



Shaping our recycling practices: **Recycling Markets**

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Benefits of Recycling

- Environment
 - Reduces landfill waste
 - Conserves natural resources
 - Prevents pollution
 - Strengthens climate adaptation and resilience
- Economy
 - Saves energy
 - Creates jobs
 - Boosts economic security by using materials from our own country





Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would normally be thrown away and turning them into new products.

Recycling System Overview





Collection

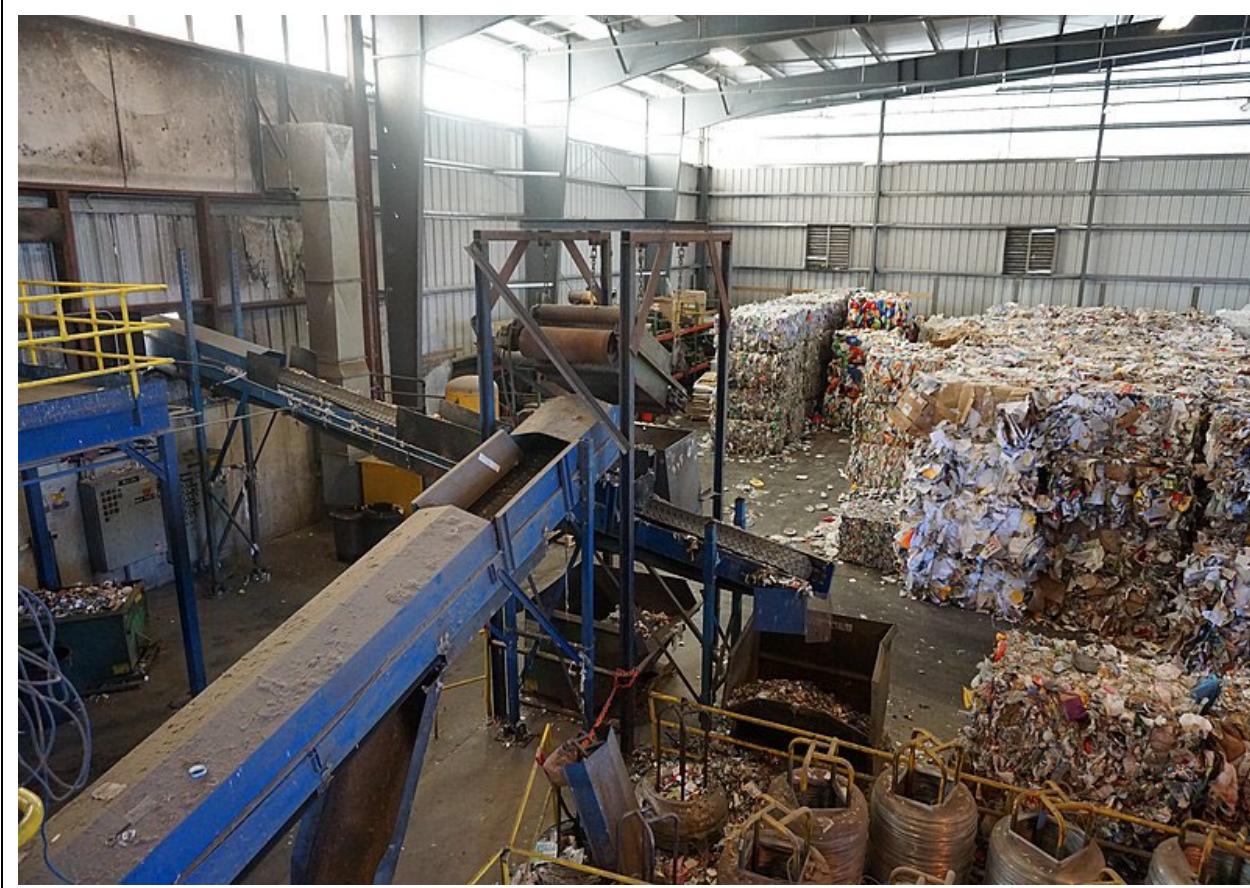


Service truck on its recycling pick-up route, helping keep our community clean.





Processing (Stage 1)



Inside a material recovery facility, where collected recyclables are sorted and compacted for resale and remanufacturing.





Processing (Stage 2)



Some materials may need extra processing to sort them further and remove any contaminants.



Recycling Markets: What are They?

- Recycling markets are **businesses** such as paper mills, metal factories, and glass factories.
 - Purchase recyclable materials in raw form
 - Use them to create new products
 - Also manage the money and shipping needed to move the recyclable material to where it needs to go



Manufacturing



Thriving manufacturing facilities are key to keeping recycling markets alive and well.



Winning words: End. Market. Buyer.



End market buyers begin with the day-to-day consumer and move up the chain to the recycling manufacturing companies, such as Seattle glass packaging giant, *Ardagh*, who recently closed their doors.



“If nobody is willing to buy products made from recycled materials and make something new out of them, that’s the piece that’s really important, and that’s what allows the recycling story to continue.”

– Analiese Smith, Recycling & Solid Waste Supervision,
Waukesha County, WI



Can recycling markets be fixed?

- **Need:** Improve domestic markets for recycling
 - **Historical context:** In the past, many recycled materials were sent to other countries
 - **Changing policies:** New international rules have limited the export of these materials
- **Integration into design:** We need to include recycled materials and waste management in the design of products and packaging
- **Improved communication:** Better communication in the recycling system will strengthen existing markets and create new ones



Can recycling markets be fixed?

- **Current challenge:** Recycling infrastructure isn't keeping up with today's waste
- **Need for communication:** We need improved communication between makers of new materials and the recycling industry
- **Goal:** Improve teamwork to better handle the recycling of new materials



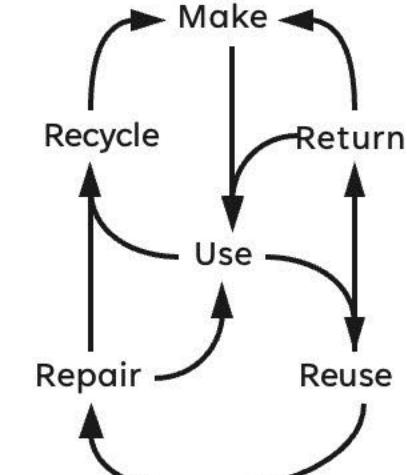
Linear

Take
↓
Make
↓
Use
↓
Waste



Circular

Take
↓
Make
↓
Use
↓
Waste





What you can do day-to-day

- Get to know your local recycling guidelines
- Purchase products that can be recycled easily
- Choose products that contain recycled materials. Here are some important terms to look for on products and packaging:

Recycled content products: This means the product is made from recycled materials or waste from other products.

Post-consumer recycled content (PCR): Like recycled content, but it comes only from items that have been recycled by people or businesses.



What you can do statewide

- Tell legislatures to support **extended producer responsibility (EPR)** programs
- Support legislation that **reduces plastic pollution**
 - ReWRAP Act (HB 2049)
 - Bottle filling stations in public buildings
- Support legislation that **increases recycling**
 - Bottle Deposit (HB 2144)
 - Support repair and reuse economies
 - Right to Repair (HB 1933)
- Learn about Washington State's **Recycling Development Center**
- Learn about policy making through local non-profit organizations like **Zero Waste Washington** and **Environment Washington**

