

Status of Recycling Markets in the Northeast

Merrimack NH Town Council Meeting

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Northeast Resource Recovery Association



About NRRRA

- 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



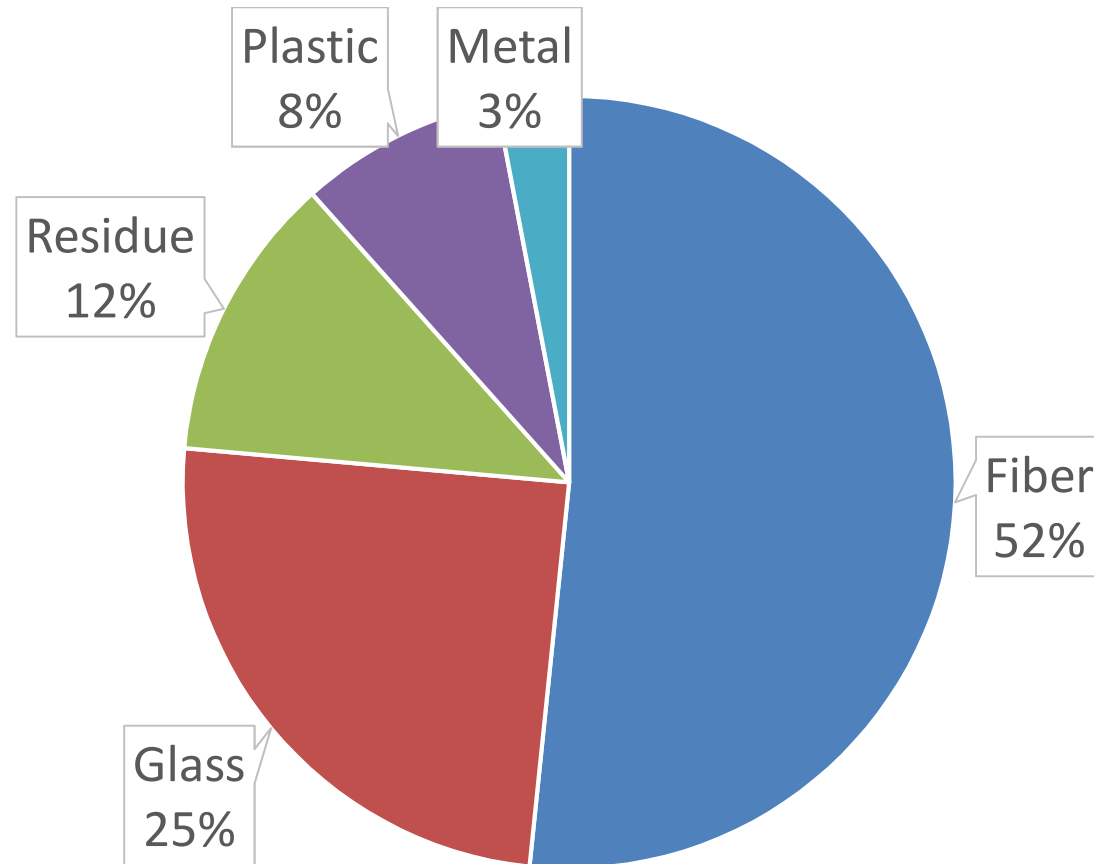
Connect sellers of
recyclables to
purchasers



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

Education

Average Outbound Ton (by weight)



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

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

Negative: Typically lower value commodities because more contamination

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

Single Stream Recycling
(versus source separation)

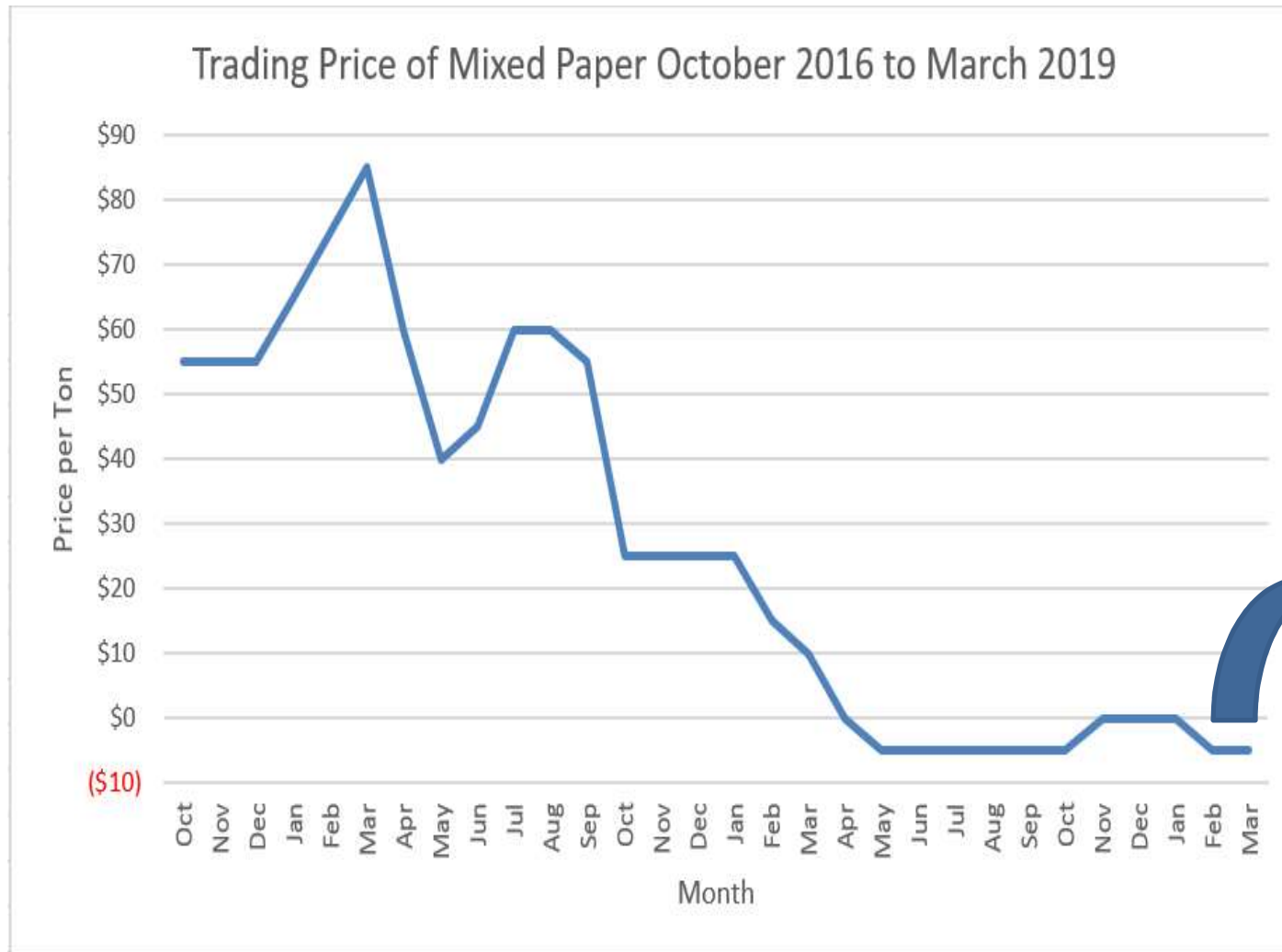
China's National Sword Policy

- 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: NRRA)

Silver Lining



Domestic investment
in paper mills

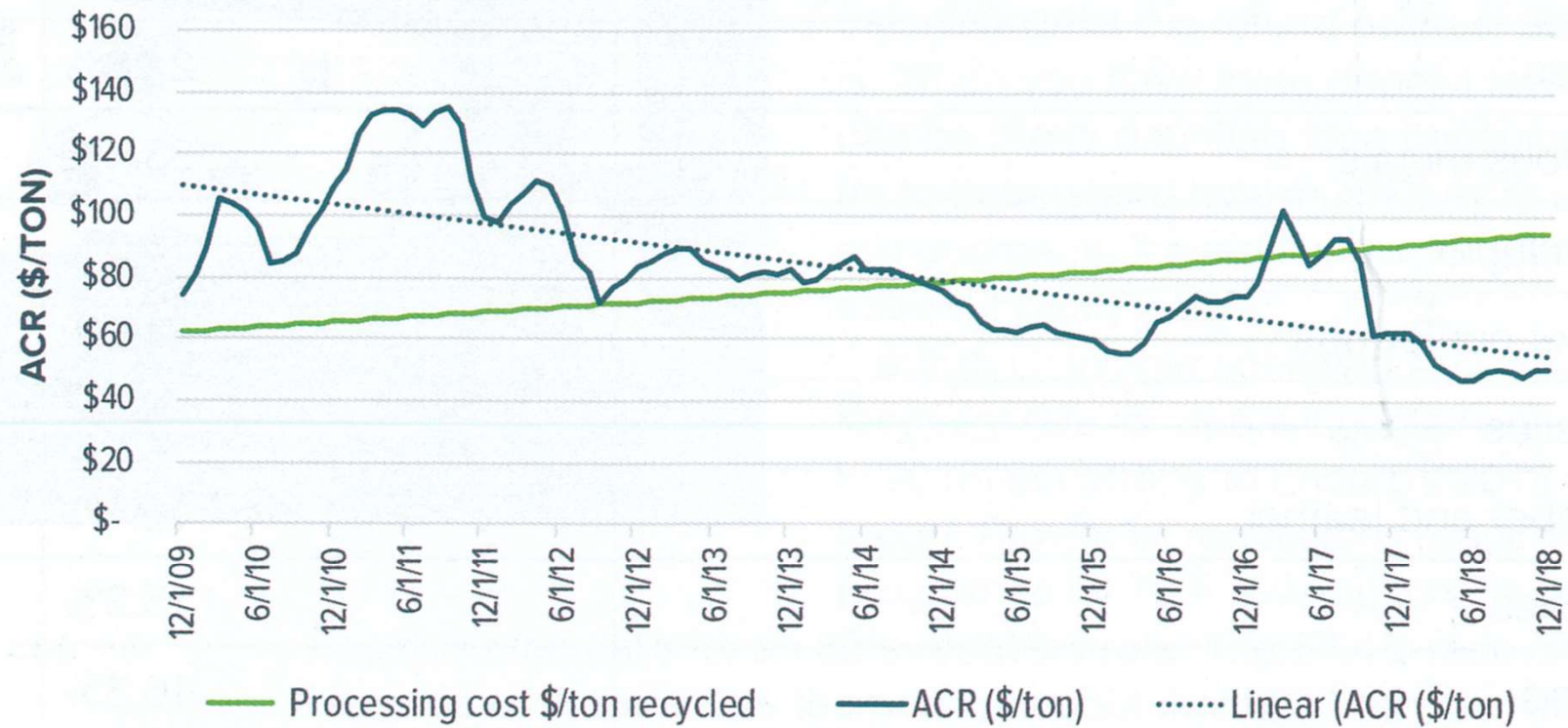


22 new and existing
mills increasing
capacity for mixed
paper



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

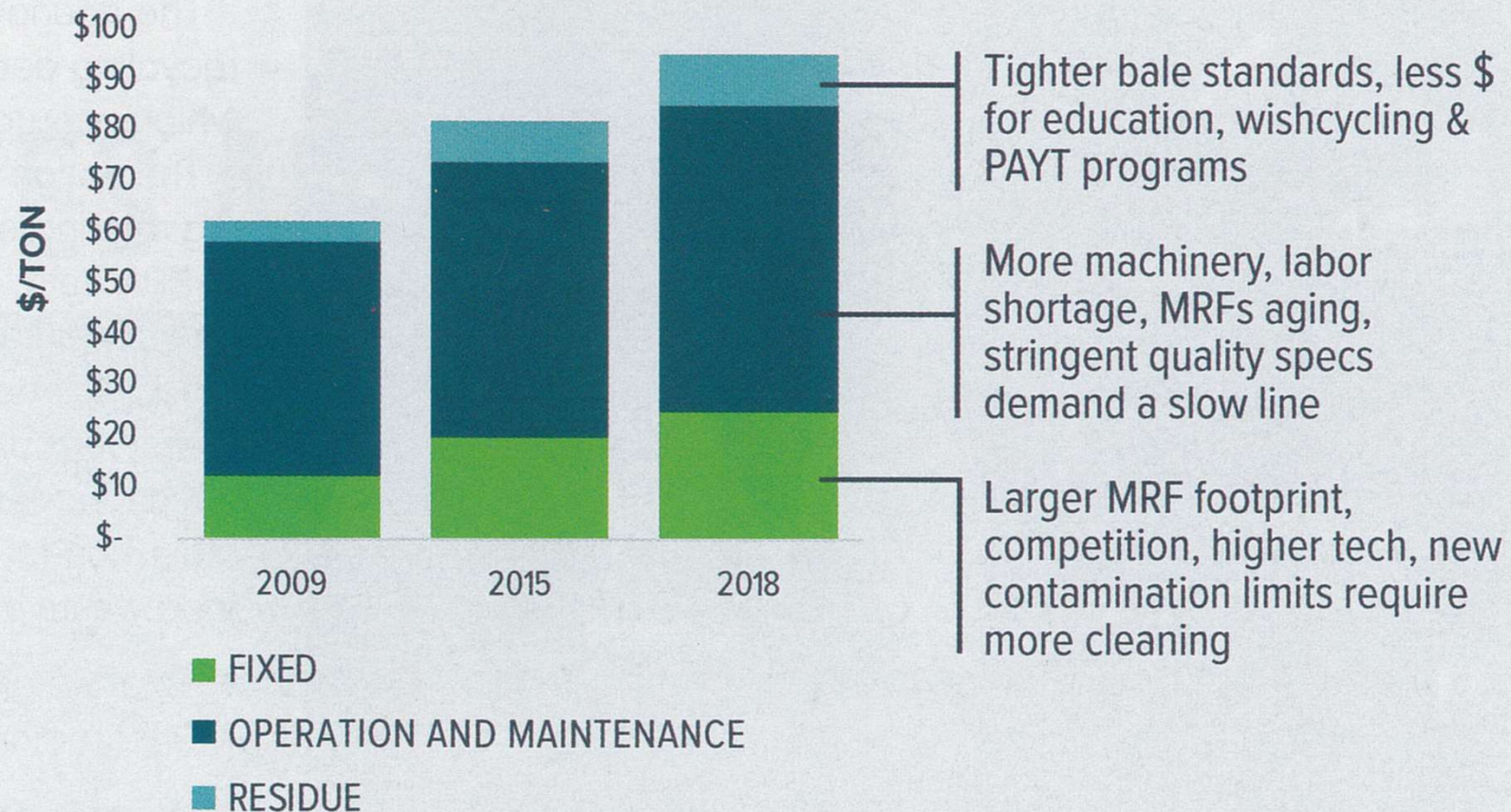
ACR* (\$/TON) AND MRF PROCESSING COST



*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) -24% change	\$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
Spot Market Costs	w/ Glass	w/o Glass
Waste Management - Rochester	\$143	\$123
Waste Management - Billerica	\$103	\$83
Proposed Contract Costs		
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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