

# RECYCLING COMMODITY UPDATE

— OCTOBER 2023 —

The value of recycling commodities have slightly improved recently, but remain near multi-year lows.

## FIBER

Fiber grades, consisting primarily of cardboard and paper make up about 60% of the overall residential recycling stream. We have experienced slight price increases in value through the year, but are still below multi-year averages.



Low generation of **Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC)** throughout the United States along with new mill capacity coming on line in the United States and Canada is resulting in a steady increase in pricing. With the new demand domestically and lower volumes, the export market for OCC is stronger and price increase trends are following the domestic markets.



Domestic demand for **Mixed Paper** remains stagnant. The export demand for mixed paper has increased slightly in the third quarter and has resulted in an increase in its value.



After experiencing price declines of more than 100%, **High Grades Paper** held steady in October with firm demand and tight supplies.

## PLASTIC, METAL & GLASS



**Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)** pricing declined in July and again in August with a slight increase in September. The price decline was attributed to an abundance of PET volume available in the market throughout the summer months, as well as lower demand from mills. Prices increased in September with higher demand, and schoolback in session along with supply starting to taper off. **High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE)** pricing over the last few months experienced significant declines with large volumes of imported off-spec resin available.



**Used Beverage Container (UBC) aluminum** experienced a drop in pricing over the summer months, due to high consumption volumes during these months. The market continues to be soft in October as the automotive strike with three large US automakers continues.



**Glass** container recycling continues to be challenging and costly with insufficient demand from end markets. Much of the glass we recycle is transported long distances domestically to markets to be reused in beneficial use and aggregate mix products.



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