



The MARKETPLACE

For Recycling Commodities

Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

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Plastic Cans Cause Contamination Concerns

Plastic cans with metal lids might provide consumers with a better look at what's inside, but that doesn't mean the plastic recycling industry is happy about the innovation.

According to *Resource Recycling*, the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) announced last month that the clear plastic PET containers are a contaminant in the recycling stream. The containers are not yet in wide use, but some packaging companies are beginning to push the concept as a way to help food companies bring a more "natural" feel to their products.

"Although the PET portion of the can may be recyclable, the metal lid is seamed onto the PET," the group stated. "There are no practical solutions to separate the two materials in material recovery facilities (MRFs), rendering the entire container non-recyclable."

APR says it is actively encouraging companies that produce plastic cans to work alongside the group to come up with items that are recyclable.

"Because the plastic can is a significant contaminant to the plastic recycling stream, we encourage their producers to collaborate with APR to design packaging that is recyclable and sustainable," stated John Standish, APR's technical director.

APR's recently updated Design Guide for Plastics Recyclability noted further testing was needed to determine the recyclability of PET containers with metal closures and attachments.

National Used Beverage Cans Recycling Rate Falls Slightly

According to an industry analysis, 54.5 percent of aluminum cans put on the U.S. market in 2015 were recovered. That's down from 56.7 percent in 2014 says *Resource Recycling*.

The rate was calculated by the Aluminum Association and the Can Manufacturers Institute and was laid out in an annual report from the two groups.

The 54.5 percent figure is referred to by the groups as the consumer recycling rate for UBCs (used beverage cans). In order to most accurately portray U.S. recycling behavior, the consumer rate does not include material that was imported or exported.

The report noted the industry recycling rate, which does include imported and exported cans, was 64.3 percent. That number was also a drop from 2014, when the industry rate was 66.5 percent.

The groups stated the recycling-rate declines were likely tied to decreases in the value of scrap aluminum.

A handful of other notable recycling-relevant statistics were noted in the analysis. For instance, the average aluminum can manufactured today contains 70 percent recycled content.

The report also stated the average value of UBC scrap in the U.S. from February 2014 to February 2016 was \$1,367 per ton. For comparison, the report noted recovered PET plastic garnered an average of \$310 per ton and recovered glass had no financial value in that time frame.

"The implications are clear," the groups stated. "Without aluminum, very few curbside pick-up programs would be financially viable."

Recycling Market Prognosis

Resource Recycling reports that recycling market players suggest these trends for August.

	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Price</u>
Ferrous	Sluggish	Vacillating
Aluminum	Shabby	Flat or down
Paper	Salubrious	Good for some
Plastic	Blechy	Timid

COMMODITY	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
<u>PAPER-\$/TON</u>	RISI Official Board Markets (Midwest/Chicago area) FOB							
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
#2 mixed paper	\$45-50	\$40-45	\$45-50	\$50-55	\$60-65	\$60-65	\$65-70	\$40-45
#37 sorted office paper (SOP)	\$105-115	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$140-150	\$130-140
#8 ONP	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$60-65	\$70-75	\$75-80	\$80-85	\$45-50
#40 sorted white ledger (SWL)	\$190-200	\$190-200	\$185-195	\$180-190	\$175-185	\$175-185	\$185-195	\$230-240
#11 OCC	\$60-65	\$60-65	\$65-70	\$75-80	\$80-85	\$85-90	\$95-100	\$75-80
<u>PLASTICS-¢/LB.</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - FOB							
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
#1 PET - mixed (clear & green)	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.13
#2 HDPE (natural-milk jugs)	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.30	\$0.38	\$0.39	\$0.38	\$0.32	\$0.37
#2 HDPE (colored-detergent btls.)	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.20	\$0.25	\$0.22	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.19
<u>GLASS-\$/TON</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered							
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
clear (flint)	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
brown (amber)	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$27.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$27.00	\$22.00
green	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$11.00
<u>METALS</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Baled/Densified							
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
aluminum beverage cans (UBC) cents/lb.	\$0.59	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.61	\$0.59	\$0.58	\$0.58	\$0.56
	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Baled							
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Aug-15
steel cans \$/TON	\$45-78	\$70-90	\$80-100	\$130-165	\$100-130	\$90-95	\$90-100	\$110-120



Energy and
Environment Cabinet

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