

Recycling Update – February 2020

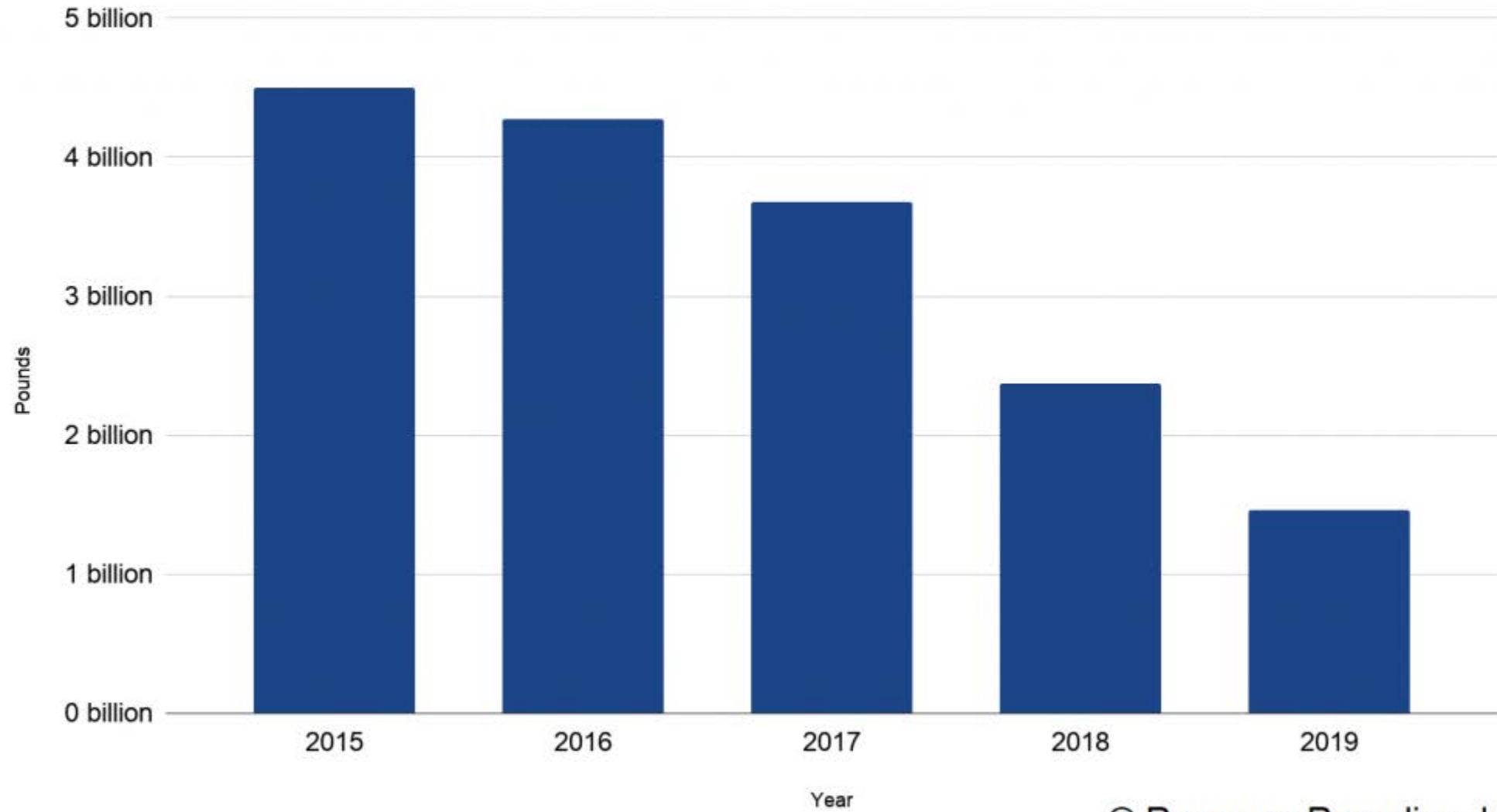
Presented by Phil McKalips
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The Recycling Landscape

- Beginning in 2018, China started reducing imports of recycled materials (especially paper and plastic). These reductions have continued to become more stringent. Basically, for our purposes, they are now importing zero recyclables.
- Other SE Asian nations have also been greatly reducing imports.
- In the mid-Atlantic region, prices for all commodities are depressed and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future.
- What allows us to continue to have our materials accepted is that we add a lot of value to our materials through baling and providing transportation.

U.S. scrap plastic exports to all countries, 2015-2019



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What does RSWA Recycle?

- Aluminum Beverage Cans
- Mixed Metal
- Corrugated Cardboard
- #1 and #2 Plastic Bottles and Containers
- Mixed Paper
- #2 and #4 Plastic Bags and Films



- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Hard and Soft-bound Books
- Compostable Food Waste
- Oyster Shells
- Used Cooking Oil



Where does it all go?

- **Aluminum Beverage Cans** – Gerdau, Roanoke, sold for reuse in Aluminum Beverage Cans
- **Mixed Metal** – Gerdau, Roanoke sorting facility and sold as scrap metal by grade
- **Corrugated Cardboard** – Sonoco Recycling, Richmond paper mill, recycled into paper products (Pringles® Chip tubes)



Where does it all go?

- **#1 and #2 Plastics** – Sonoco Recycling in Raleigh, NC, processed through MRF for recoverable plastics
- **Mixed Paper** – Sonoco Recycling, Richmond paper mill, recycled into paper products (Pringles® Chip tubes)
- **#2 and #4 Plastic Bags and Films** – Trex, Winchester, used in making Trex® decking materials



Where does it all go?

- **Glass Bottles and Jars** – Strategic Materials in NC, recycled into glass food/beverage containers
- **Office Paper** – Sonoco Recycling, Madison Heights, recycled into paper towels and toilet paper at eastern US papermill
- **Newsprint** – Sonoco Recycling, Richmond Paper Mill, recycled paper products



Where does it all go?

- **Hard and Soft-bound Books** – into Mixed Paper, Sonoco Recycling, Richmond Paper Mill
- **Compostable Food Waste** – Natural Organic Process Enterprises (NOPE), Richmond, hauls material to McGill-Waverly Composting Facility
- **Oyster Shells** – VCU Oyster Shell Recycling Program
- **Used Cooking Oil** – Biofuels or Animal Feed.



Things We're Watching.

- Mixed Paper and some of the other paper products are earning low (or zero) revenue. Expect this to continue.
- Unclean/contaminated Plastic will continue to be a problem due to processing costs. Clean #1 and #2 plastics have a domestic market and are seeing strong prices (~\$0.50 to \$0.70 per pound [\$1400 per ton] for clean #2).
- Material Contamination – “Wish-cycling” is our biggest problem. Will require customer education and implementation.

Contamination



Note contamination of #1-#2
Plastics by bubble wrap and
blue totes



Note contamination of
aluminum cans with plastic
bags and aluminum foil

Other Recycling in the Area

- van der Linde Recycling in Zion Crossroads – Constuction/Demolition Debris (CDD) recycling
- eWaste – RSWA offers twice per year no-cost collections at Ivy; events by others occur throughout the year
- Tires – twice per year no-cost collections at Ivy, recycled by Emanuel Tire, Appomattox, VA
- Oil-based and Latex Paints – daily collection at Ivy. Recycled into fuels or paint products by MXI Environmental.

What we need to do going forward.

- Continue to work to educate our customers about the whole recycling process, so our efforts can be adaptive to the recycling marketplace.
- Work to increase commercial interest in our products by reducing contamination. This will take more staff inspection and significant customer education.
- Increase our value-added. Our products are of interest because we deliver some of them and we bale some of them. This increases their value.

Questions?