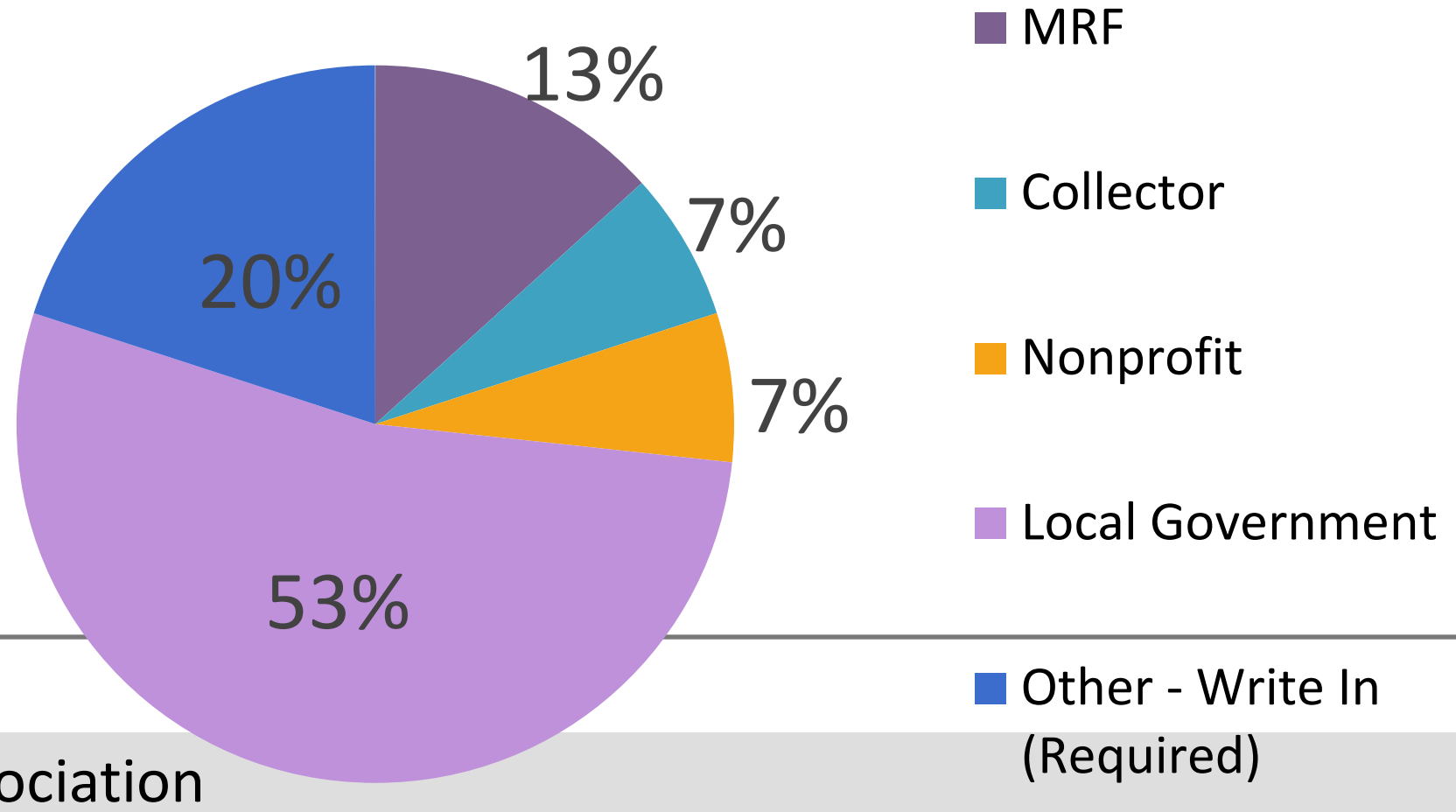




DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Recycling Stakeholders Brief Survey Responses

## What part of the recycling industry do you represent?



Other -

Industry Trade Association

WRRRA represents all facets of the private Solid Waste Industry. Collection, transfer, MRFs, Compost and Landfills.

generator of C&D and domestic streams (lunch waste from 1000 employees)

Do you have any additional information you want to share on current market conditions; what you are experiencing now and anticipating?



# Do you have any additional information you want to share on current market conditions; what you are experiencing now and anticipating?

- Yes, we should go with the WRRRA list and start the messaging with clean, empty DRY! ASAP
- Whatever the market conditions are and will be cannot dictate how we need to handle this material. Diversion rates will decrease and perhaps for the first time be truly reflective of how much we are actually recycling.
- The market is going to get worse before it gets better.
- Seattle is working to overcome market barriers by having our MRF contractor install a \$1.5 million optical sorter for mixed paper.

## **Do you have any additional information you want to share on current market conditions; what you are experiencing now and anticipating?**

- There is an end market for sorted aseptic and gable top cartons - that is seriously considering siting a facility in the Pacific NW in the next 18 months.(per the NRC/AOR Portland event)
- I'm concerned about the potential environmental threats the market conditions may lead to, i.e. storing materials outside, impact to stormwater. To get ahead of it, it would be nice to have guidance support from the County and State.
- Our hauler has made improvements to its MRF because it's still holding out hope the Chinese import market will reopen. We need tangible steps forward out of this crisis, not a wing and a prayer.

**Do you have any additional information you want to share on issues or concerns facing communities and local governments?**



A word cloud visualization of survey responses. The most prominent words are 'decision', 'materials', 'industry', 'other', 'cost', and 'turn'. Other visible words include 'behaviors', 'change', 'china', 'ban', 'amounts', 'attention', 'asap', 'amp', 'careful', 'amount', 'backs', 'building', and 'advocacy'. The words are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion with various colors.

decision industry  
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# Do you have any additional information you want to share on issues or concerns facing communities and local governments?

- Yes, we should go with the WRRRA list and start the messaging with clean, empty DRY! ASAP If we delay the decision much longer, I may start sooner than later with the messaging. and the WRRRA list.
- Need that "wish list" from the WRRRA industry so that common messaging can be developed and sent out ASAP.
- Start adding a line item for recycling in the household waste bill.
- MRF processing costs continue to climb. We are facing the issue of disposing of recyclable materials over having them processed.
- It might be helpful to explain that the contaminants in the recyclable materials were not recycled in China, even prior to China Sword...

# Do you have any additional information you want to share on issues or concerns facing communities and local governments?

- There is a rapid increase in the amount of packaging that is in the form of multimaterial laminates, poly coated papers, and plastics of little value or that are difficult/expensive to sort. We can turn our backs on this packaging, or we can restate that we believe they too should be recycled, but that to do so requires manufacturer financial support for the facilities, equipment and costs of sorting and for developing markets for those materials.
- Building industry has pressure to find solutions so that crews do not conflate issues with domestic recycling and C&D recycling and decide that they can change their sorting behaviors with any waste stream.



Do you have any additional information you want to share on issues or concerns facing communities and local governments?

- Shipping packaging and other products overseas so the sorting and cleaning is done there is not responsible recycling.
- We are going to be working with our community to turn our attention to waste prevention and advocacy.

What next steps do you intend to take towards addressing current recycling challenges?



# What next steps do you intend to take towards addressing current recycling challenges?

- I am trying to connect construction industry manufacturers who might use mixed paper/plastics in their products.
- Adopt the WRRRA list and start the messaging campaign with clean, empty & DRY!
- Seeking disposal options for recyclables.
- Focus on educating people to recycle the right way. Empty, Clean, Dry and when in doubt throw out.
- Education, better processing, reduced contamination, eliminating "wishful" recycling and improved market quality of material streams and feedstocks

# What next steps do you intend to take towards addressing current recycling challenges?

- Work on Legislation
- Continued update and supply of market information on current and developing end markets for aseptic/gable top cartons - and opportunities to improve mixed paper quality, get paid a premium, and maintain diversion.
- Work with other jurisdictions in the region to strategize on tangible steps forward out of this crisis.
- Work with our national, regional and local industry and government officials

# What next steps would you like Ecology to take towards addressing current recycling challenges?

- Keep the conversation going, the department really can't do anything this is a market situation.
- Keep providing opportunities to share information between stakeholders.
- EPR legislation research
- Develop drafts of recycled content legislation options.
- Coordinate with Commerce to determine needed facilities, equipment and financing for mixed plastics and cleaning up paper and dealing with polycoated paper.

# What next steps would you like Ecology to take towards addressing current recycling challenges?

- Support the local governments and industry partners who are on the front lines.
- Look at EPR models for packaging or for that packaging that does not have enough value to pay for its sorting and prep for markets.
- Determine what paper mills are capable of dealing with our paper and track developments related to purchases and revamping of these mills. Convening paper mills and key parties for instance.
- Make sure that the legislature and the Governor are regularly briefed on the issue
- Take an active role in formulating solutions to the crisis--not just by convening stakeholders to share information, but by leading strategy sessions and engaging the Department of Commerce and the Clean Tech sector in building our recycling infrastructure locally.

In your opinion, how valuable would these next steps be towards addressing current recycling challenges?

	Not at all Valuable	A little Valuable	Moderately Valuable	Very Valuable
Form a steering committee	2	1	7	4
Educational campaign to reduce contamination	0	1	5	8
Remove troublesome material from recycling acceptance lists	0	2	4	8
Research	1	0	3	5

In your opinion, how valuable would these next steps be towards addressing current recycling challenges?

- Cartons in PNW - recyclable or residual? Let's be honest.
- EPR
- Standardize acceptance list statewide
- Develop EPR for packaging options
- Develop recycled content legislation options
- Take steps to establish secondary MRF



# What research should be conducted to help Washington maintain a robust recycling system?

- End markets, support existing facilities, siting new site...listed in priority
- The research needs to be, why isn't the government doing a better job at buying more recycled products. From the feds, state and local levels.
- A bottle bill will help, it works in other states and it would be the quickest and easiest to implement.
- BOTTLE BILL!!! (if there is a market)
- Research on mixed plastics and paper recycling markets

# What research should be conducted to help Washington maintain a robust recycling system?

- EPR; local processing and markets.
- We need to hear more from brokers and global end users. End users and manufacturers are our partners and they are not included in the discussion.
- End markets for fiber, including responsible (and ethical) supply chain analysis.
- Where is our recycling going--and how much of it is actually recovered?

# What research should be conducted to help Washington maintain a robust recycling system?

- Policies/leg to ensure responsible recycling and "mill ready" recyclables.
- Film wash facility technology, costs, quantity of material needed to support. This could be folded into a secondary MRF concept.
- Compile data on costs of processing specific materials through MRF and determine, based on market value, which materials "pay for themselves" and which do not. This could be data point for seeking price support or other funding to sort those materials, if they are to remain in curbside collection programs.
- Contract with RSS to further develop recycled content credit system concept.
- Develop list of conceptual recycled content policies

# What messages does the general public need to hear now?

- Where does our recycling end up and where is our material going to?
- NO PLASTIC BAGS.
- Keep recycling
- Don't "wishcycle"
- Development of local markets is desirable but it takes time.
- Recycling is a "utility" that does cost money
- Empty, Clean and Dry
- We can not recycle our way out of this situation. We must change our consumer behaviors.

# What messages do MRFs/collectors need to hear now?

- That the community is willing to pitch in and clean up their materials and will help support improved end markets
- Tag for refuse when the load is unacceptable.
- That we can work together.
- We want to know: What do the MRFs need to succeed?
- We will work to keep the recyclables as clean as possible.
- Be open minded to alternative solutions
- Collaborative marking strategies and sharing of processing technologies and machinery success stories.

# What messages do MRFs/collectors need to hear now?

- MRFs need to ensure that all materials are properly sorted to "mill ready" and specific resins. Polycoat and cartons need to be separated from other papers. Mixed plastics need to be sorted by resin for market preparation.
- Selling bales of mixed materials does not ensure proper management or responsible recycling. Storing recyclables outside is unacceptable and they must be warehoused if the MRF is out of room.
- Keep up the great job you are doing.

# What messages do local governments need to hear now?

- That infrastructure is fragile with this volatile market and it will take a well coordinated approach by agencies to turn this challenge into opportunities to grow our local economies
- Stay the course for now touch base again in 2019 and adjust then if we need to.
- Only recycle the materials that are economically feasible at this time.
- Education really works! Hire Temporary workers to 'watch' the drop-off areas, as well as outreach to neighborhoods that have the 'worst' record.
- Landfilling maybe the only option that is cost effective.

# What messages do local governments need to hear now?

- Recycling is not dead. It is evolving. It is the economic evolution of supply and demand, with growth in supply and demand. Use economic drivers to change the market by improving feedstocks. Remember it's not recycling it's feedstock for global manufacturing.
- Continue to support recycling efforts. Require and support responsible recycling to mill ready commodities. Work together to bring about manufacturer financing of needed facilities, equipment, and additional sorting.
- Be flexible in your requirements.
- Engage with your local solid waste collection company and work with them during this unprecedented time.
- You're not in this alone. We are going to work on this issue as a region (or state) and we're going to work on addressing it now.



# Final Thoughts?

- Deep breaths.
- Don't panic.
- Embrace the change.