

# COSTS OF RECYCLING & DIVERSION

Michael R. Timpane  
Vice President



*Cost of Recycling Webinar*  
*May 14, 2015*

Providing solutions in sustainability, resource management and waste recovery for clients and their supply chains



managing change in a resource-constrained world.

A mockup of the RRS website homepage. The header is dark grey with the RRS logo on the left and navigation links (ABOUT US, OUR WORK, OUR PROGRAMS, BLOG, CONTACT US) and social media icons (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) on the right. The main content area has a background image of a cloudy sky. It features a central heading "Introducing Our Services" flanked by horizontal lines. Below this are three service cards: "Global Corporate Sustainability" with a photo of a grocery store aisle, "Waste Recovery Solutions" with a photo of blue plastic bottles, and "Organics Management" with a photo of fresh vegetables. At the bottom, there is a teal banner with the text "since 1986" (preceded by five dots, the first of which is filled) and "Managing change in a resource-constrained world for nearly 30 years".

RRS

ABOUT US | OUR WORK | OUR PROGRAMS | BLOG | CONTACT US | [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

## Introducing Our Services

Global Corporate Sustainability

Waste Recovery Solutions

Organics Management

● ○ ○ ○ ○

since 1986

Managing change in a resource-constrained world  
for nearly 30 years

## TODAY'S AGENDA

01

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Recycling  
Value Chain

02

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Concepts in  
Costs In  
Recycling

03

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Other Topics



## Demand Motivations

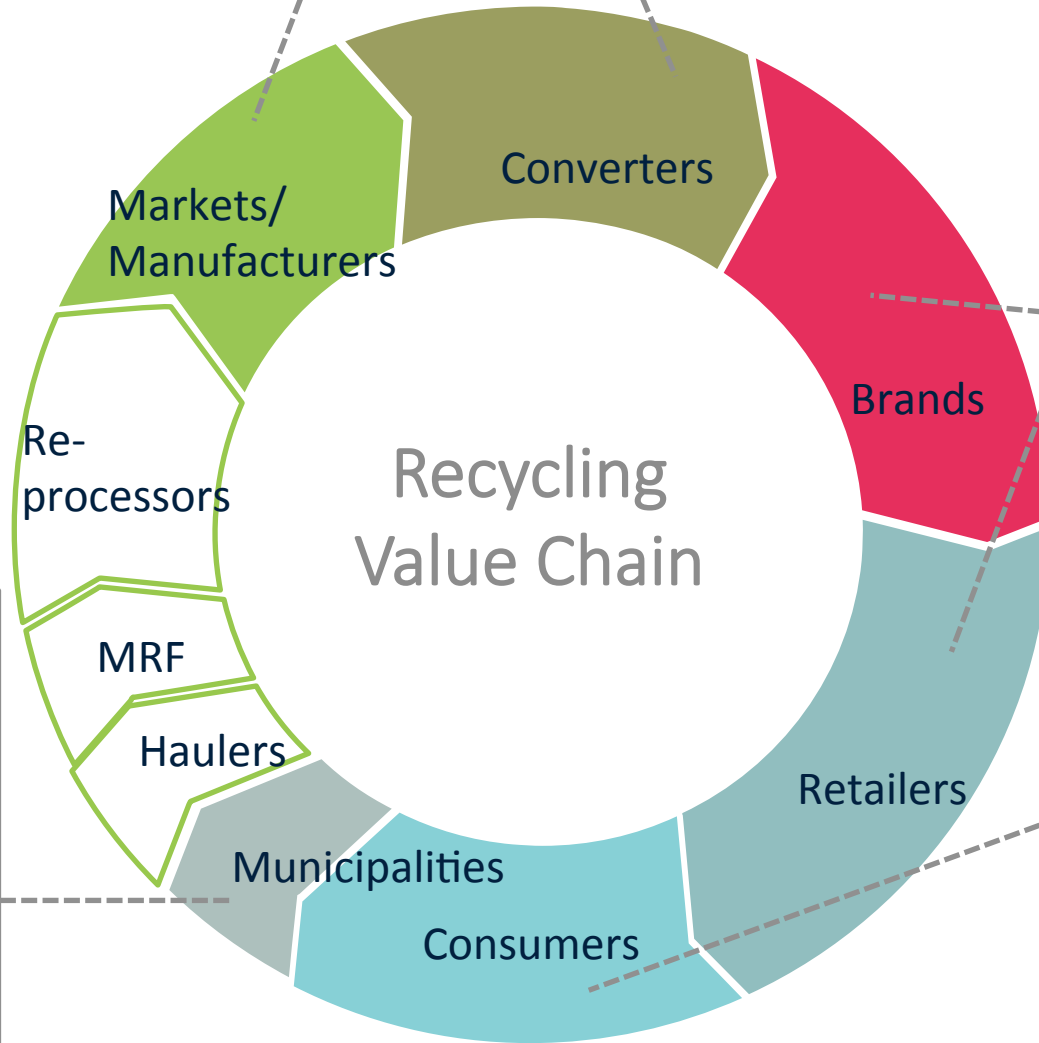
- Voter Demand
- Environmental Mitigation
- Landfill cost
- Zero Waste/ Diversion mandates

- Material cost savings
- Reliable Supply & Quality
- Customer Specification

- Material cost savings
- Supply & Quality
- Customer Specifications

- Customer Demand/ competitive advantage
- Avoid Regulatory risk
- NGO pressure
- Sustainability Concerns
- Protect 1 way packaging

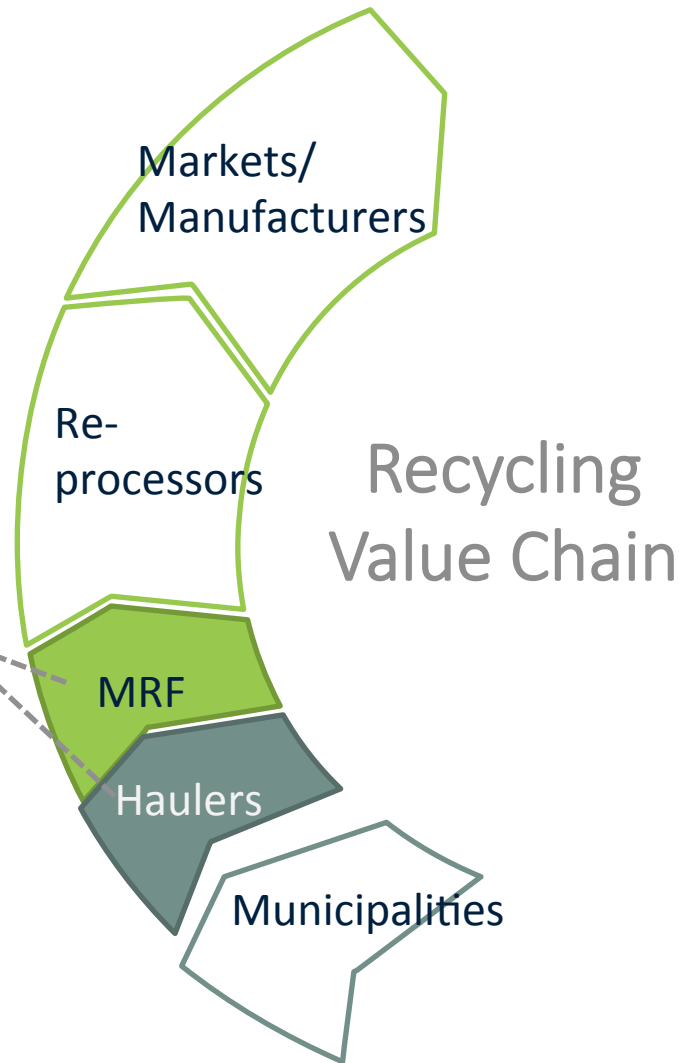
- Response to Environmental Concerns
- Price
- Thrifty/ Conservation
- Product Feature





## Business Motivations

- **Service Providers**
  - Revenue from both inbound and outbound customers
  - Pay for Play
  - Less powerful position



|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Recycling should be free | inelastic demand                        |
| Take more materials      | More and tougher quality specs          |
| Minimize my risk         | Market risk on you                      |
| Long-term contracts      | No long term contracts                  |
| dynamic material streams | Markets structure weak for new material |
| Competes with LF         | Competes with Virgin Materials          |

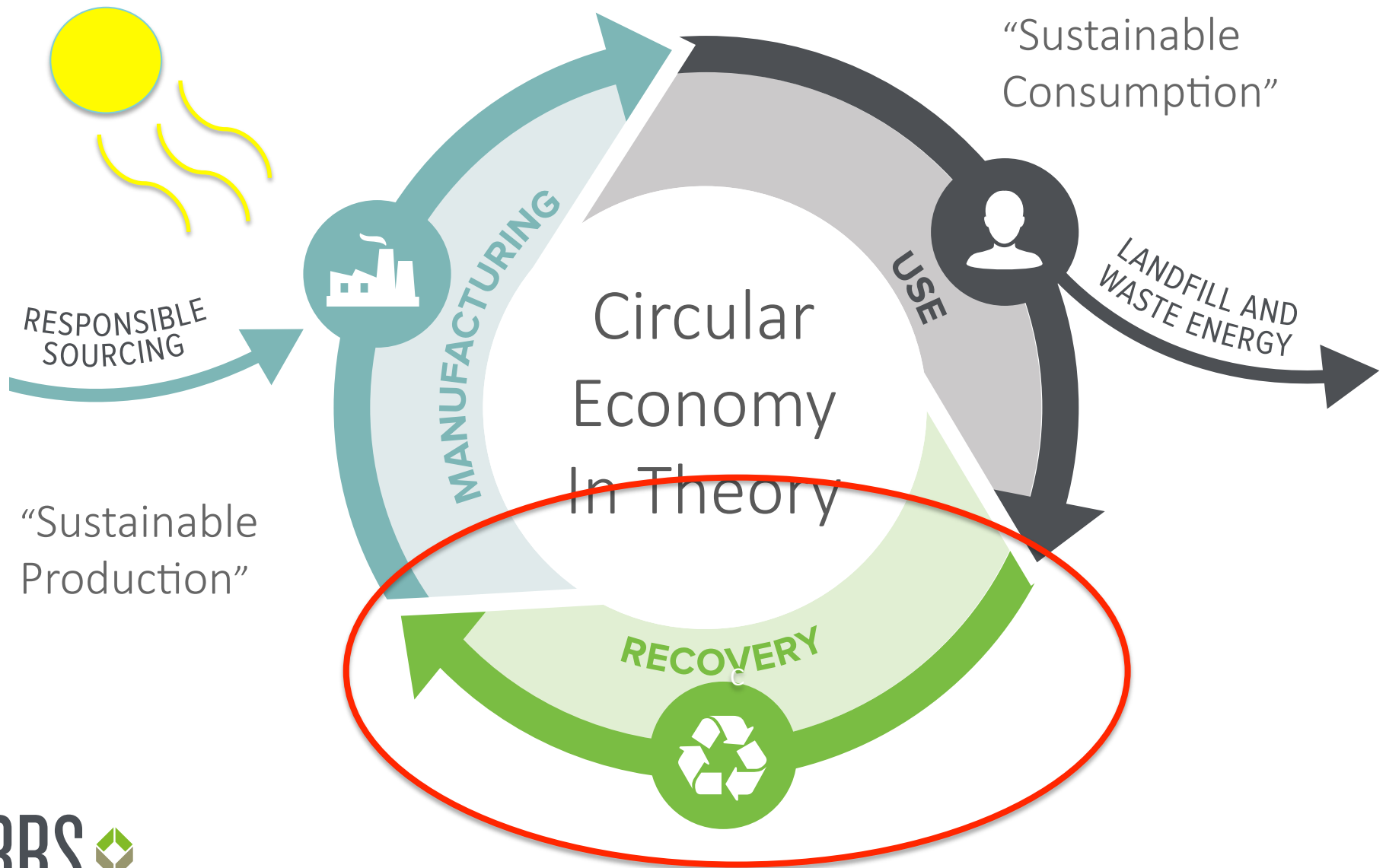
## “Valuing” Single Stream Recycling Today

*“(the) local curbside collection program is only the beginning of a recycling loop. At present, the cost of collecting and processing recyclable materials far outweighs their value as a commodity that can be sold back to industry.*

## “Valuing” Single Stream Recycling Today?

*“(the) local curbside collection program is only the beginning of a recycling loop. At present, the cost of collecting and processing recyclable materials far outweighs their value as a commodity that can be sold back to industry. Unless consumers buy recycled products, the markets for the material they put out at the curb” will not grow.*

*HBR- 1993*









## Disclaimer

- *Examples only- to provide contrast. Your cost will be specific.*
  - *Averages and available public Information- highest common denominator (fleet)*
  - *Ranges rather than revealed numbers*
  - *Non-public entities*
  - *Studies, public proposals, presentations, literature, web*
  - *Must do the math to get local program numbers- requires deep dive assessment*
-

# Residential Single Stream Collection Costs



Average\* Garbage vs. Single Stream Collection - \$/T

## Garbage

### Collection

|                   |         |                             |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Route Truck Cost  | \$850   | (\$100 for 8.5 Hrs.)        |
| Route Truck Yield | 10 Tons | <u>Can be up to 13 Tons</u> |
| Cost Per Ton      | \$85    |                             |

## Single Stream

### Collection

|                   |         |                             |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Route Truck Cost  | \$850   | (\$100 for 8.5 Hrs.)        |
| Route Ratio       | 1.25    |                             |
| Total Route Cost  | \$1,063 | 25% More Routes             |
| Route Truck Yield | 9 Tons  | <u>Can be up to 11 tons</u> |
| Cost Per Ton      | \$118   |                             |

Pass-by's  
can also be  
minimized  
through  
proper  
periodicity

# RRS Truck Capital Cost for Capturing Single Stream



\$ 2 Million for 100,000 HH



# RRS Container Capital for Capturing Single Stream



\$40-60 per Cart  
for 96 gallon

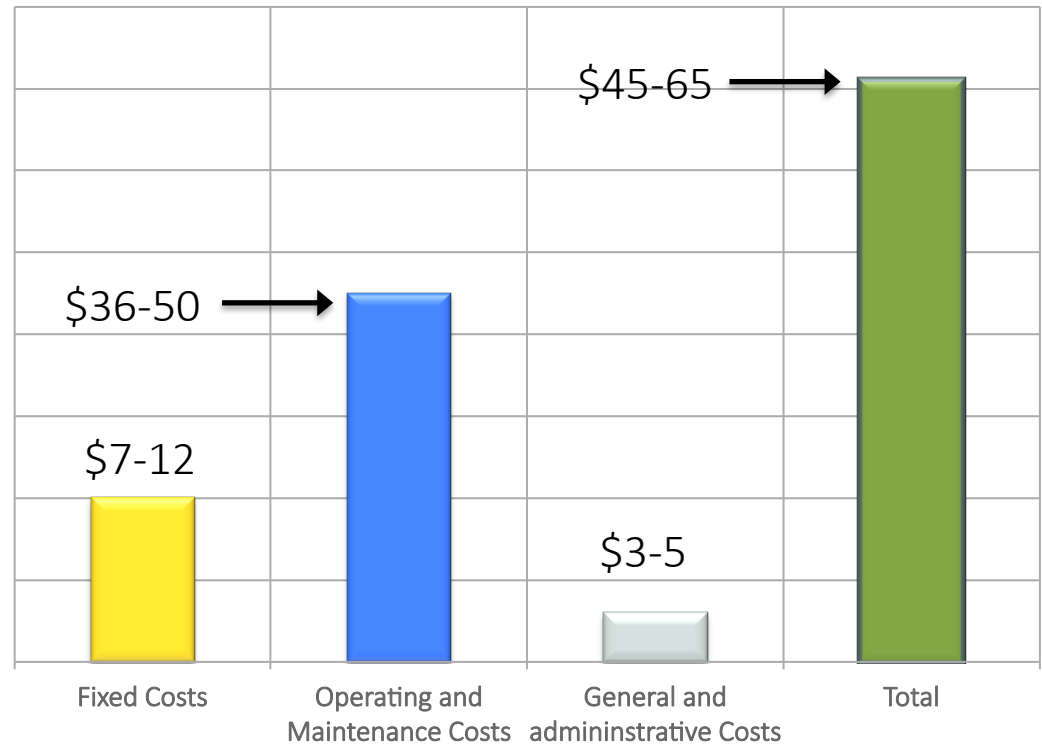


# SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING

*\$/T Received*

- Fixed Costs- Land (sunk), fixed equipment, mobile equipment, building and facilities.
- O&M- Out of pocket to run the plant
- G&A- Sales, management, administrative, education costs

## 2007 mid-\$50 T Range

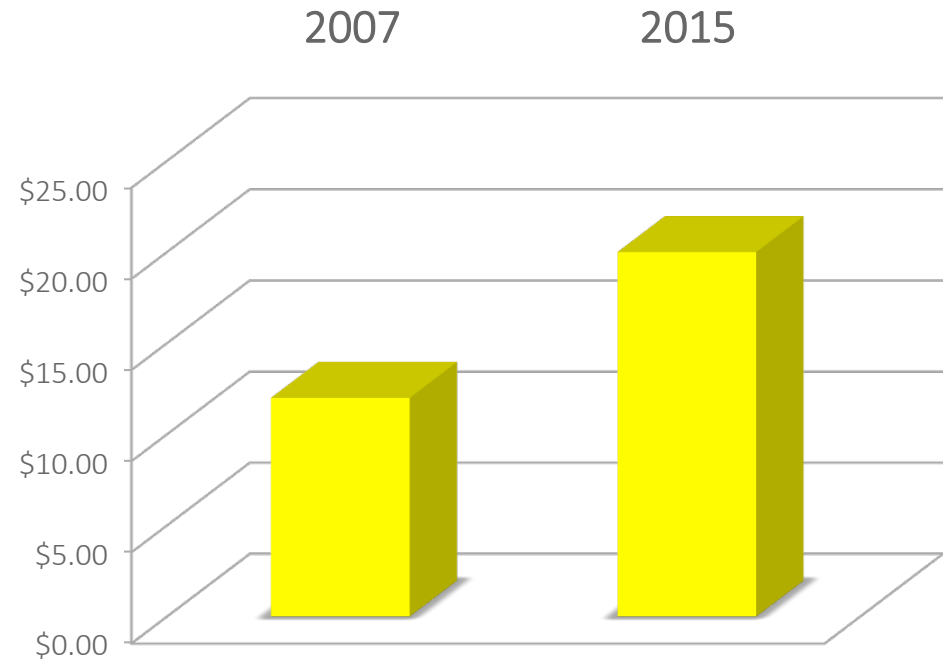




## SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING *\$/T Received*

Fixed Costs- Sort more types and sizes of material at higher volume

- Larger footprint
- Longer sort lines
- More peripheries
- More technology
- Higher speeds
- Regionalization
- Respond to Waste Stream
- Prime Mover & Capacity
- Competitive Retrofits





# SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING

## *Plant Capital Costs (before land)*



\$8-12M



\$20M



*Bollegraaf Philadelphia*  
*Waste Management World*

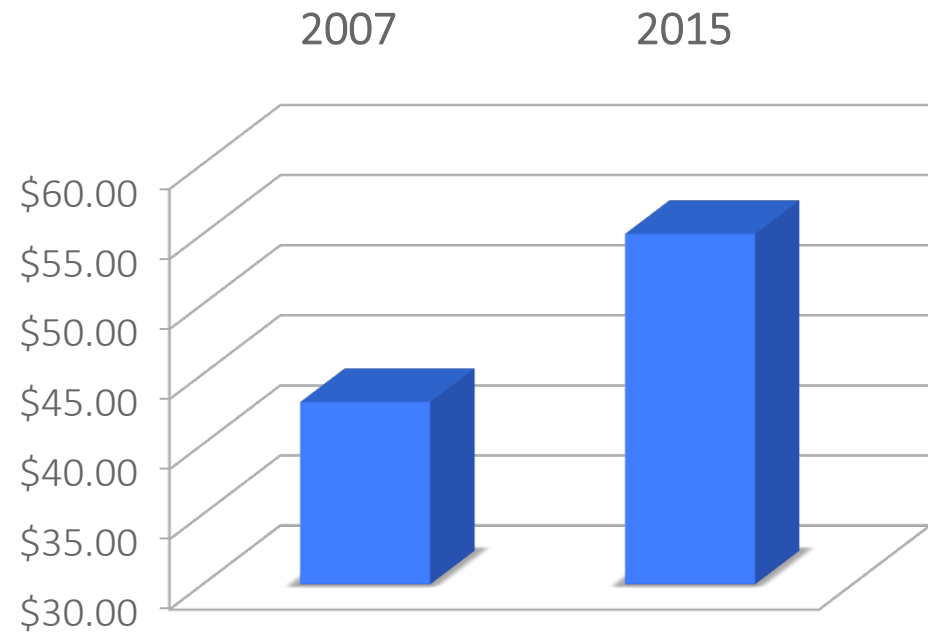




# SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING

*\$/T Received*

Operations and  
Maintenance





## SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING- O&M

- More and lighter units
- More types of material
- More downtime & maintenance

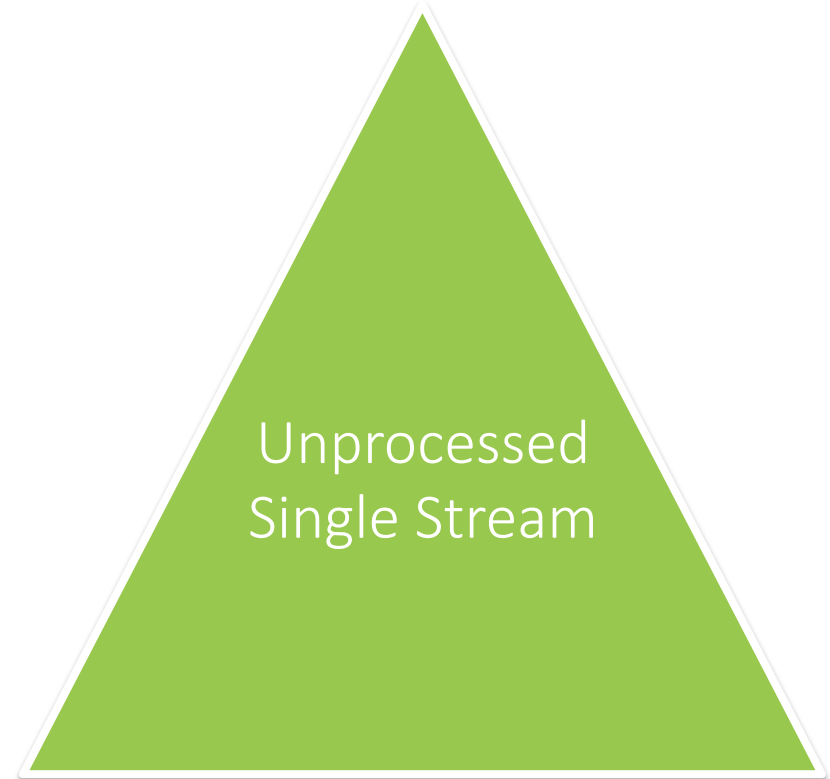
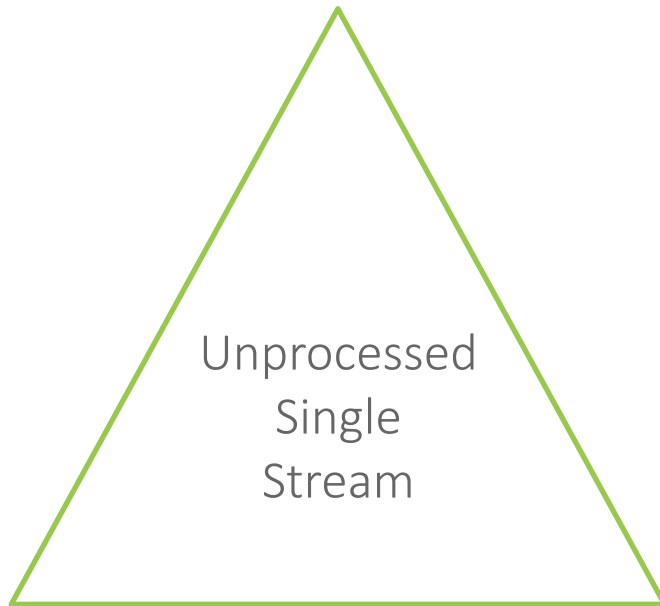


\$12T

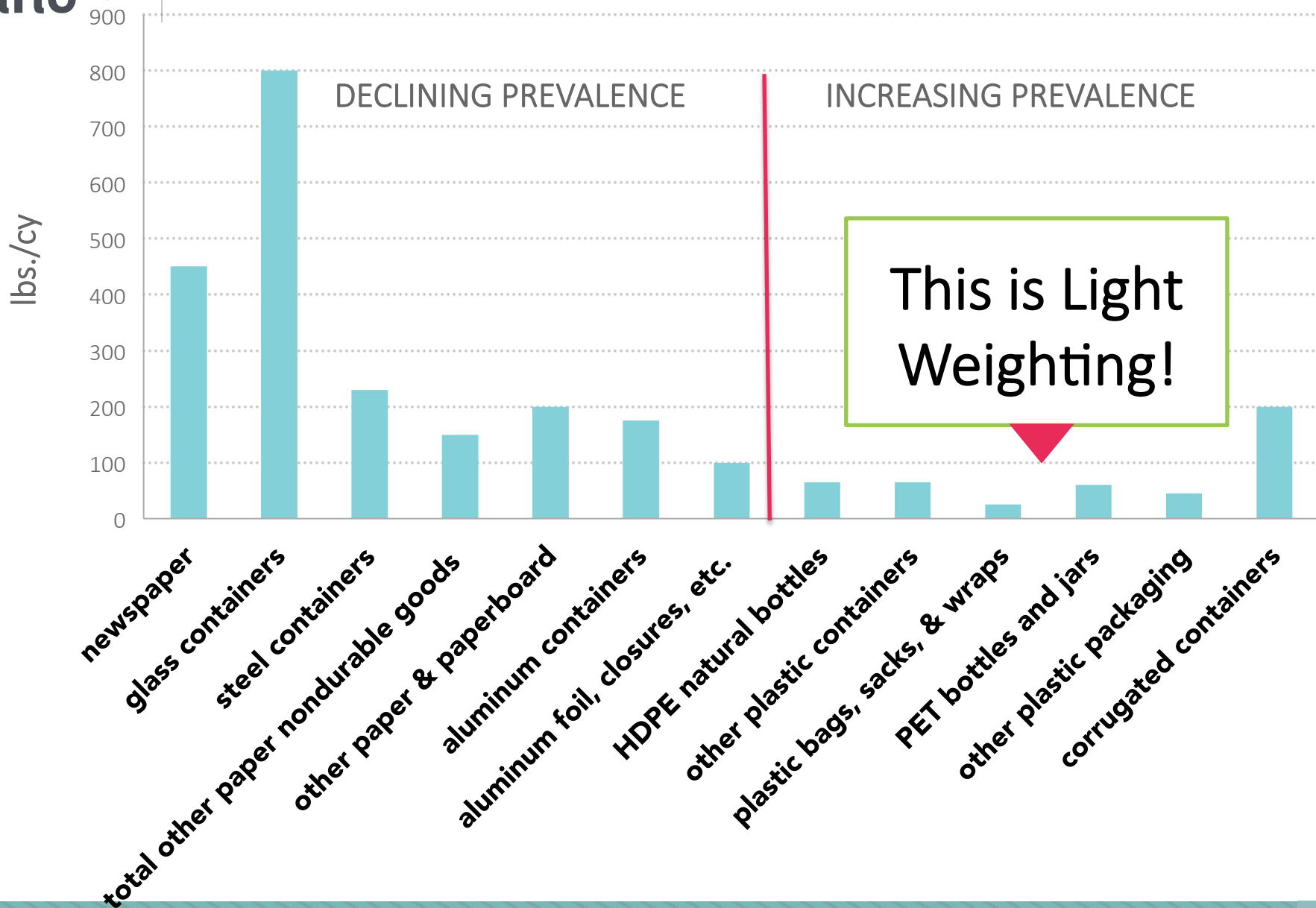
\$43 T

# SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING

*More and lighter units per ton*



# DENSITY RELATIONSHIP TO MATERIAL PREVALENCE





## Fiber

Newspaper and inserts  
Cardboard  
Paperboard  
Junk mail  
Ledgers, files, computer paper  
Magazines, catalogs, directories  
Paperback & hardcover books

## Containers

Aluminum cans and foil (clean)  
Steel cans  
Aerosol cans (empty))  
Glass bottles & jars  
Six-pack ring carriers  
  
1 PETE): Soft drink & water bottles  
2 HDPE: Milk jugs, detergent bottles

## Fiber

Newspaper and inserts  
Cardboard  
Paperboard  
Junk mail  
Ledgers, files or computer paper  
Magazines, catalogs, directories  
Paperback & hardcover books

**Other HH Fiber- Cups, containers, cleaned and washed**

## Containers

Aluminum cans and foil (clean)  
Steel cans  
Aerosol cans (empty), except paint cans!  
Glass bottles & jars  
Six-pack ring carriers

1 PETE: Soft drink & water bottles; **thermoform clamshells, ball holders**

2 Milk jugs, detergent bottles

**Beverage cartons**

**Plastic Shopping bags bundled**

**3 (PVC): Health & beauty aide, cooking oil bottles & household cleaners**

**4 LDPE (LDPE): Margarine tubs & lids, dessert cups, six-pack rings**

**5 (PP): Yogurt cups, syrup bottles, deli trays, and caps/lids. Clean Plant pots.**

**6 PS: Rigid #6 plastics only, coffee lids, bakery containers; No Styrofoam or utensils**

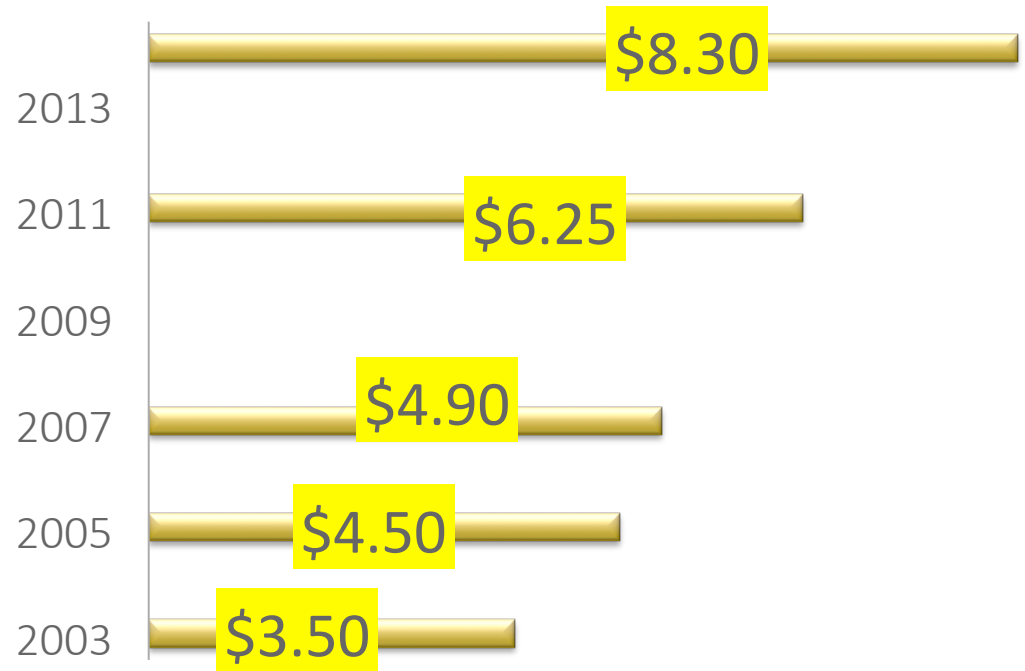
**7 OTHER : Microwaveable containers and narrow-neck bottles, flexible packaging  
Household Rigid Plastics**



## SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING MAINTENANCE COST TREND

*\$/T Received*

- Aging of the Fleet-  
Most more than 5  
years old
- More linear feet
- More peripheries and  
types of machinery
- Custom Equipment  
maintenance access
- From interviews and  
available studies





# SINGLE STREAM PROCESSING TOTAL COSTS

From \$45 - \$65 T to >\$65 T to \$77 T Received

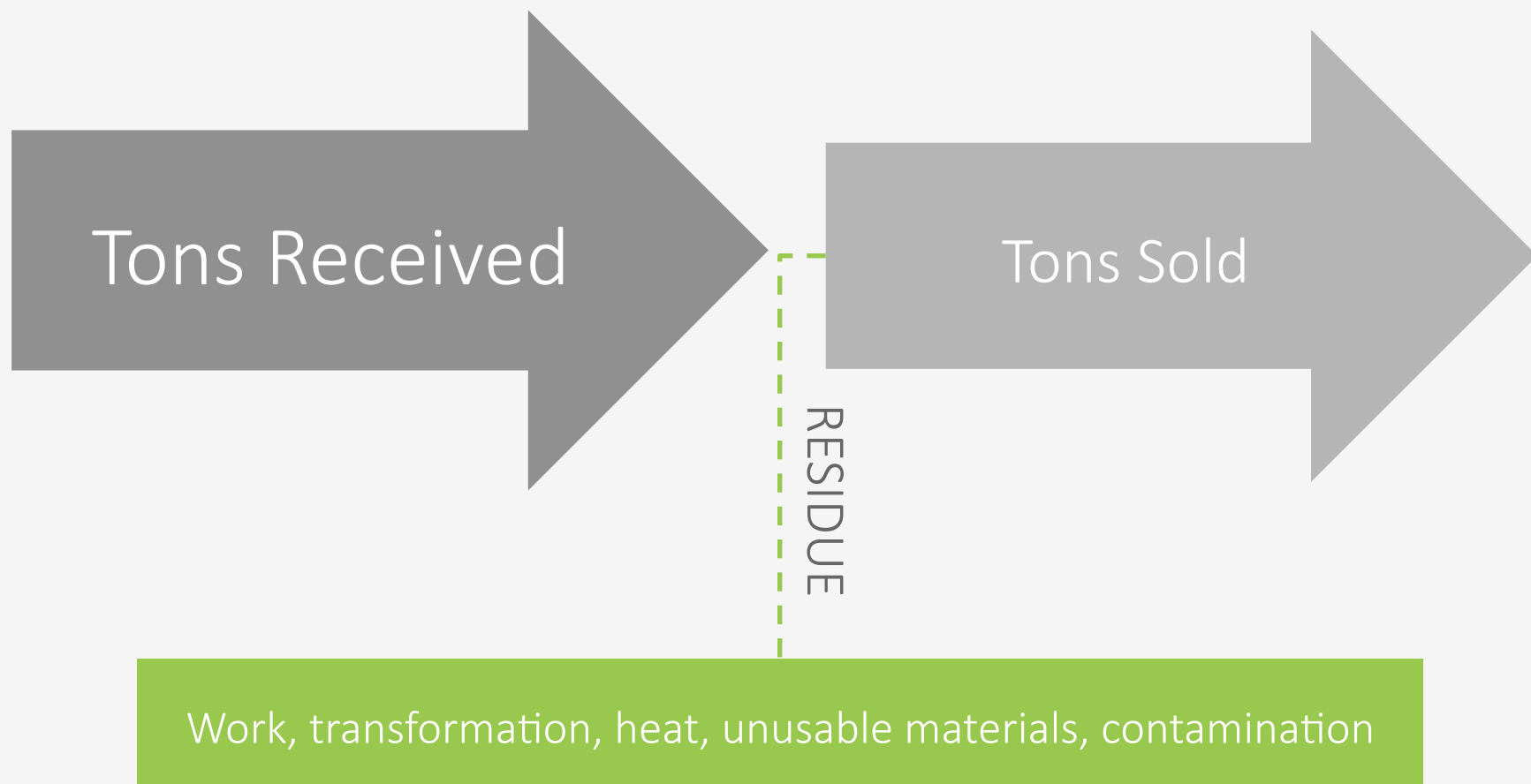


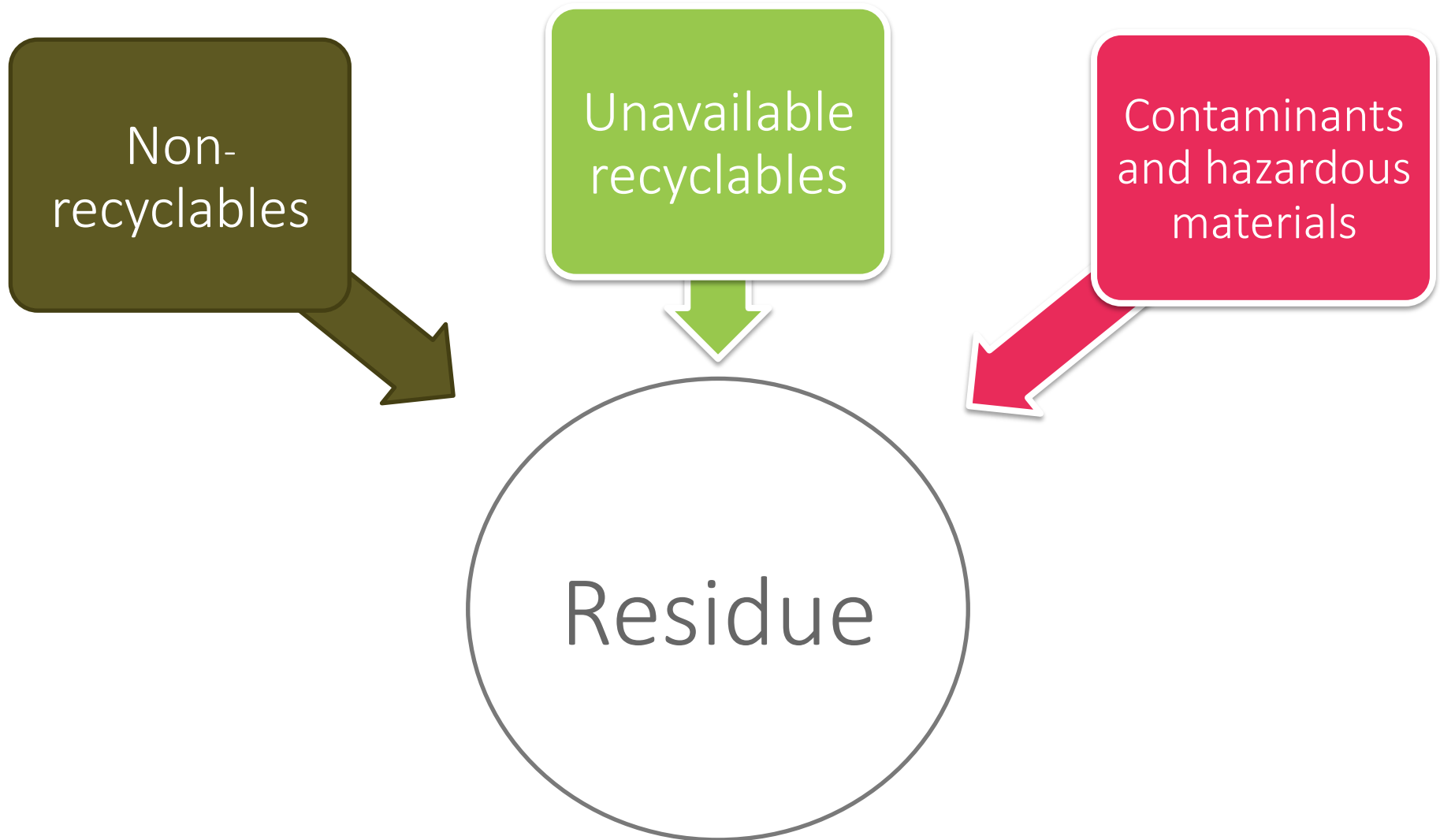
\$20T

\$57 T



## CONCEPTS IN RECYCLING COST





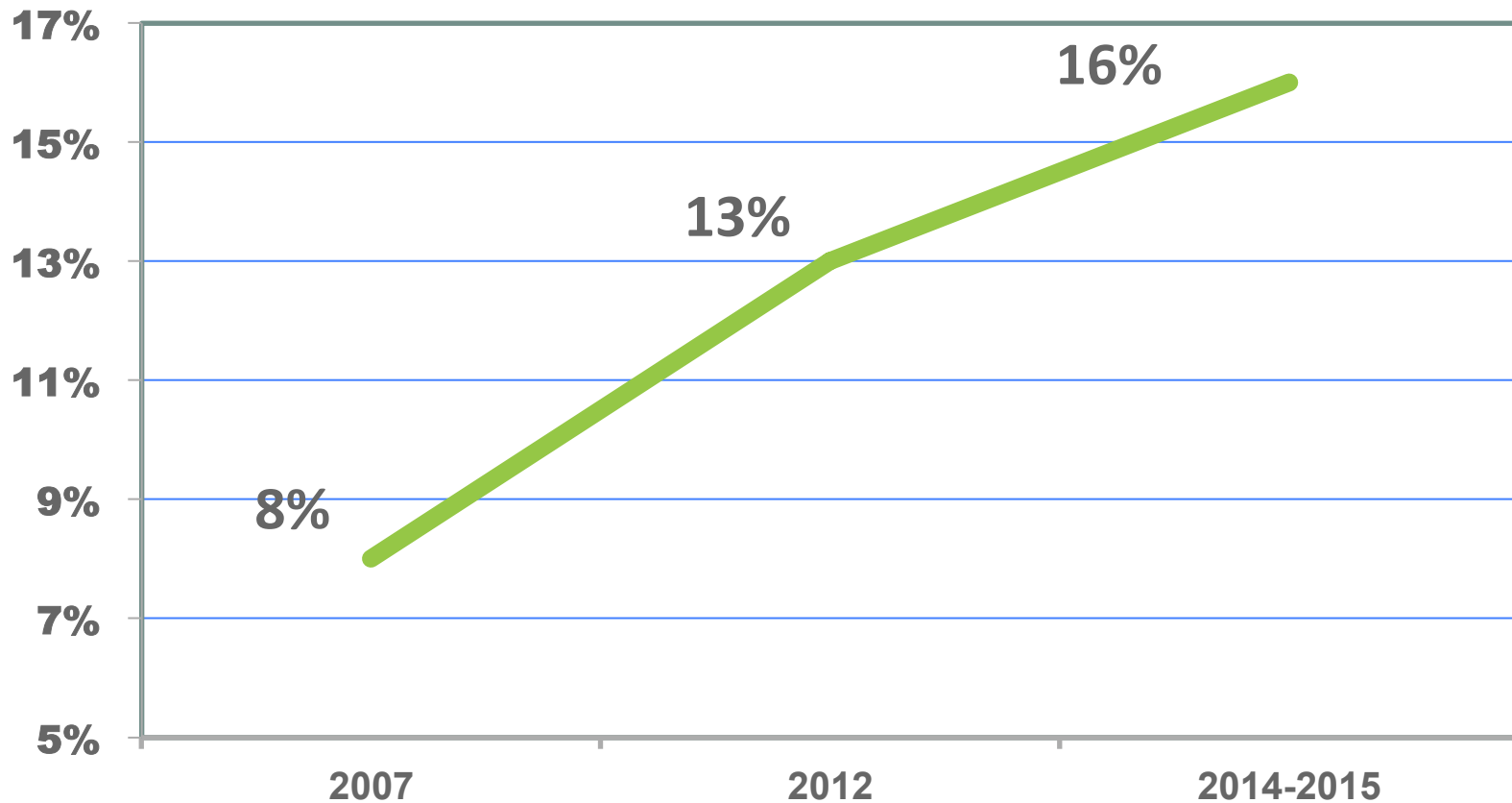


## Cost for Capturing Recyclables

| 4,800 TPM- 70% Participation | Single Stream      |             |             |             |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                              | 100,000 Households |             |             |             |
| \$/Tons Received             | 70% of 100%        | 80% of 100% | 90% of 100% | 95% of 100% |
| \$55.00                      | 70%                | 80%         | 90%         | 95%         |
| Tons Sold                    | \$78.57            | \$68.75     | \$61.11     | \$57.89     |
| 4800                         | \$353,571          | \$309,375   | \$275,000   | \$260,526   |
| Yield                        | 3,360              | 3,840       | 4,320       | 4,560       |



## Average Residue at Single Stream MRFs



Sources: 2007 Comparative Study on Public vs. Private MRFs, 2012 GAA study on Wisconsin-Area MRFs, ISRI Moore Presentation April 2015



## CONCEPTS IN RECYCLING COST

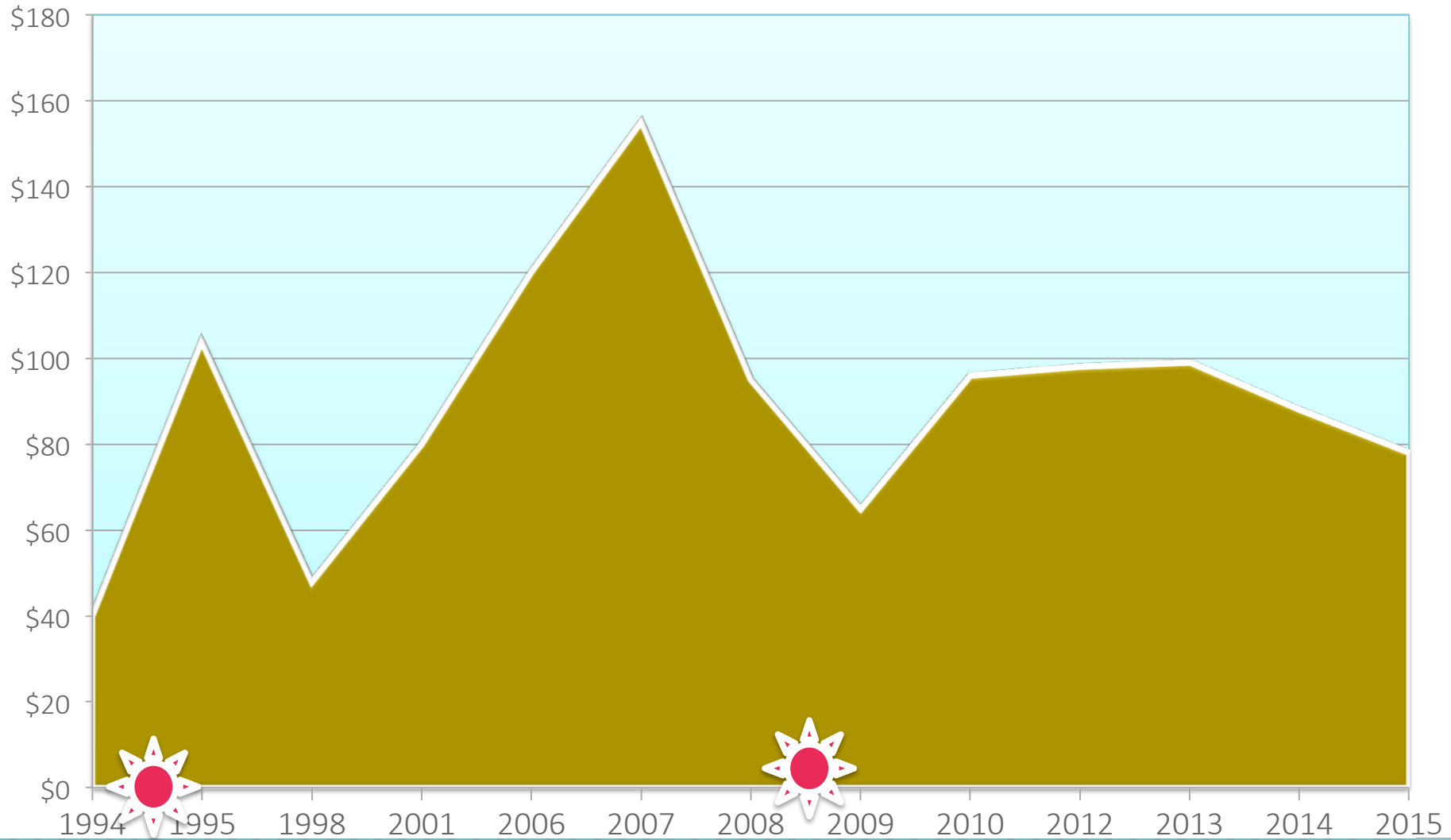
| Year      | Percent Residue | Total Impact  | Comparative \$/T<br>(Current LF \$/T) | Avg. MRF/Yr. |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2007      | 8%              | \$82,320,000  | \$3.92                                | \$131,292    |
| 2012      | 13%             | \$133,770,000 | \$6.37                                | \$213,349    |
| 2014-2015 | 16%             | \$164,640,000 | \$7.84                                | \$262,584    |

*GAA Wisconsin, Moore, ISRI- 85 MRFs*



## RECYCLING REVENUE (TS)

*System-wide Annual Blended Value, Average Value,  
Average Commodity Value, Average Market Value*

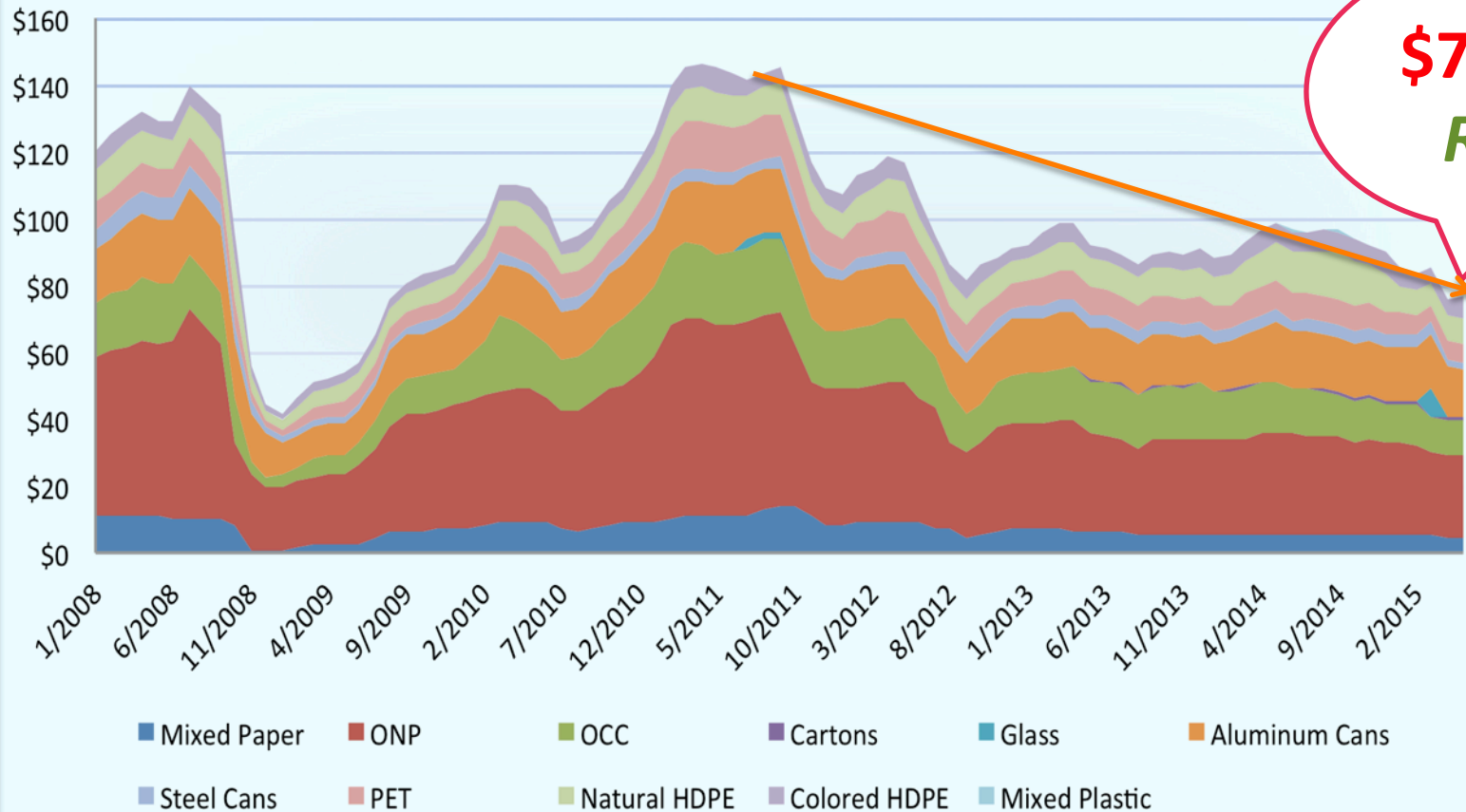




## RECYCLING REVENUE

*System-wide Blended Value, Average Value,  
Average Commodity Value, Average Market Value*

### Average Commodity Revenue





## Material Revenue: Audit Your Material to Understand

- Compositions will determine blended value
- \$66.50 in this real life Florida example

| Material                           | % of Ton Volume | %of Ton Value  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mixed Paper                        | 14.6%           | 12.8%          |
| Newspaper (ONP) & Acceptable Fiber | 29%             | 26%            |
| Cardboard (OCC)                    | 13.10%          | 16.32%         |
| Aseptic Cartons                    | 0.60%           | 0.60%          |
| Mixed Glass                        | 27.10%          | (-)13%         |
| Aluminum Cans                      | 0.90%           | 16.00%         |
| Steel Cans                         | 1.70%           | 3.10%          |
| PET #1                             | 3.20%           | 5.50%          |
| Natural HDPE #2                    | 3.30%           | 12.90%         |
| Colored HDPE #2                    | 3.80%           | 6.40%          |
| #3-7 Mixed Plastic                 | 2.70%           | 0.38%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>100.00%</b>  | <b>100.00%</b> |

## Single Stream- Net Change in Costs (from examples-\*)

| Category          | 2007    | 2015   | Change |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Revenue           | \$125   | \$76   | -83%   |
| Disposal          | -\$3.92 | -\$8   | -7%    |
| Collection        | -\$140  | -\$118 | 37%    |
| MRF<br>Processing | -\$59   | -\$71  | -20%   |
| Subtotal          | -\$203  | -\$197 | 3.2%   |
| Net Costs         | -\$78   | -\$121 | -73%   |



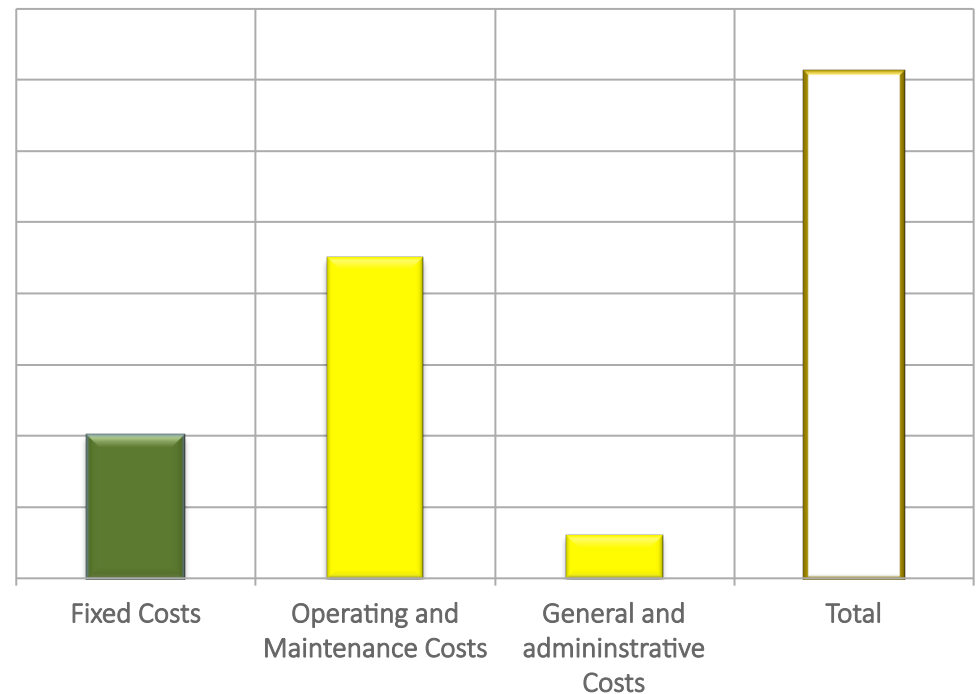


## Support is Needed

### Service Providers Must Be Paid for Providing More Recycling & More Convenience

#### Considerations to Guarantee Survival

- Cover Out of Pocket costs in any arrangement with low risk, preferably fixed fee
- Insure further investment by having enough profit for an appropriate return
  - Private: Annual or longer
  - Public: Quarterly (Conundrum)



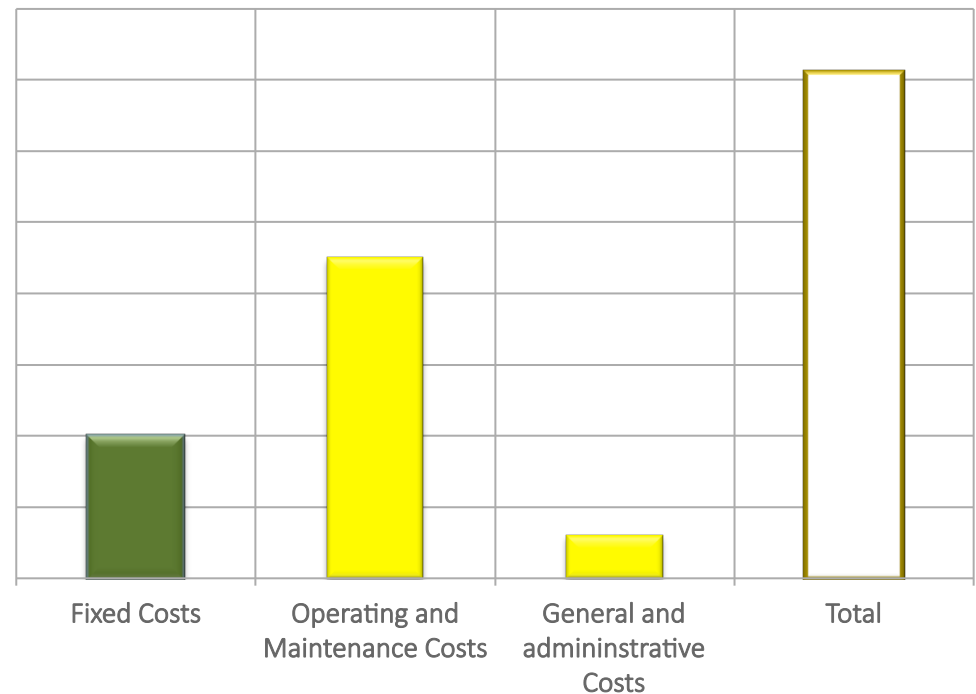


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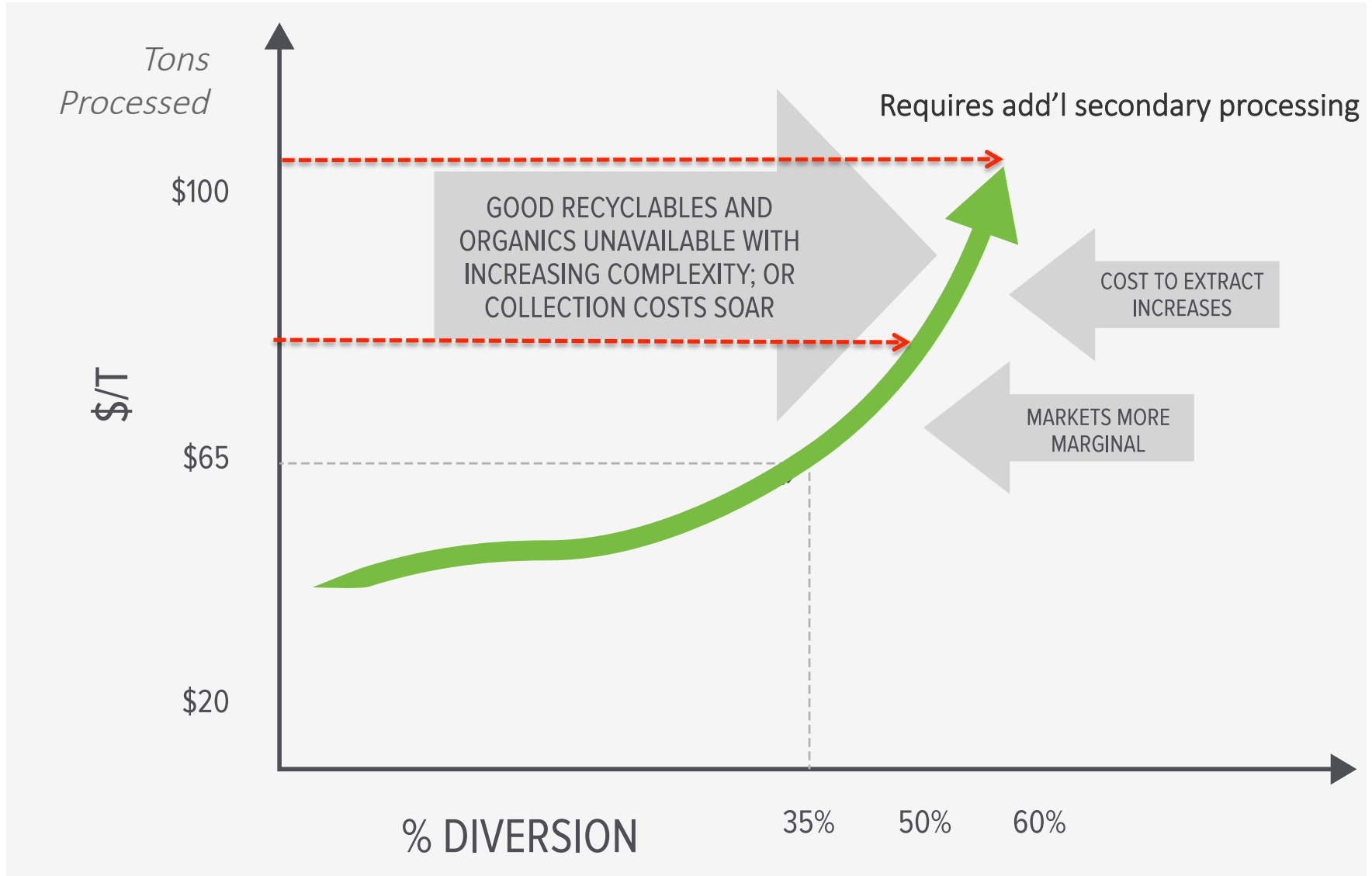




## Other Considerations

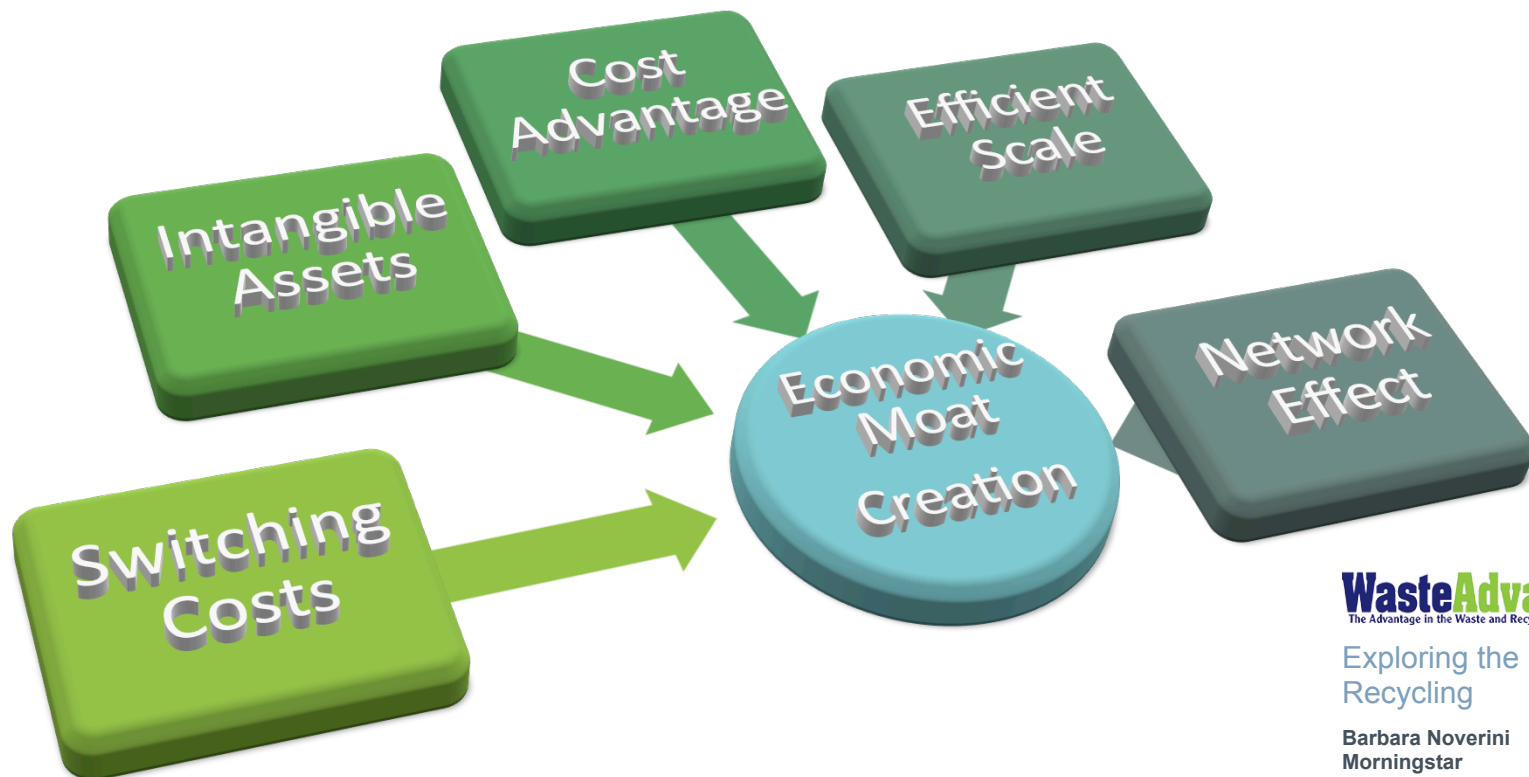
# PROCESSING DIVERSION CURVE

2009 COUNCIL OF U.S. MAYORS



## An Investor's View of Recycling Cost/Benefits

*“As demand for recycling grows, a waste company must demonstrate economic profits throughout a commodity cycle before it can claim recycling as a true moat-building competitive advantage.”*





## Investor's View of Recycling Cost/Benefits to an Integrated Waste Company

*"Growth in recycling has not enhanced industry-wide profitability"*

"Moat" -access and control landfill of the disposal asset diminished

- No competitive advantage
- Loss of pricing power, lack of pricing discipline
- Recycling actually increases the cost of overall system execution



**WasteAdvantage** magazine  
The Advantage in the Waste and Recycling Industry

Exploring the Economics of Recycling

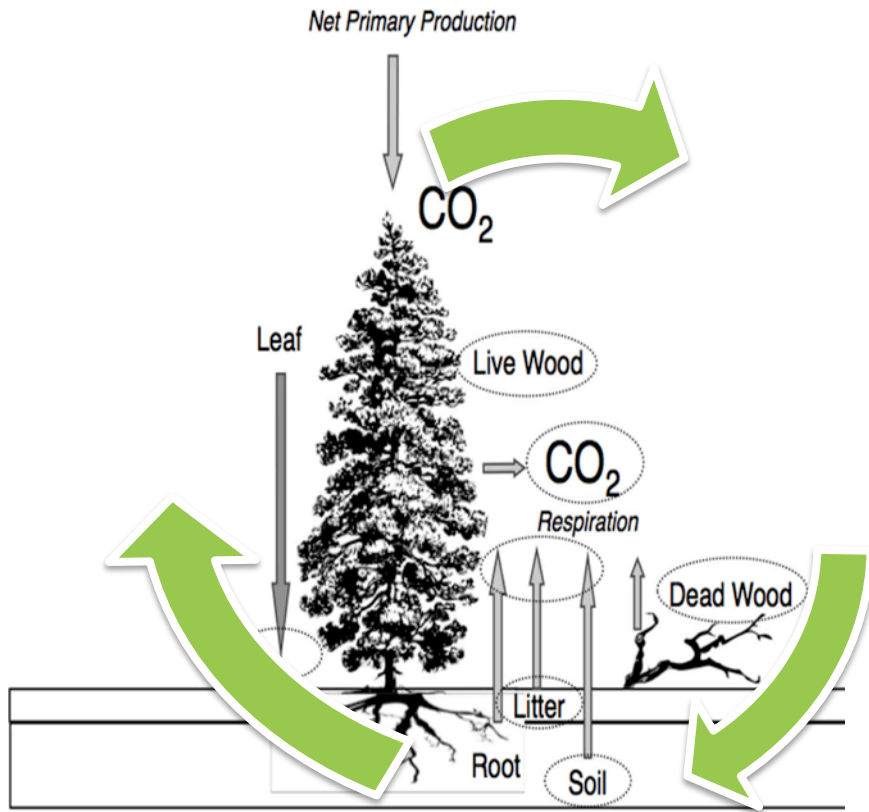
Barbara Noverini  
Morningstar, September 23, 2014

## Investor's View of Current Recycling

- Pipeline of Greenfield conventional MRF “lowest in years”
- Expectation is more closures this year with consolidation and unprofitability (up to 10%)
- No new large providers or consolidators on
- Recyclable volume reported by public companies is down in the first quarter



## Externalities: Recycling Value Chain - Critical Link in the Circular Economy



- U.S. one-way consumption not sustainable - >4#/day
- Modeled on nature. When materials are recycled, energy consumption lowers, productivity optimizes, and stability accrues
- Keep products, components and materials at their highest utility at all times.
- Putting monetary value and costs for execution difficult. Today they are absorbed as social costs.

Lyle, McDonough, Braungart, et. al – ‘Cradle to Cradle, Industrial Ecology, Biomimicry, Blue Economy, Natural Capitalism...’

## Managing Externalities: Policy-Maker's View of Cost/Value of Recycling

*“Avg. ton of material diverted to recycling ...from region solid wastes has an estimated environmental value of \$220T.”- Metro Portland, 2009*

- Properly engineered residential recycling programs costs(collection, disposal and administration) = net cost to C+LF
- True value of recycling has tangible benefits to the environment today
- Other models have pointed out recently (advanced LCA's) that there may be some corrections to some of the premises used.



# A Policy-Maker's View of Cost/Value of Recycling

**Table 1: 2007 Environmental Benefit Results by Diverted Material Type and End Use Market**

| Material & Market     | Metro<br>2007<br>Quantities<br>Recovered<br>(tons) | Environmental Benefits |                  | Value of Specific Environmental Impacts Reductions Per Ton Recycled/Composted |                               |                          |                               |                |               |                        |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
|                       |  | Total<br>(million \$)  | Per Ton Recycled | Climate<br>Change   | Human Health<br>- Respiratory | Human Health<br>- Toxics | Human Health<br>- Carcinogens | Eutrophication | Acidification | Ecosystems<br>Toxicity |
| Cardboard             | 237,962  | \$112.6                | \$473            | \$104   | \$75                          | \$274                    | \$1                           | \$0            | \$6           | \$13                   |
| Newsprint             | 96,105   | 29.5                   | 307              | 82  | 25                            | 180                      | 1                             | 0              | 7             | 12                     |
| Office Paper          | 99,608   | 17.2                   | 173              | 155   | 17                            | -1                       | 0                             | 0              | 1             | 0                      |
| Metro Mixed Paper     | 23,205   | 4.6                    | 199              | 101   | 19                            | 71                       | 0                             | 0              | 6             | 2                      |
| PET                   | 6,273  | 0.6                    | 98               | 69  | 22                            | -10                      | 0                             | 0              | 15            | 1                      |
| HDPE                  | 12,033   | 0.7                    | 60               | 56  | 10                            | -11                      | 0                             | 0              | 4             | 0                      |
| LDPE Plastic Film     | 5,254  | 0.5                    | 90               | 74  | 16                            | -7                       | 0                             | 0              | 6             | 1                      |
| Glass Packaging       |  |                        |                  |   |                               |                          |                               |                |               |                        |
| Glass containers      | 44,087   | 1.4                    | 33               | 9   | 11                            | 11                       | 0                             | 0              | 1             | 1                      |
| Fiberglass insulation | 1,473  | 0.1                    | 66               | 16  | 27                            | 19                       | 0                             | 0              | 1             | 3                      |
| Aggregate             | 8,107  | 0.0                    | 2                | 1   | 0                             | -1                       | 0                             | 0              | 0             | 2                      |
| Aluminum              | 11,743   | 17.3                   | 1,469            | 402   | 189                           | 687                      | 8                             | 0              | 54            | 129                    |

# A Policy-Maker's View of Cost/Value of Recycling

An illustration of an iceberg floating in water. The tip of the iceberg, which is above the water line, is labeled 'Recycling Program Net Costs Today'. The much larger part of the iceberg, which is submerged below the water line, is labeled 'Externalities or Social Cost Mitigation'. This visual metaphor suggests that the visible costs of recycling are only a small fraction of the total value or cost when considering broader social and environmental factors.

Recycling Program  
Net Costs Today

## Externalities or Social Cost Mitigation

- Stabilizing consumption
- Lowering pollution costs
- Saving natural resources
- GHG savings
- Future Generation gains from robust system