

Together, We Can Preserve Recycling

The Economics of Recycling

We all understand the environmental benefits of recycling, and the vast majority of residents want to recycle. However, there are several factors contributing to the declining economics of recycling. Low oil prices have made it cheaper to produce new materials from raw materials versus using recyclable materials. In addition, new items are being manufactured with lighter packaging, requiring more material to make the same ton of recyclables, which increases costs for everyone.

Understanding China's Ban on Recyclables

China recently announced plans to ban certain recyclables, such as plastics, metals and some types of paper, including mixed paper. The importation ban is expected to take effect by the end of 2017. It may lead to added challenges for some U.S. recyclers, particularly on the west coast, who have traditionally sold recycling commodities to Chinese markets.

Sustainable Solutions

At Republic Services, we are working with thousands of municipal and business customers across the country to move to a new recycling model. Our processing fee-based model helps make recycling economically viable and available for future generations by fairly covering the costs of collection and processing. Learn more at: RepublicServices.com/Recycling-Reimagined.

What Can You Do?

- Check with your municipality to ensure your community is moving to a processing fee-based model.
- Talk with your employer about moving to a more equitable commodity sharing arrangement with your service provider.
- Continually educate your residents and coworkers about what's acceptable and not acceptable in your recycling program.

Top Non-Recyclables Contaminating the Recycling Waste Stream



- Encourage everyone in your community to remember Empty, Clean & Dry when recycling to help reduce contamination.

Empty: Remove any remaining food or liquid contents from your recyclable item before placing it in a recycling container;

Clean: Lightly rinse the recyclable item to remove any remaining residue; and

Dry: Gently shake out excess water or let the recyclable item air-dry before placing it in a recycling container.



Empty. Clean. Dry.

Get started at
RepublicServices.com



We'll handle it from here.™