

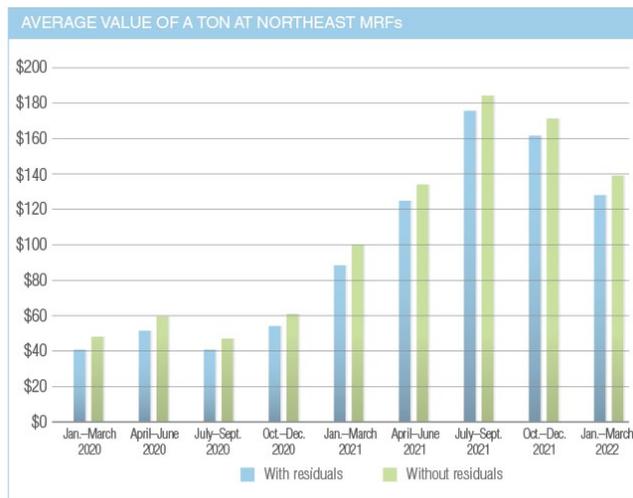
Data Corner: End of an extended rise in materials pricing?

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by [Editorial Staff](#)

In May, the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) reported that the average value of a blended ton of recyclables in the first quarter of 2022 was \$138.62, down 15% from the fourth quarter of 2021. That price represents the blended value for a ton of recyclables from Northeast U.S. MRFs surveyed by NERC, and the number takes into account the negative value of residuals. The Q1 2022 average is up 57% from the first quarter of 2021, but it's the second consecutive quarter-over-quarter decline. As the chart below indicates, from the start of the pandemic until the end of last year, the value of a blended ton increased fairly steadily. That phenomenon can be attributed to a number of different factors: a rise in material demand tied to e-commerce growth and hygiene concerns; supply chain disruptions constricting movement of virgin materials; brand goals around boosting the use of recycled content; and a generally strong economy overall. As we move into 2022 (and a new period of economic uncertainty), the trajectory of commodity pricing will be a critical trend for all municipal recycling stakeholders.



Source: Northeast Recycling Council's "Northeast Recycling Market Report"

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The latest recycling industry news

More price drops for recycled paper and plastic

The commodities market downturn continues to punish MRFs, with plummeting prices for OCC, mixed paper, PET and HDPE this month.

How cities are strengthening programs for long-term success

Resilience in recycling requires a number of elements: upgrading technology, extending contracts or even buying carts for residents.

Thermoform-to-thermoform bill draws mixed reactions

Current debate over a California bill requiring PET thermoforms to contain RPET derived from thermoforms boils down to one question: What will materials recovery facilities do?

How a county-processor contract addresses equity

A Twin Cities-area processor won an electronics recycling and repair contract with the second largest county in Minnesota, a deal that comes as the company undergoes a rebrand.

Only US carpet EPR program reports 28% recycling rate

California's extended producer responsibility program for carpet achieved a sharp increase in the recycling rate last year, jumping 7 percentage points from the prior year.

US recovered fiber and plastic exports drop

U.S. exports of fiber bales came down slightly during the first half of this year, trade data shows. At the same time, overseas shipments of scrap plastics took a tumble.

Plaintiff drops case over Hefty Recycling bag marketing

Reynolds Consumer Products has staved off one of the recent legal challenges to its Hefty Recycling bag marketing claims.

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