



139 Main Street, Suite 401 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
802.254.3636 • www.nerc.org • info@nerc.org

Report on Blended Commodity Values in the Northeast

Period covered October 1 – December 31, 2019

Table of Contents

Background	1
Survey Questions & Results	2
Average Commodity Value per Ton of Marketed Materials	3
Residual Processing Costs	4

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.

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)¹ would be extremely helpful for assessing regional market trends and would 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.

This is the third report published. The first report covered the period April – June, 2019. The survey is conducted quarterly.

Fourteen (14) publically-owned or operated MRFs, and one privately-owned MRF, in 10 states volunteered to be surveyed for the period covering October – December, 2019.² Among the 15 respondents are single stream, dual stream, and source separated MRFs. This is an addition of one MRF, and the first privately owned MRF, responding to the survey since the previous report.

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.

We would like to recognize and thank Max Babits, RRS for his technical assistance.

¹ MRFs are a facility that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials from the public for marketing to processors and end-user manufacturers.

² There are no MRFs in New Hampshire.

Survey Questions & Results

The survey asked for the percentage of a ton represented by each of the following commodities for calendar year 2019, as well as the average value received/paid for each of these commodities during the period October – December 2019. A new commodity category was added for this survey: All other Paper (excluding grades 11, 52 & 54).

UBC (aluminum cans)
Steel Cans
PET (plastic #1)
HDPE Natural (plastic #2)
HDPE Colored (plastic #2)
Polypropylene (plastic #5)
Plastics #'s 3-7
Bulky Rigid Plastics
OCC Grade #11 (corrugated cardboard)
Mixed Paper Grade #54
Aseptic and Gable-top Cartons (Grade #52)
All other Paper (excluding grades 11, 52 & 54)
Clear Glass Containers
Green Glass Containers
Brown Glass Containers
3 Mix Glass Containers
Residue

Weighted Percentage of Outbound Tons Marketed per Commodity in Calendar Year 2019

UBC (aluminum cans)	0.78
Steel Cans	2.53
PET (plastic #1)	3.35
HDPE Natural (plastic #2)	1.05
HDPE Colored (plastic #2)	1.06
Polypropylene (plastic #5)	0.12
Plastics #'s 3-7	1.28
Bulky Rigid Plastics	0.64
OCC Grade #11 (corrugated cardboard)	25.07
Mixed Paper Grade #54	31.60
Aseptic and Gable-top Cartons (Grade #52)	0.04
All other Paper (excluding grades 11, 52 & 54)	4.09
Glass Containers ³	14.60
Residue	13.77

Average Commodity Value per Ton of Marketed Materials

The 15 MRFs were asked to provide the average value of each commodity for the period October - December 2019. These values were then combined into a weighted average to reflect the blended value per ton for recyclables marketed in the region.

Average commodity value per ton *with* the expense of handling residuals: \$34.92

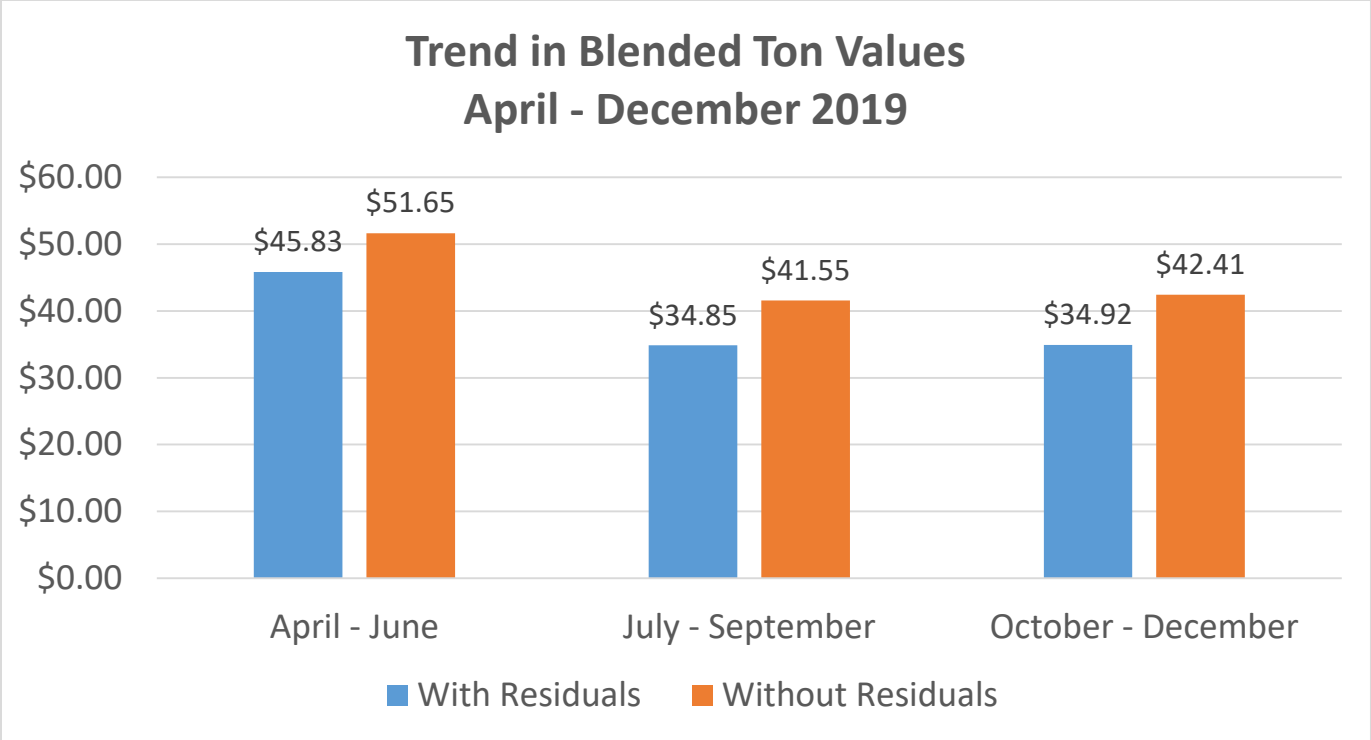
Average commodity value per ton *without* residuals: \$42.41

These figures are only slightly changed from the previous quarter (July – September, 2019)

Change in average commodity value per ton *with* residuals from the previous quarter + .02%

Change in average commodity value per ton *without* residuals: + 2.07%

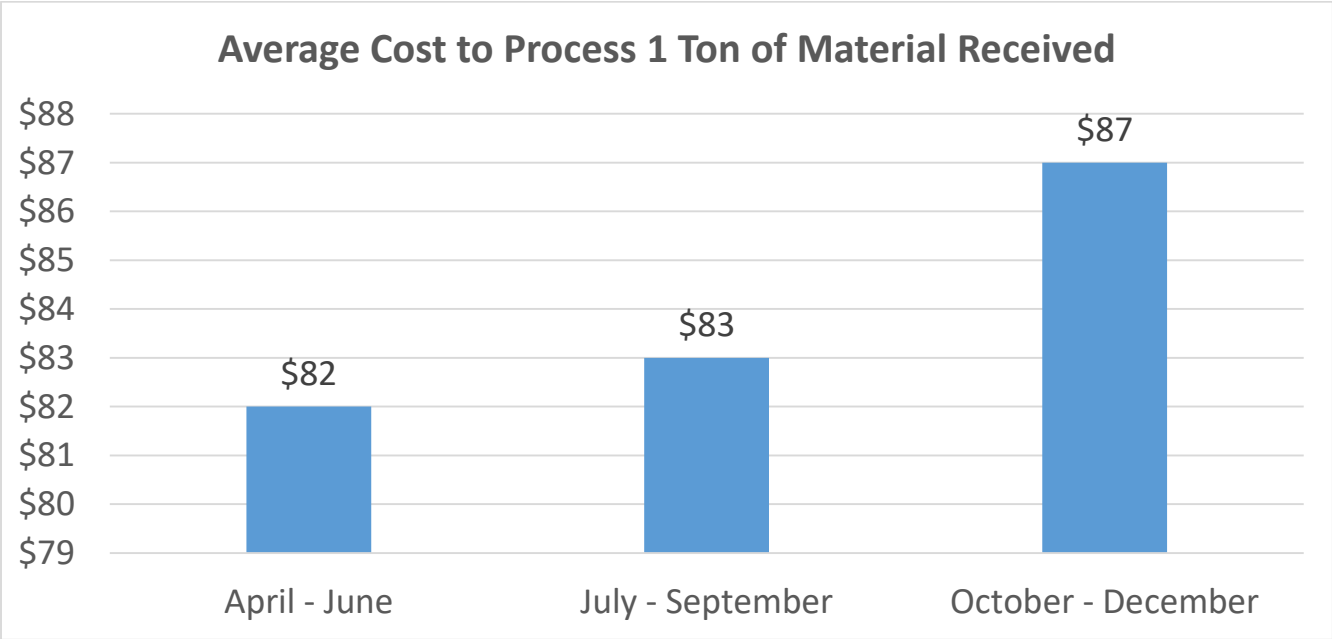
³ Responses were received for clear, green, brown and 3-mix. The answers were blended to provide a single glass value, thus avoiding the over-counting in previous reports.



Residual Processing Costs

The MRFs were also asked about processing costs⁴ for the period October – December 2019.

The average processing cost per ton: \$87/ton. This represents an increase of 5% over the previous period.



⁴ The cost to sort and prepare the commodities for sale.