

**Status of Recycling Markets in the Northeast**  
**Merrimack NH Town Council Meeting**  
January 9, 2020

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## About NRRA

- Recycling nonprofit
- 400+ members, primarily municipalities
- Founded nearly 40 years ago



# Cooperative Marketing and Purchasing



Enable communities  
to manage their own  
recycling programs



40 programs, including  
single stream and  
municipal solid waste



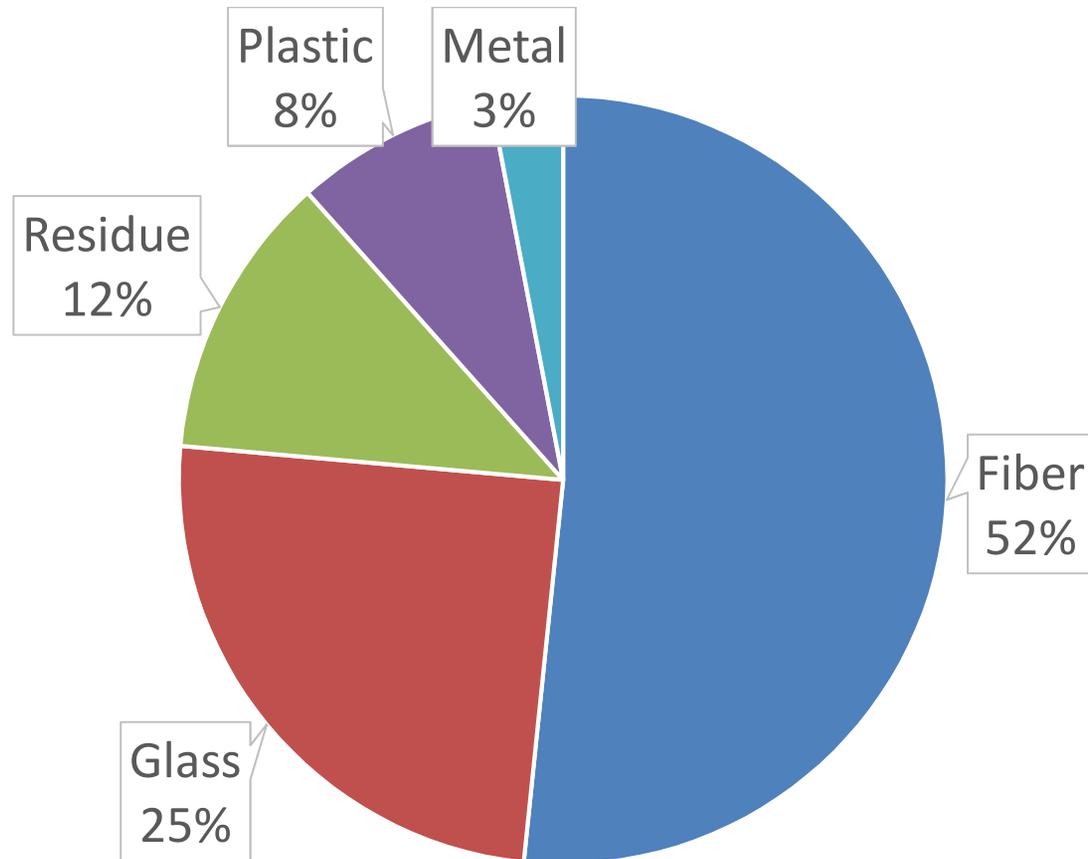
Connect sellers of  
recyclables to  
purchasers



- Workshops
- Facility tours
- Annual conference
- Technical assistance
- School Club programs

Education

# Average Outbound Ton (by weight)



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

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Positive: Typically requires less space and equipment for collection and storage

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Negative: Typically lower value commodities because more contamination

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Higher contamination key factor leading to China's National Sword Policy

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



Jan. 2020  
Cost over  
\$70 per ton

(Source: NRRRA)

# Silver Lining



Domestic investment  
in paper mills

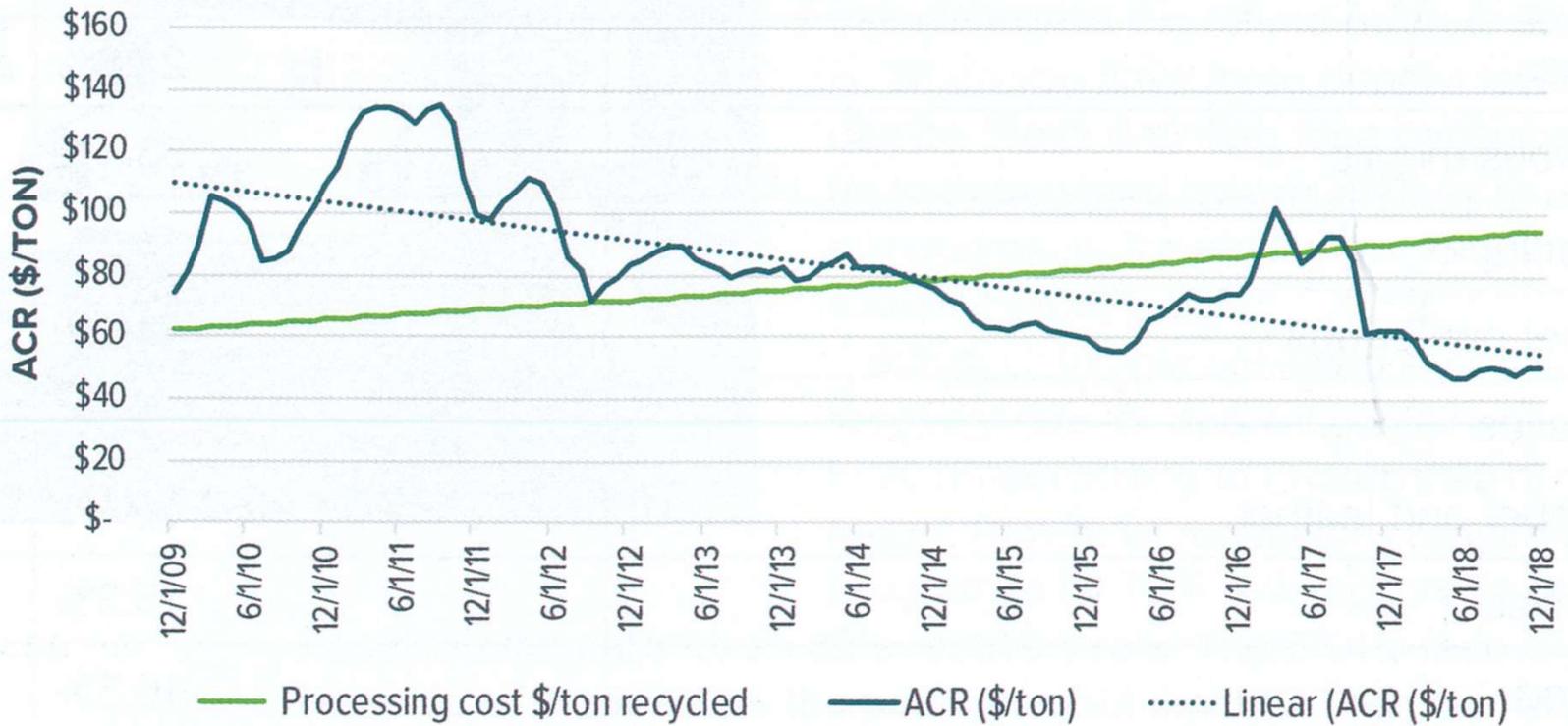


22 new and existing  
mills increasing  
capacity for mixed  
paper



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

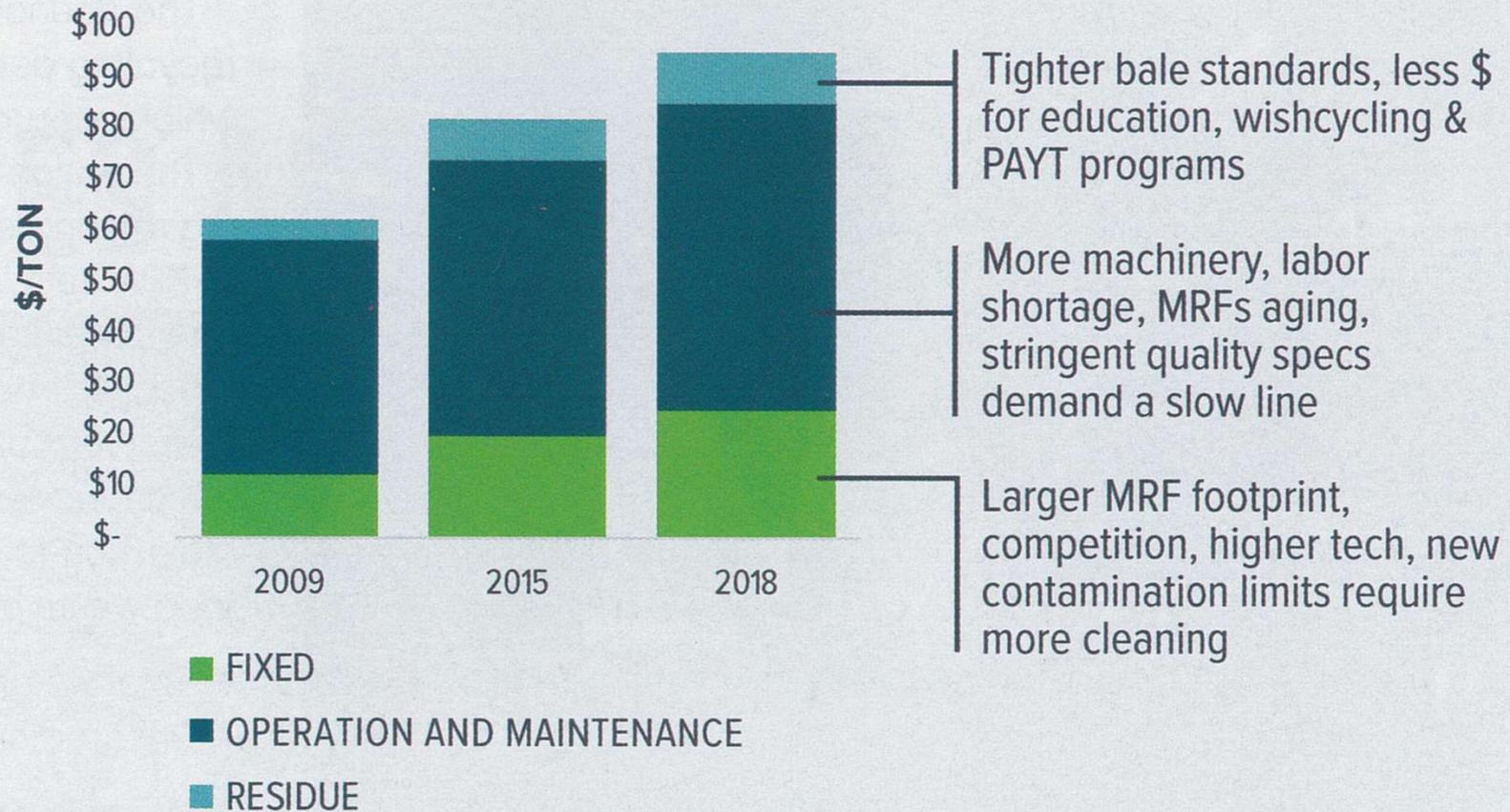
# ACR\* (\$/TON) AND MRF PROCESSING COST



\*ACR is short for average commodity revenue and represents the blended value of materials moving through a facility.

Source: Resource Recycling Dec. 2019

# MRF PROCESSING COSTS IN DETAIL



Source: Resource Recycling Dec. 2019

# Materials Recovery Facility Financials

Tipping Fee with Contract (Calendar year 2018)	\$38.00	
Processing Costs (Calendar year 2018; July - Sept 2019)	\$82.00	\$83.00
Commodity Value Per Ton with Residuals (April - June 2019; July - Sept 2019) <b>-24% change</b>	\$45.83	\$34.85

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

# Trends We're Seeing



Tipping fees over \$100 per ton for recycling



\$5 credit if glass removed in some cases



Fixed flat rate and revenue/cost sharing options



Steep cost increases for mixed paper in recent weeks

# Sample Single Stream Pricing

	Cost/Ton	Cost/ton
<b>Spot Market Costs</b>	<b>w/ Glass</b>	<b>w/o Glass</b>
Waste Management - Rochester	\$143	\$123
Waste Management - Billerica	\$103	\$83
<b>Proposed Contract Costs</b>		
MA Facility	\$105	n/a
ME Facility ( w/Flat Rate)	\$155	n/a
ME Facility ( w/Revenue/Cost Share)	\$125	n/a
Springfield MA MRF	\$145	\$140
<i>NOTE: THERE ARE NO SINGLE STREAM MRFS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE</i>		

*Delivered pricing only as of 1/7/20; all pricing subject to change (snapshot in time only)*



*Thank you For Recycling*

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**STAY CONNECTED**

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