

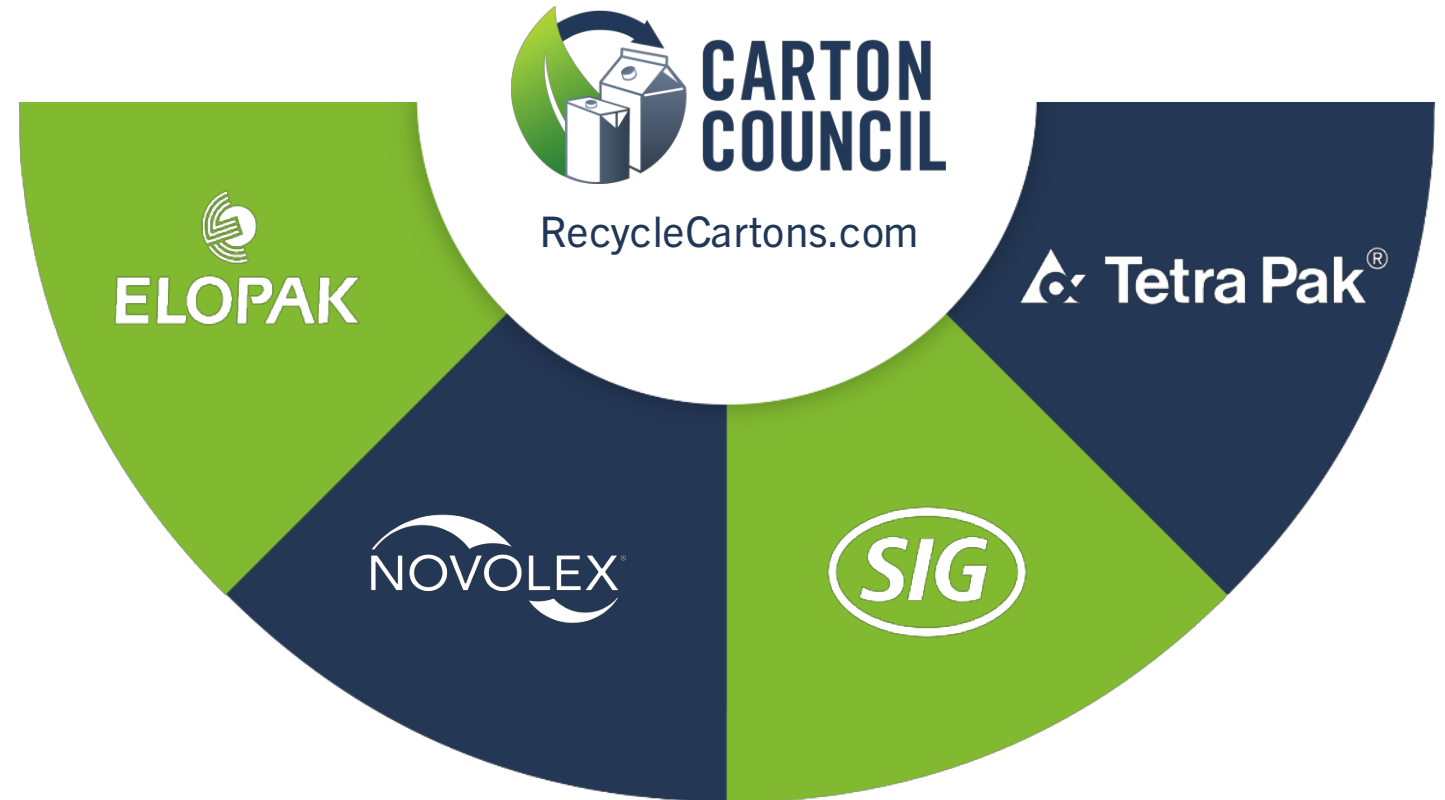


FOOD AND BEVERAGE CARTON RECYCLING

Jason Pelz | Vice President of Recycling

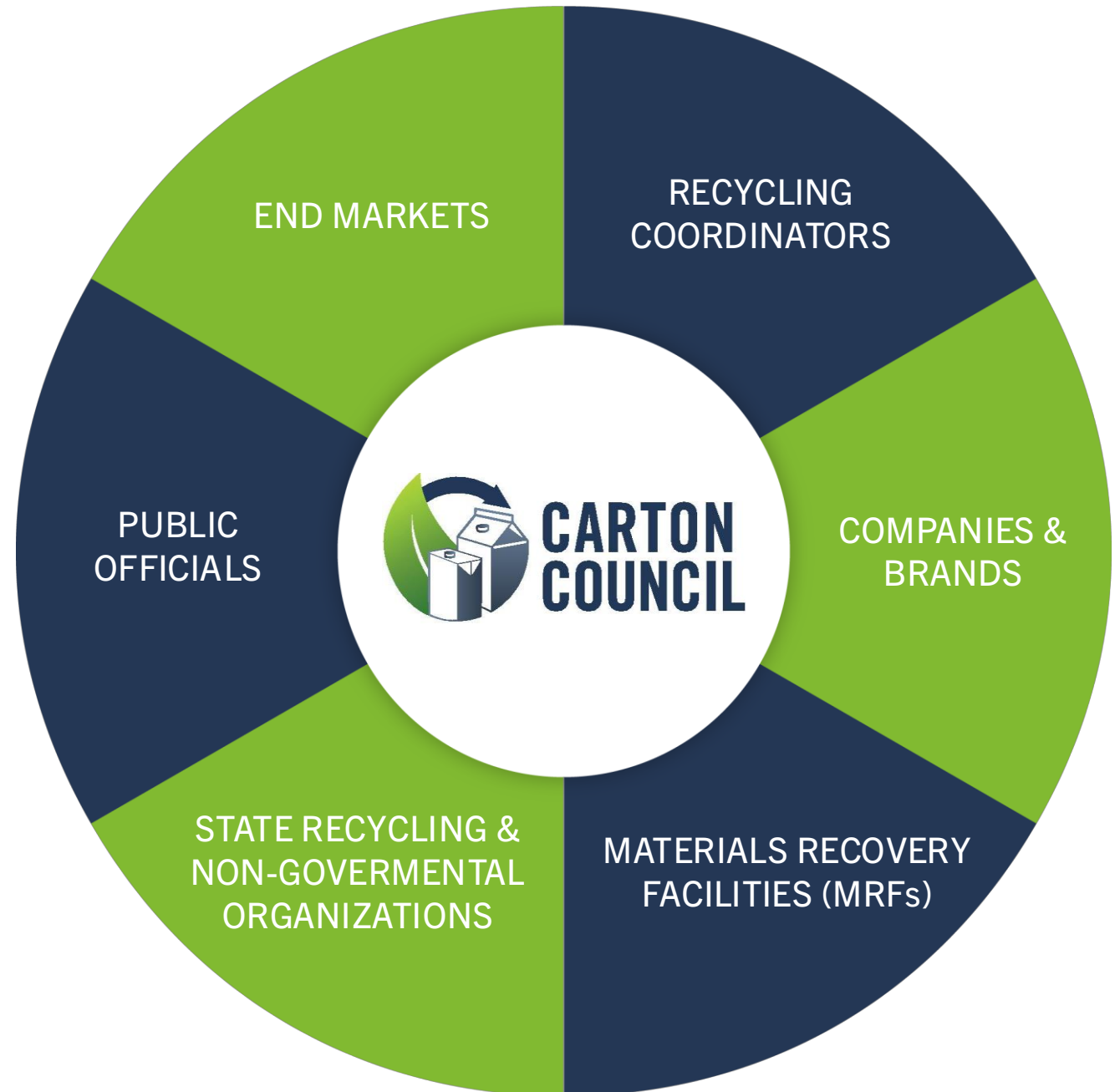
Who is The Carton Council?

- In 2009, four leading carton manufacturers joined together to deliver long-term collaborative solutions to divert valuable cartons from landfills in Canada and the U.S.
- Through proactive efforts, we are committed to expanding carton recycling.
- Since forming, the number of households with access to recycle their cartons has more than tripled.



Bringing Strategy to Life Requires Collaboration

We work with all stakeholders across the recycling value chain to increase access to and participation in carton recycling.



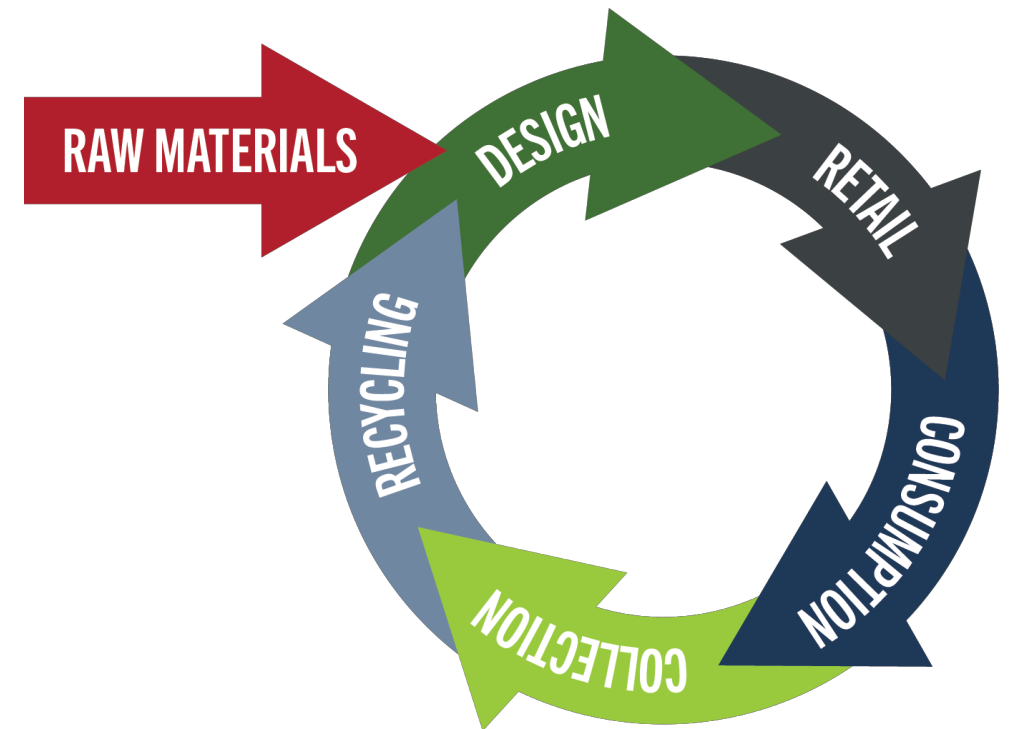
What We Want You to Know

Cartons are recyclable and should not end up in landfills.

Primarily a fiber-based package, cartons contain **valuable material** that provides feedstock to make new products, contributing to a robust circular economy.

Demand for that feedstock continues to **grow**.

The Carton Council has **resources** to help those throughout the recycling value chain ensure cartons are recycled and their lifecycle lives on.



What is a Food and Beverage Carton?

Food and beverage cartons are made **primarily out of responsibly sourced paperboard**, a renewable, plant-based material.

Cartons are **lightweight, compact**, protect products with **no added preservatives**, and contain **high quality fiber** that can be recycled to make new paper products.



Packaging that is NOT considered a food and beverage carton

Frozen Food Boxes



Health and Beauty Boxes



Takeout Cartons



Egg Cartons



Paperboard Folding Cartons



Ice Cream Cartons

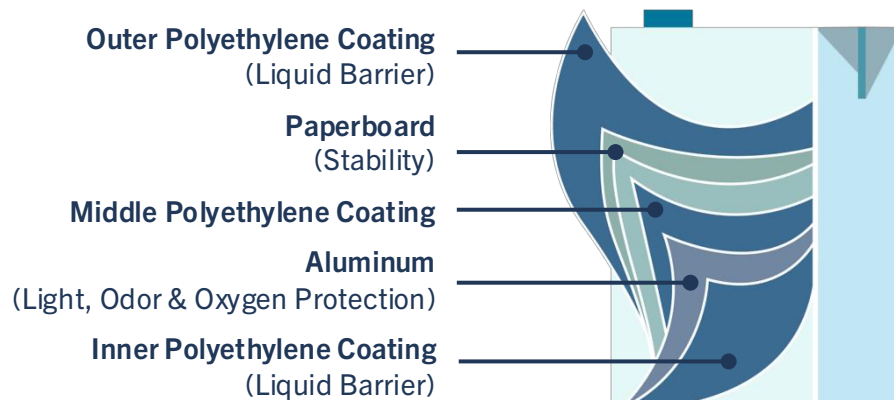
Note: This slide does not discuss recyclability



Cartons have a multi-layer design

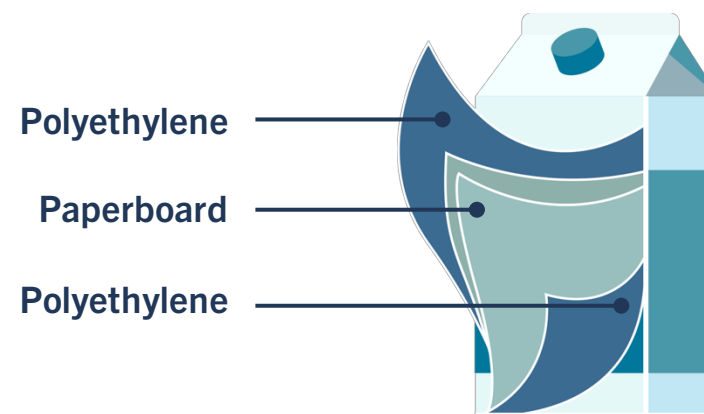
Cartons' multilayer design shields products from light, air, and bacteria. Both aseptic and gable top cartons remain recyclable when sorted with other cartons and mixed paper.

ASEPTIC OR SHELF STABLE CARTONS



74% Paper • 22% Polyethylene • 4% Aluminum

GABLE TOP OR REFRIGERATED CARTONS



80% Paper • 20% Polyethylene

No wax or "waxy coating"

Although percentages of each layer vary, these are close approximations



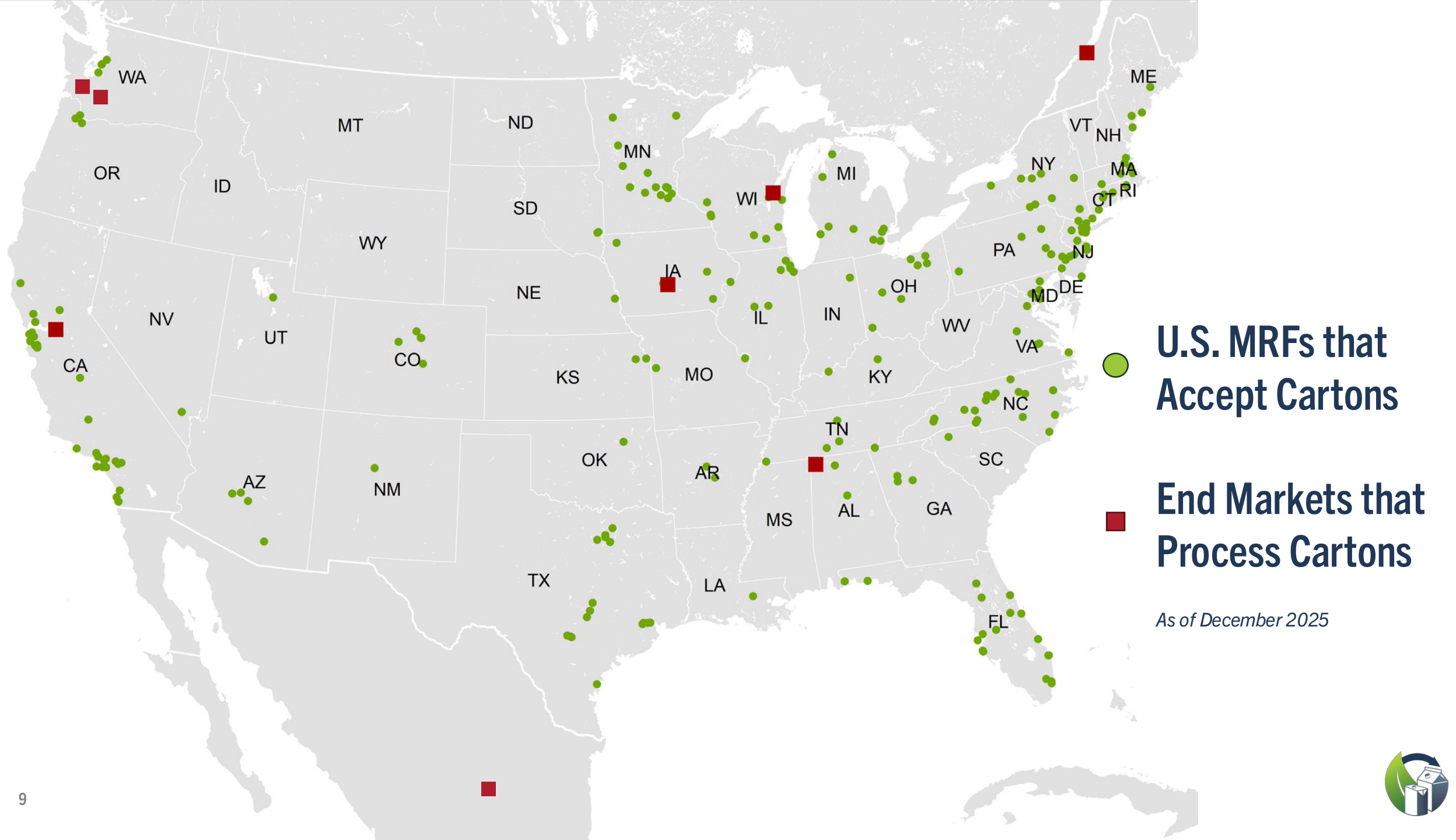
Two packages, one unified recovery stream

Can you identify which of these products are aseptic cartons or gable top cartons?
Neither can consumers. But luckily, they don't need to.



The material differences between aseptic and gable top cartons do not result in different processes for recycling. Both packages should fit under the single category of “cartons”.





End Market Recycling

Illinois Carton Recycling Access

78%

Curbside Household Access*

7 of 12

MRFs Sorting Cartons*

**As reported by third-party RRS database.*



Sorting Options for Material Recovery Facilities

PSI Grade 52: Carton Bales



PSI Grade 54: Mixed Paper

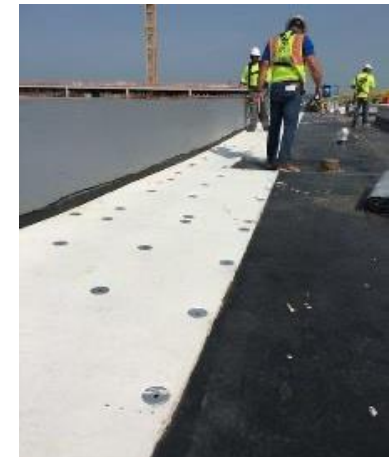


Two Primary Types of End Markets (or “Recyclers”)

Recovered fiber mills that make
everyday paper products



Whole carton recyclers that make
circular, sustainable building materials



ReCB

Facilities in Des Moines, IA and Lodi, CA
California facility opened April 2026



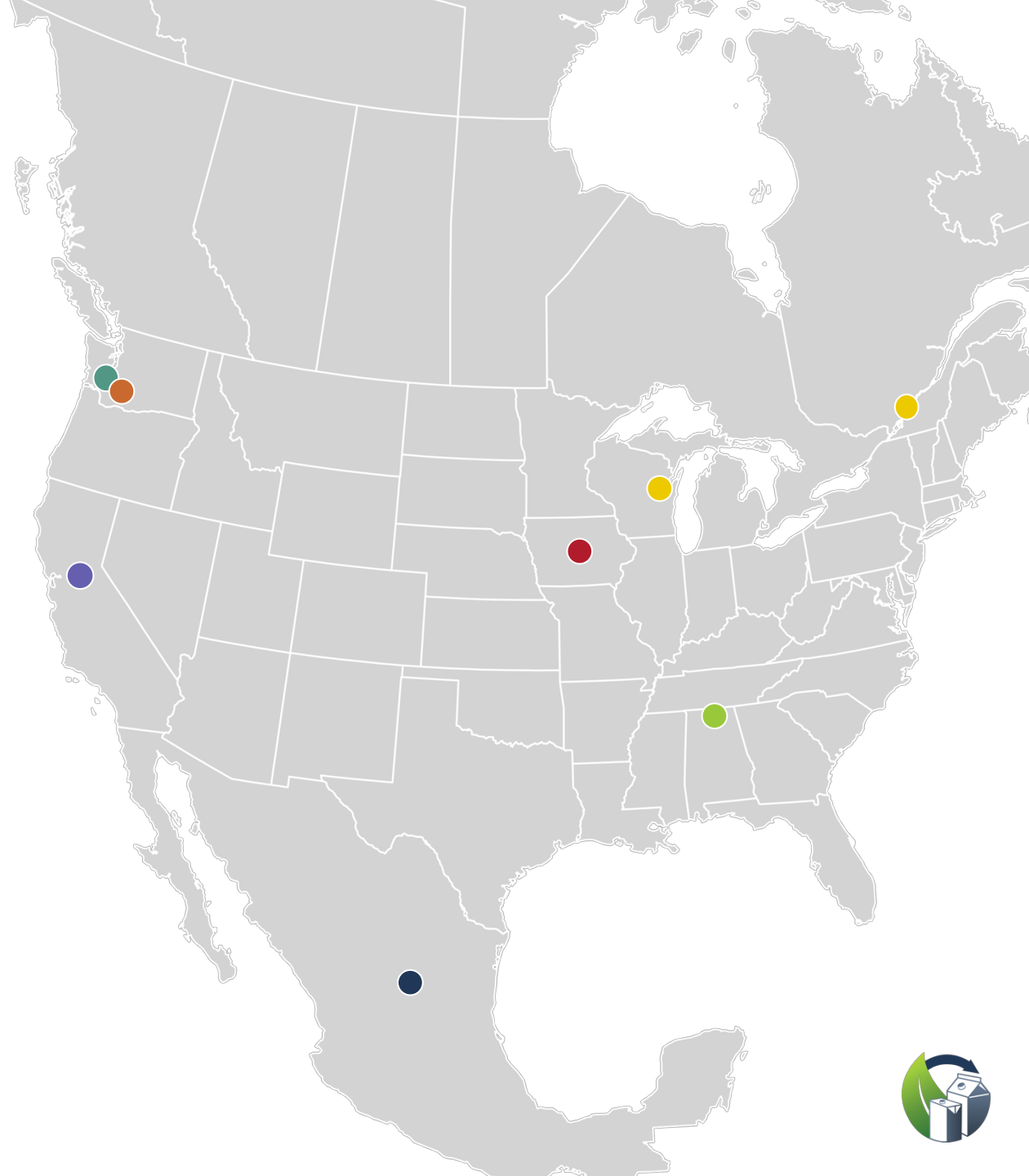
North American Food and Beverage Carton Recyclers

As of May 2026

- Essity Tissue*
- Sustana — DePere, WI and Levis, Quebec*
- Kimberly-Clark de Mexico*
- ReCB, California*
- ReCB, Iowa*
- North Pacific Paper Company (NORPAC)^
- Smurfit Westrock Longview^

* Grade 52 (Carton Bales) ^ Grade 54 (Mixed Paper)

Cartons also have export markets in Korea, Thailand, India, and Malaysia.



Two Paths to Transformation



Grade 52 Bales



Grade 54 Bales



Industry Collaboration

- We believe that a “rising tide lifts all boats.”
- We continue to collaborate with our partners across the industry to ensure consistent and accurate recycling messaging.
- Cross-sector collaboration allows us to improve the entire recycling system – for all materials. The Carton Council is focused on investing in carton recycling, but never at the expense of other materials.





RecycleCartons.com

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