Glass Recycling

Benefits

- 100% and endlessly recyclable
- Significant reductions in energy use and GHG emissions at the plants
- Preservation of raw materials and limited landfill disposal
Consumers Want to Recycle Glass Containers

91% of consumers say that recycling is an important part of conserving natural resources.

90% say that it is important to recycle materials rather than sending them to the landfill.

95% of those who live in a community which recycles glass say glass should continue to be collected by recyclers.

91% say finding ways to avoid wasting our natural resources is important.

Glass is made from natural resources:
- sand
- soda ash
- limestone

*Source: 2016 SurveyUSA poll
Challenges for Glass Recycling

- Renewed emphasis on contamination – China import specifications
- End Market Proximity
- Lower commodity values for recyclables across the board
Myth- Glass Cannot Be Captured Effectively or Costs Too Much to Capture at a MRF

Reality- Small or large investments yield big improvements

- Many MRFs capture well over 90% of the glass generated in the curbside program (Rumpke, Resource Management)
- Small investments with good ROIs possible- GRC website has best practices
Myth- Glass greatly contaminates paper

Reality- Glass is only a small part of the contamination of paper and can be cleaned effectively

• Only 5-6% of all paper contamination comes from glass when measured - this is a consistent number
• Food and garbage are by far the bigger issue
• No export issues with glass reported by major shippers (downgrades or rejections)
Myth - Glass "loses money" in a residential recycling program

Reality - Residential Recycling is a Service

• All Materials Collected and Processed cost money on a net basis - avg. 1/3 total garbage bill, currently ~$6.20 per HH
• Glass cost is approx. $1.20 of that service
• Glass already priced into service contracts - longest standing curbside collection material (1959 Toledo)
Strengthening Glass Recycling Programs
Recycled Glass Specification

Voluntary Recycled Glass Standard – Improving quality and setting clear expectations for haulers, recyclers and communities

Higher Quality Glass, Less Contamination & Undersize Materials

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

Voice of the Recycling Industry™
# Glass Recycling Coalition Membership

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[Logos of member organizations]
All glass containers are continuously recycled to the highest and best use, maximizing economic, environmental and social benefits.

- **Best practices**
- **Developing intervention resources for communities**
- **Providing solutions-oriented resources-public-sector**
- **Collaborating for success for glass recycling**
- **Partnering with Glass Champions**
Thank You!

Learn more about GPI:

www.GPI.org

www.UpgradeToGlass.com

GlassRecycles.org