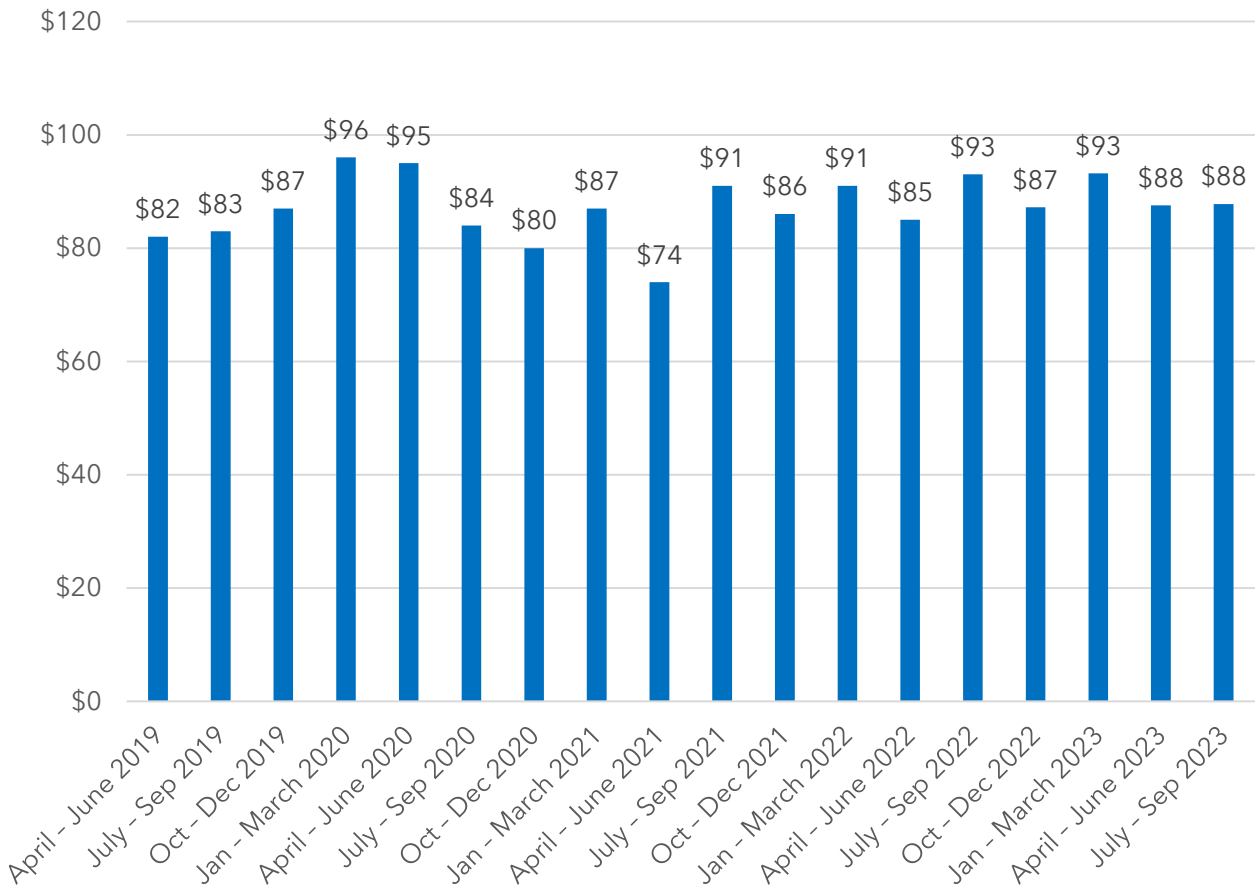
**Percent Change in Average Blended Material Value: April - September 2023**

	All Reporting MRFs	Dual Stream/Source Separated	Single Stream
<b>Without residuals</b>	-7%	-9%	-2%
<b>With residuals</b>	-6%	-17%	-1%

## Processing Costs

Several MRFs reported processing costs<sup>2</sup> for the period April - June 2023 and July - September 2023. The average processing cost per was \$87.54/ton and \$87.78, respectively. These represent a decrease of 6.07% followed by an increase of 0.28%, respectively from the previous period. We have found that the average processing costs change significantly from quarter to quarter - sometimes up and sometimes down. We do not have an opinion or explanation for this.

### ***Average Processing Cost Per Ton: Q2 2019 - Q3 2023***



<sup>2</sup> Processing cost is the cost per ton to sort and prepare the commodities for sale.