Opportunities and Limitations of Recycling

Lynn Hoffman – Co-President, Eureka Recycling
Eureka Recycling’s mission is to demonstrate that waste is preventable...not inevitable
Our Operational Demonstration

- Municipal contracts for Minneapolis and St. Paul and surrounding suburbs
- 100,000 tpy single stream MRF, 7% residual
- Collection Fleet – 30 trucks
- Single family & Multifamily
- $15 M op budget
- 104 Employees (Living Wage, Union Drivers)
Strong Local Economies

Stable Climate

Healthy Communities

- Advocacy & Policy
- Research & Reports
- Zero Waste Events
- Community Education
China Ban and the Aftermath

How did we get here?

Recycling Is Dead. Now What?
April 5, 2019, Feature, by Richard J. Dolesh

Is recycling as we know it really dead? For a variety of reasons, some of them are now collected and recyclable trash is over. This is a development to park and rec have promised recycling to the means of taking personal a

Who Killed Recycling?
The harm to recycling has been inflicted by recycling's friends, not its enemies.
Cher Miller, July 01, 2019

Your Recycling Gets Recycled, Right? Maybe, or Maybe Not
Plastics and papers from dozens of American cities and towns are being dumped in landfills after China stopped recycling

As Costs Skyrocket, More U.S. Cities Stop Recycling
With China no longer accepting mixed plastic and paper, communities are facing steep collection bills, forcing them to end their programs or burn or bury more waste.

Why America's recycling industry is in the dumps
OCTOBER 10, 2019 / 9:44 AM / CCTV
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Processing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Consolidation of community based haulers to</td>
<td>• Lack of EPR in US</td>
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<td>multi-national waste companies</td>
<td>• Evolving ton</td>
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<td>• Move to single stream collection with carts</td>
<td>• Packaging trends</td>
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<td>• Focus on diversion goals, with measurement at</td>
<td>• Technology ($)</td>
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<td>“curb”</td>
<td>• Labor standards</td>
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<td>• Consolidated supply</td>
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Result.....

- Emphasis on **efficiency** and convenience over **quality**, education and end-markets.
- Inclusion of materials that aren’t actually recyclable
- Handling of materials in a way that destroyed their value.
30-40% of all US Recycling
China’s Actions on Recycling

2013: Green Fence Implemented

2017: National Sword Implemented

2018: “Blue Sky” Inspection Program

2019: Expected announcements about China’s intention to **permanently ban** all “unprocessed” recycling imports. Other countries following suite.
Loss of Markets and Increased Domestic Supply

U.S. Exports to China of Scrap Plastics & Mixed Paper

What does it all mean
Industry Responses to National Sword and market conditions

• Beginning to develop new regional end markets (long game)
• Work to improve quality
• Fines for contamination
• Recycle BETTER, not MORE
• Price increases for new services
• Efforts to renegotiate existing contracts and hesitance to enter into new contracts
Measuring Value & Cost
Where to invest and regulate to support responsible recycling?

Definition & Regulation

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Support Demand: Recycled Content
Mandates, Bottle Bills
Over one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute

91% are not recycled
Where to invest and regulate to support responsible recycling?

Definition & Regulation
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
Support Demand: Recycled Content Mandates, Bottle Bills
Infrastructure Funding
Product Bans (Stop Pre-emption)
$75,000 per year
Why **Reduce** if we can **Recycle**?

**Because Recycling will Never be Enough!**
(612) NO-WASTE (669-2783) / www.eurekarecycling.org