

Top Perspectives on U.S. Curbside Recycling

Communities across the U.S. remain committed to providing household recycling services, just as Americans also continue to value and demand recycling as an essential public service. The good news is that the application of adequate resources and smart interventions can easily improve the performance of those services.

The Recycling Partnership's 2020 State of Curbside Recycling report provides a snapshot of the challenges facing the U.S. household recycling system and recommends a set of integrated strategies to help it achieve its full potential.



Only half of Americans have automatic access to curbside recycling



Of these, only 72% of homes with access actually participate



And some participants still put some recyclables in the trash

Correcting the Imbalance

Many communities are increasingly paying more to send materials to a MRF than the landfill and many programs lack critical operating funds.

\$55
per ton



landfill

\$64
per ton



Solutions



Clean up the recycling stream by **increasing education of what to recycle and decreasing contamination rates**



Innovate to support the **transition to a circular economy** in the United States



Institute new and enhanced **state and federal recycling policies**



Substantially **increase support** of community recycling programs



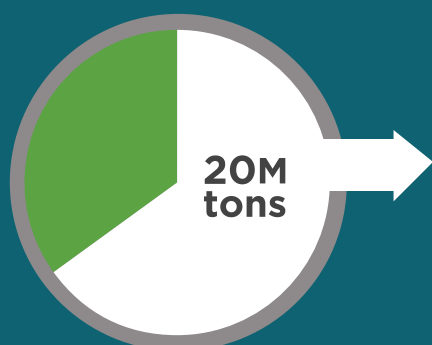
Increase **involvement** of all stakeholders



Invest in domestic material processing and end markets

Benefits

Out of 37.4 million tons available to be recycled, 20 million tons are thrown in the trash due to lack of access and participation.



If these 20M tons were recycled, it would:



Conserve an annual energy equivalent of **154 million barrels of oil**



Reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by **96 million metric tons** of carbon dioxide equivalent



Generate **370,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs**



Achieve the equivalent of taking more than **20 million cars** off U.S. highways.