

2020 U.S. MRF Survey: Survey of U.S. Residential Material Recovery Facilities - Acceptance of Post-Consumer Plastic Products

MRFs are welcomed to submit information to LastBeachCleanup@gmail.com The MRF list spreadsheet will be revised after confirmation of updates.

Acceptance of Polypropylene Cups & Tub Containers				
	ALL MRFs		Top 66 US MRFs	
Total Count	377	%	66	%
No PP#5 cups/containers collected	173	46%	28	42%
PP#5 Containers collected separately but may not be recycled	14	4%	2	3%
PP#5 Containers collected part of mixed #3-7 bale but may not be recycled	186	49%	36	55%
PP#5 collected with high probability of sale to recycler/reprocessor	4	1%	0	0%

Top Plastic Pollution Items: Acceptance (No Assurance of Recycling)						
	ALL MRFs			Top 66 US MRFs		
	No	No %	Yes	No	No %	Yes
Styrofoam Food Service	366	97%	11	65	98%	1
Plastic Bags	364	97%	13	63	95%	3
Plastic Cups	334	89%	43	56	85%	10
Plastic Plates	373	99%	4	66	100%	0
Plastic Clamshells	325	86%	52	57	86%	9
Plastic Trays	352	93%	25	60	91%	6
Plastic Lids/Caps (Loose)	366	97%	11	60	91%	6
Plastic Cutlery, Straws & Stirrers	375	99%	2	66	100%	0
Plastic Food Wrappers/Pouches	376	100%	1	65	98%	1
Plastic Coffee Pods	377	100%	0	66	100%	0

Styrofoam Food Services Containers		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	366	65
Yes	11	1

Plastic Bags		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	364	63
Yes	13	3

Plastic Cups		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	334	56
Yes	43	10

Plastic Plates		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	373	66
Yes	4	0

Plastic Cutlery/Straws/Stirrers		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	375	66
Yes	2	0

Access to Collection for Recycling Estimation

	Total U.S. Population 2015/2016 <sup>1</sup>	(A) Total U.S. Population Winter 2019 (estimated)	Estimation Basis: Change from 2015 <sup>2</sup>	(B) PP#5 Tub Acceptance (Recycling Not Assured)	Basis	Total US PP#5 Tub Acceptance (A x B)
Automatic Curbside Collection for Recycling	53%	50%	-5%	54%	Per Survey Above	27%
Opt-In/Subscription for Curbside Collection for Recycling	20%	18%	-10%	10%	No value for plastics #3-7, low value for segregated PP#5	1.8%
Drop Off Access to Collection Systems for Recycling	21%	19%	-10%	10%	No value for plastics #3-7, low value for segregated PP#5	1.9%
No Access to Collection for Recycling	6%	13%		0%		69%
Access to Collection for Recycling (Collected materials may not actually be recycled)	94%	87%				31%

Plastic Clamshells		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	325	57
Yes	52	9

Plastic Trays		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	352	60
Yes	25	6

Plastic Lids/Caps (Loose)		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	366	60
Yes	11	6

Plastic Food Wrappers		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	376	65
Yes	1	1

Plastic Coffee Pods		
	ALL MRFs	Top 66 US MRFs
Total Count	377	66
No	377	66
Yes	0	0

Data Sources & References

	Due to China's ban on plastic waste imports and decrease in new plastic feedstock prices, this study is out of date.
<a href="#">1. 2015/2016 Centralized Study on Availability of Plastic Recycling</a>	
<a href="#">2. Waste Dive: How Recycling Has Changed in All 50 States</a>	Basis for estimation of change in access to recycling
<a href="#">US Residential MRF List - published by Recycling Partnership with credit to Resource Recycling</a>	Corrected for facilities closed or are not Residential MRFs
<a href="#">MASS MRF List</a>	Reviewed for MRF Locations
<a href="#">New Jersey Intermediate Processing Facilities List</a>	Industrial programs not included
<a href="#">Republic Services MRF List</a>	Reviewed for MRF Locations
<a href="#">Ohio MRF List</a>	Reviewed for MRF Locations
<a href="#">Largest 75 North American MRF List</a>	66 of Top 75 are in the U.S.

Survey Information & Use

<b>Objective Assessment:</b> This survey was performed in October to December 2019 and reverified in January 2020 by two registered professional chemical engineers and a recycling industry expert. The technical persons involved have no conflicts of interest related to U.S. plastic recycling that would influence the assessment or results. The information was found in the public domain and is publicly shared to promote transparency and establish a traceable account of facts related to legitimate recyclable labels for plastic products.
<b>Use of the Survey:</b> The U.S. MRF Survey results may be quoted with attribution to The Last Beach Cleanup. The information in the Survey spreadsheet may be quoted with attribution to the original source of the information (provided by links in the spreadsheet). The spreadsheet itself is the property of The Last Beach Cleanup and may not be reproduced without express written consent.
<b>Survey Updates:</b> Submissions by MRFs and local governments are welcomed to update or correct the information presented. Links to publicly available information are required to revise the traceable account. Since external links may change at any time, we request notification of a broken link. Please send updates with links to lastbeachcleanup@gmail.com.