



## **Northeast Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) Commodity Values Report**

Period Covered  
January 1 – March 30, 2024

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## Background

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) supports recycling market development and opportunities for improvements in its 11-state region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

This is the 20th quarterly report in NERC's series of reports on the market value of commodities from MRFs in the Northeast. The report includes information from ten states: Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

The first report covered the period April – June 2019 and focused on NERC's 11-state region. The scope of the participating states expanded in the first quarter of 2020 with the receipt of a grant from EPA Region 3. This report reflects information received from 13 MRFs in ten states. Among respondents are single stream, dual stream, and source separated MRFs. The survey is conducted quarterly.

In 2018, in partnership with the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA), we formed a *Regional Recycling Markets Development Committee*. The Committee determined that having information about the value of commodities processed by the region's Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)<sup>1</sup> would be helpful for assessing regional market trends and to serve as an educational tool for promoting improved residential recycling and participation. The results have been invaluable to recyclers, MRFs, and also municipalities and state agencies.

These survey results reflect the differing laws and collection options in the participating states. Four of the states included in this report have beverage container deposit laws. As a result, fewer glass bottles, PET bottles and aluminum cans are processed in MRFs in those states. Those MRFs are also likely to have less revenue from those recyclables. In addition, the report reflects a mix of single stream, dual stream, and source separation to collect recyclables with single stream being the most common approach. The type of collection used will have an impact on MRF design and operation. Thus, the data from this report reflects the unique blend of facilities and statewide laws in the reporting states.

A special thank you to Robert (Max) Babits, RRS for providing technical support.

*At no time will any individual company information be shared with anyone outside of NERC staff.  
No participating facilities will be identified, and no state-specific data will be released.*

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<sup>1</sup> Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is a facility that receives, separates, and prepares recyclable materials from the public for marketing to processors and end-user manufacturers.

## Average Commodity Value per Ton of Marketed Materials

Thirteen survey respondents reported the average value received/paid for common commodities from residential recycling during the period January – March 2024. These values were then combined into a weighted average to reflect the blended value per ton for recyclables marketed in the region.

Residuals refers to the incoming material that cannot be marketed and goes to disposal. The value without residuals reflects the value of a ton of marketed material without the expense of handling residuals, while the value with residuals reflects the value of each ton processed with the costs of managing residuals taken into account.

Of the responding MRFs, 69% were single stream and 31% dual stream/source separated.

The increase in this quarter can be attributed to national and regional trends.

*January – March 2024*

	Blended Value	Percentage Change from Previous Quarter
<b>All Reporting MRFs</b>		
<b>Without residuals</b>	\$111.72	17%
<b>With residuals</b>	\$103.15	19%
<b>Single Stream</b>		
<b>Without residuals</b>	\$110.59	13%
<b>With residuals</b>	\$103.45	14%
<b>Dual Stream/Source Separated</b>		
<b>Without residuals</b>	\$126.26	23%
<b>With residuals</b>	\$114.86	27%

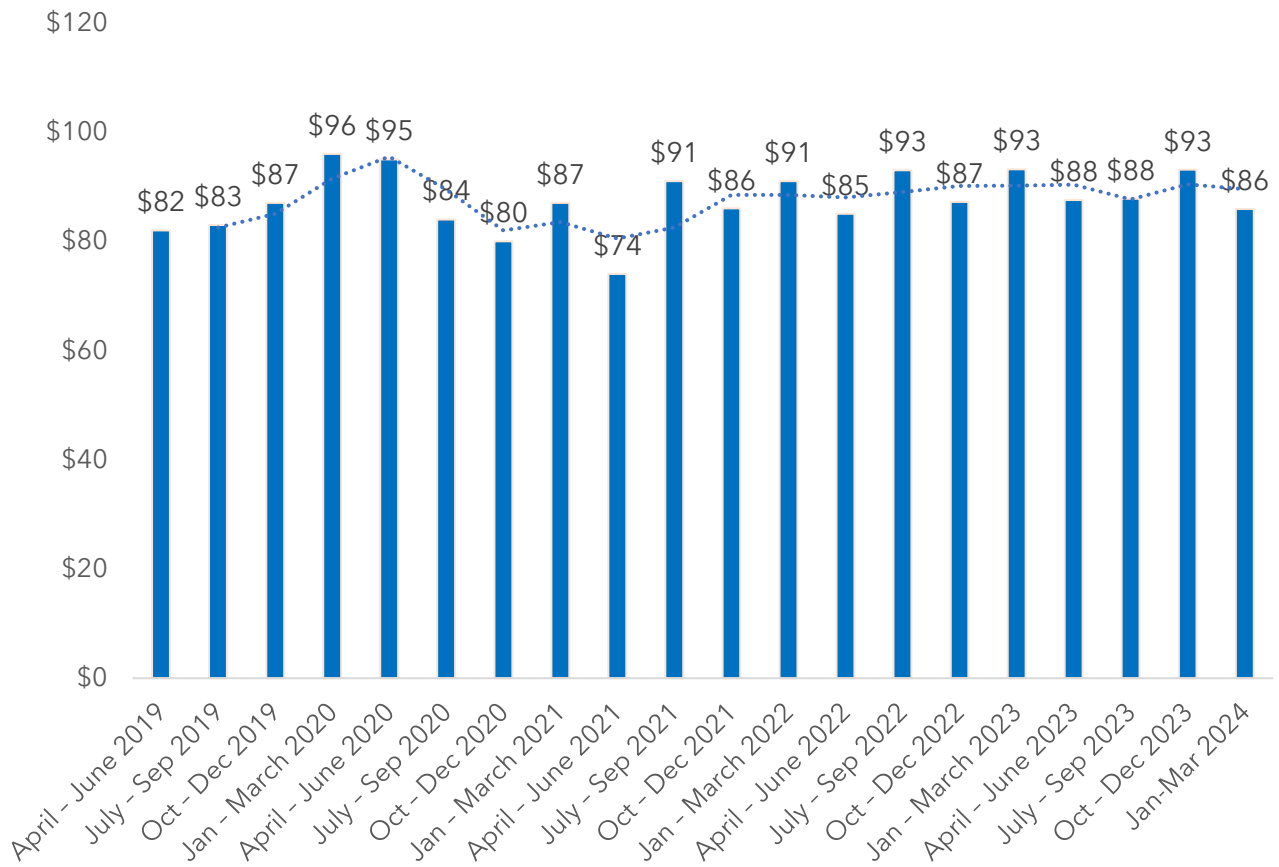
Average Value Per Ton Trends: Q2 2019 – Q1 2024



## Processing Costs

Several MRFs reported processing costs<sup>2</sup> for the period January – March 2024. The average processing cost per was \$85.93/ton. This represents a decrease of 7.69% from the previous period. We have found that the average processing costs change significantly from quarter to quarter – sometimes up and sometimes down. We do not have an opinion or explanation for this.

*Average Processing Cost Per Ton: Q2 2019 – Q1 2024*



<sup>2</sup> Processing cost is the cost per ton to sort and prepare the commodities for sale.