

NERC bale value study shows declining prices

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NERC's survey showed that the blended value for a ton of recyclables in the first quarter of 2022 was down 15% from the previous quarter but up 57% year over year. | Olexandr Panchenko/Shutterstock

The value of curbside recyclables dropped again in the first quarter of 2022, according to a newly released bale study. But pricing remained higher than what was seen during the same period last year.

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 but up 57% from the first quarter of 2021.

That price is the blended value for a ton of recyclables, including the negative value of residuals, which MRFs dispose of.

The average price in the first quarter of 2022 not counting those residuals was \$147.12, down 14% from the [fourth quarter](#) of 2021 but up 48% year over year.

MRF costs to sort and sell recovered commodities rose slightly, with an average processing cost of \$89 per ton in the first quarter of 2022. That's an increase of 3% from the last quarter and an increase of 2% year over year.

This quarterly survey is the 12th NERC has conducted and includes data from 12 Northeastern MRFs, of which 75% are single-stream and 25% are dual-stream or source-separated facilities.

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Industry reacts to passage of Colorado packaging EPR bill

While many industry leaders praised the recent passage of a Colorado bill establishing extended producer responsibility for printed paper and packaging, others are calling for Gov. Jared Polis to veto it.

In My Opinion: What teens suggest about recycling's future

After judging recycling presentations from Oregon high schoolers, our associate editor feels hopeful that an engaged (if sometimes confused) younger generation will lead us to a stronger and fairer recycling system.

Paper and packaging EPR bill passes in Colorado

Colorado's governor has been sent a bill establishing extended producer responsibility for printed paper and packaging, a major development in the wider industry conversation about reshaping the funding model for municipal recycling.

Novelis unveils plans for \$2.5B aluminum recycling plant

A huge aluminum recycling and rolling plant in the South will greatly expand Novelis' capacity to recycle used beverage cans.

Favorable markets continue for WM, Republic and others

Higher commodity prices continue to drive revenues and profits for the largest waste and recycling haulers in North America.

EPR and packaging-reduction bill introduced in New York

An extended producer responsibility bill that has the support of environmental activists was recently introduced in New York, while a Colorado EPR bill moved to the Senate floor.

Robotics provider begins operating its own facilities

AMP Robotics is now breaking and sorting MRF residual bales at secondary-sortation operations in Colorado, Georgia and Ohio.

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