



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# Update on Recycling Markets

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**Waste Management: Addressing Today's Challenges  
SUNY Ulster - November 10, 2018**

# Issues

- China's Restrictions – National Sword
  - 0.5% bale contamination standard for mixed paper and plastics is challenging to meet
  - Not enough current capacity in the US or other parts of the world to easily absorb the materials
  - Building domestic markets take time



# Consequences

- Processing at single-stream MRFS has slowed to capture the right materials
- Stockpiling of materials that aren't moving to market
- Processing fees have increased straining municipal budgets

# Governor Cuomo Directive

DEC to hold Stakeholder Meetings

- Initial Meeting in Albany 8/29
- SUNY New Paltz 10/12
- SUNY ESF Syracuse 10/26

*State Assembly Public Hearing on Recycling  
Friday, November 16, 2018 beginning at 11:30 a.m.  
Legislative Office Building Hearing Room C*



## 8/29 Initial Stakeholder Meeting – Priority Topics Stakeholders Identified:

- Need for consistent education to combat contamination
- Rising processing & transportation costs
- Aging recycling infrastructure
- Limited NY/regional recycling markets
- Glass & mixed paper challenges



# 10/12 Education Stakeholder Meeting

## Main points made by attendees:

- Uniform messaging is important but harmonization is difficult
- Behavior change is challenging and direct face to face communication with individuals is important
- Evolving diversity of consumer products/packaging creates confusion
- Important for consumers to understand the “why”

# 10/12 Education Stakeholder Meeting

## Outcome:

- Subcommittee formed to begin working on a 12 part campaign that will focus on highlighting one “yes” or one “no” item per month
- Survey monkey with “yes” and “no” items to include in campaign sent out to stakeholder group to begin this work



# 10/26 Recycling Markets & Infrastructure Stakeholder Meeting

## Industry perspectives on:

- Mixed Paper – Myles Cohen, Pratt Industries
- Glass – Cynthia Andela, Andela Products
- Plastics – Tonya Randell, More Recycling



# 10/26 Markets & Infrastructure Needs Identified

- Modernize Infrastructure
  - Facilities (teardowns not retrofits)
  - Equipment/Technology
- Identify and Develop Domestic/Alternative Markets
- Start with MRF Glass



# Challenges/Opportunities

- Funding
- Finding Partners
- Market Development in NYS

# Stakeholder Suggestions: Short Term

- Consistent Recycling Messaging:
  - why it's important
  - capture the right materials
  - keep them clean and dry

# Stakeholder Suggestions: Long Term

- EPR for packaging
- Expand glass bottles in RCA
- Conversion technologies for plastics

## Where we are starting:

- Working with Stakeholders on consistent, simplified recycling messaging statewide
- Future stakeholder meetings focused on strengthening glass outlets/markets in NYS

**Where we are going: Your feedback will help determine!**

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# Thank You!

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