

## Building Equitable Partnerships Between MRF's and Municipalities

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### **Recycling Markets Domestic and Export**

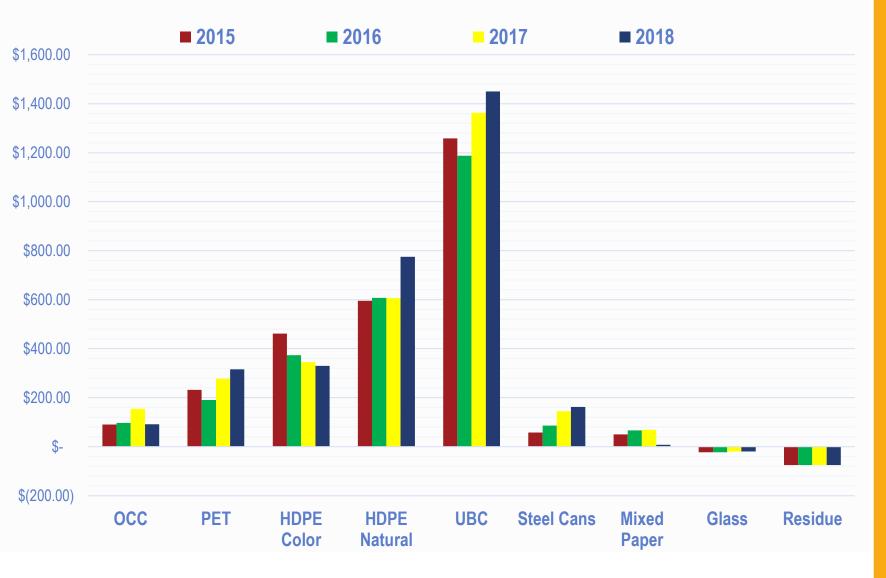
#### Current Domestic Markets: Current Export Markets:

- Positive's or what has value:
  - Fiber: Cardboard
  - Plastics: PET, HDPE Color, HDPE Natural
  - UBC
  - Steel/Tin
- Negative's:
  - Mixed Paper
  - Glass
  - Residue

- Positive's or what has value:
  - Fiber: DSOCC Cardboard

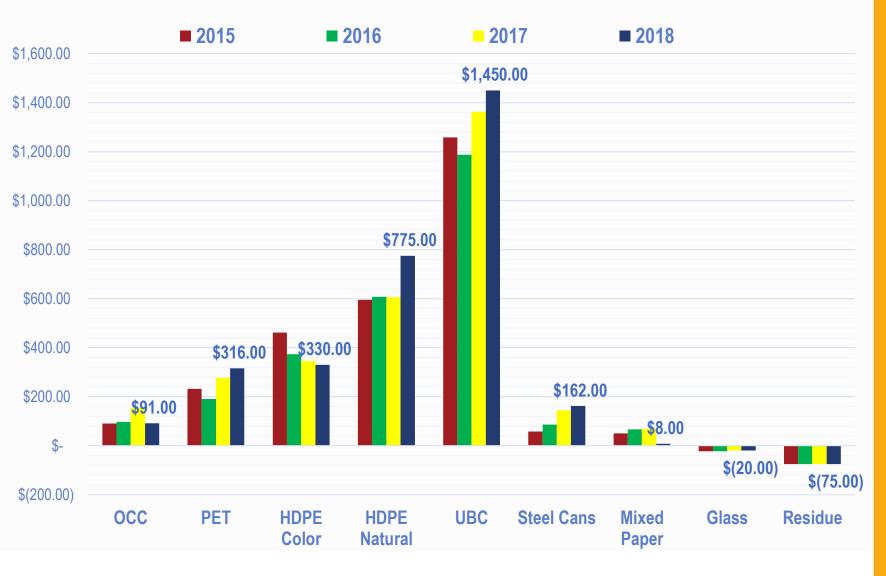


# **Commodity Prices 2015 through 2018**



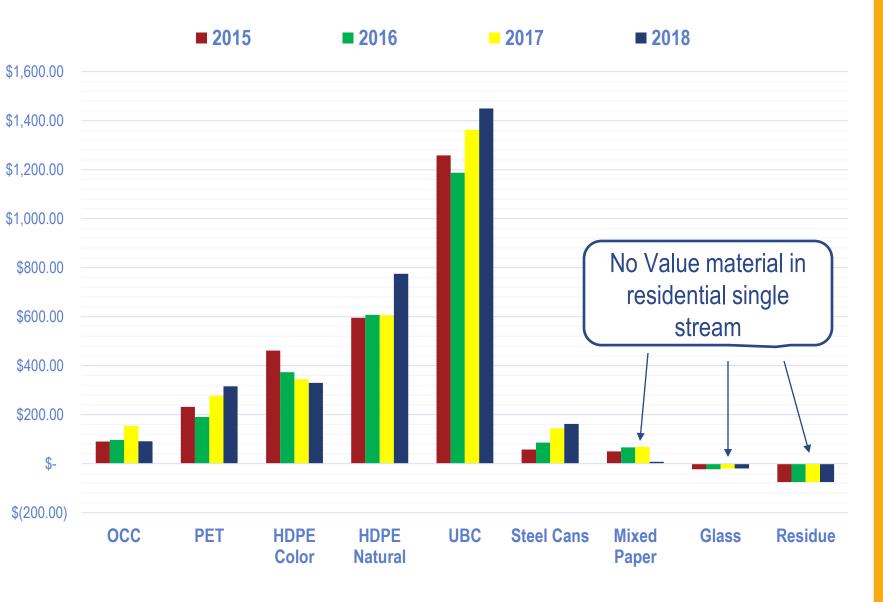


# **Commodity Prices 2015 through 2018**

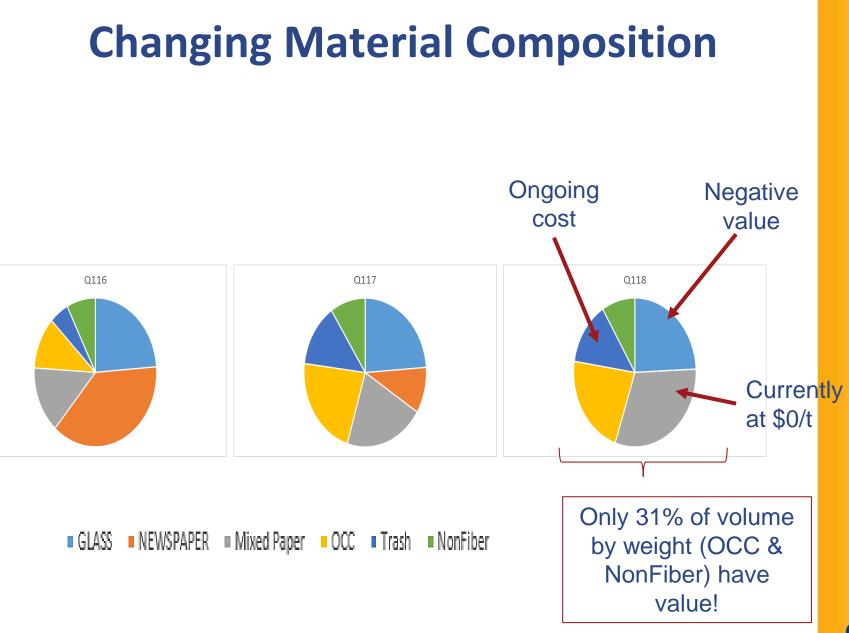




## **Commodity Prices Continued**









# **Changing Material Composition**

Several different factors involved:

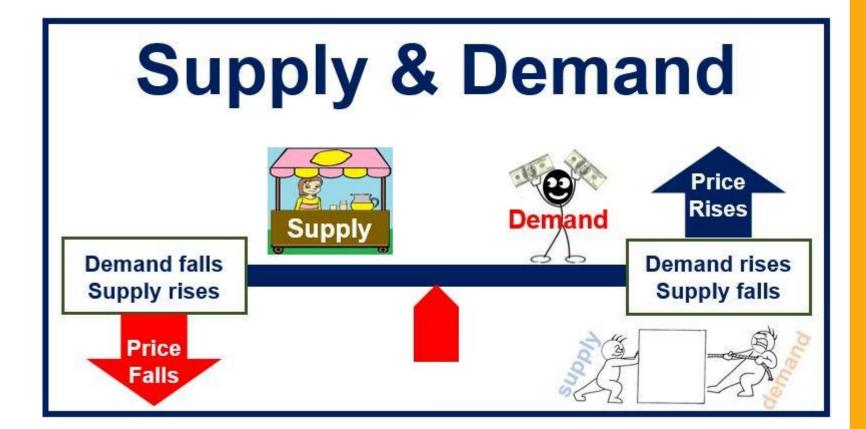
- Changing consumer products/behaviors
  - eCommerce more online purchases and corrugated boxes delivered to homes vs. retail
  - Misunderstanding and/or "Wishful" recycling of items that don't fit the processing capabilities of MRF's
  - Roll carts more space and larger items, more non-recyclables being collected
- China import policies/restrictions
  - Mixed Paper ban
  - China's quality specifications at 0.5% prohibitives can't produce such an OCC/News grade from residential single stream
  - All MRF's have had to slow production speed (reducing total capacity) and add labor to improve quality
  - MRF's are investing in capital but this represents additional costs in lieu of slower speeds and additional labor







## **The Challenge**





# **Challenges Continue Why?**

## National Sword:

- China's import policy, banning certain materials, including mixed paper, which represents 35% of a residential single stream program composition.
- .5% contamination limit.
- Container inspections at China ports.
- Plastic Imports into China down 99.1% 2018 compared to 2017. (Resource-Recycling.com)
- Recovered Paper Imports into China down 33.8% (10.4 million short tons) 2018 compared to 2017. (Resource-Recycling.com)
- This has put pressure on domestic mills, as supply as outpaced demand.
- Can the global capacity absorb all of the Mixed Paper that China once purchased? Other countries are stepping up quality inspections as well. MP will continue to be a challenge for the coming years.

# **New Expectations from MRF Operators**

- On going process of restructuring contracts.
- New RFP's from municipalities structure as share in the revenue and cost associated with processing residential single stream.
  - Dual Stream Programs
  - With or Without Glass Programs
- Budget:
  - Inquire with the processor before setting budgets
    - Processing Cost
    - Contamination Adjustments

### Stick to the basics:

- Focus on valuable material (2/3 of what we process has no value)
- Focus on inbound quality
- Reduce "Wishful Recycling"



# What can we do together?

## Citizen, Customer, Collector, and Processor

Education:

- Composition Audits
- Cart Audits
  - Tagging Programs
  - What municipalities have been successful?
- Informational Mailers
  - NC Department of Environmental Quality
  - SC Department of Health and Environmental Control;
- Market Updates
- Regional Meetings



## **Build the Partnership**



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