

Dear member towns,

We regret to inform you all that the UARRC was informed that the market for the #1, 3,4,5,6, and 7 has gone away. We have been looking for a “Plan B” outlet for these plastics for the last 18 months and have come up fruitless due to the condition of the recycling markets. These conditions exist because the country of China has drastically cut their accepted imported recycling materials, with no domestic answers present. Rigid plastics was the first to go at the beginning of last year, with inklings that the #1,3-7 plastics might be next on the chopping block. That time has now come to pass.

We can no longer accept the #1, 3-7 plastics. This category includes a bulk of the plastics we were accepting. These items include plastic straws, transparent and clear plastics, clamshell containers, “tub”-style containers of any color (such as yogurt/cottage cheese containers), plastic lids of any color, Dunkin Donut cups, plastic “silverware”, and many other forms of these plastics. This is not a complete list of examples.

The #2 HDPE plastics (milk jugs, laundry detergent and the like) are still extremely valuable and we graciously accept those plastics. We still accept the film plastics (#2 shopping bags and #4 stretch films such as bubble-wrap). The above-mentioned #4 plastics that we can no longer accept is of the “hard” plastic types. These are usually some mustard bottles and some tubs/lids. They tend to be rare in their use.

We have been working hard, and continue to work hard, to find an outlet for these plastics, however with the current state of the recycling market the reinstatement of recycling these plastics may be some time coming. We strive to do our best to get the best use of your recycling efforts and tax dollars, and will continue to do so. We will keep you all posted as details come forth and hopefully we can be back on our feet with this as soon as possible.

Please post as you see fit in your town office to inform the public of this change. We have posted a notice at the Center and on our Facebook page. If anyone has any questions, do not hesitate to ask us and we’ll do our best to answer any questions there may be. We realize reaching most of our curbside patrons may prove the most difficult of all to reach, so any effort to reach those folks is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding as we deal with all the changes and challenges of the current recycling realm. We also thank you for all your efforts going forward in recycling as much as we possibly can.

We will keep everyone apprised of any details or changes as they present themselves.
Have a good day.

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