

End Markets & EPR

September 14, 2026



Recycled Materials
Association
Sustainable. Resilient. Essential.

recycledmaterials.org

Who We Are

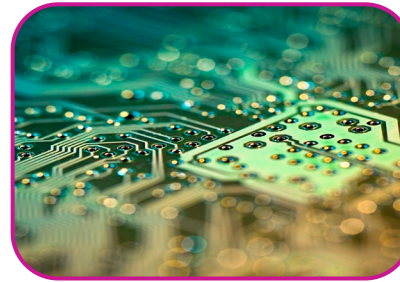
The Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) represents more than 1,700 companies in the U.S. and 40 countries around the globe.

Based in Washington, D.C., ReMA promotes safe, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible recycling through networking, advocacy and education.



Recycled Materials
Association

Sustainable. Resilient. Essential.



Electronics



**Ferrous
Metal**



**Non-Ferrous
Metal**



Paper

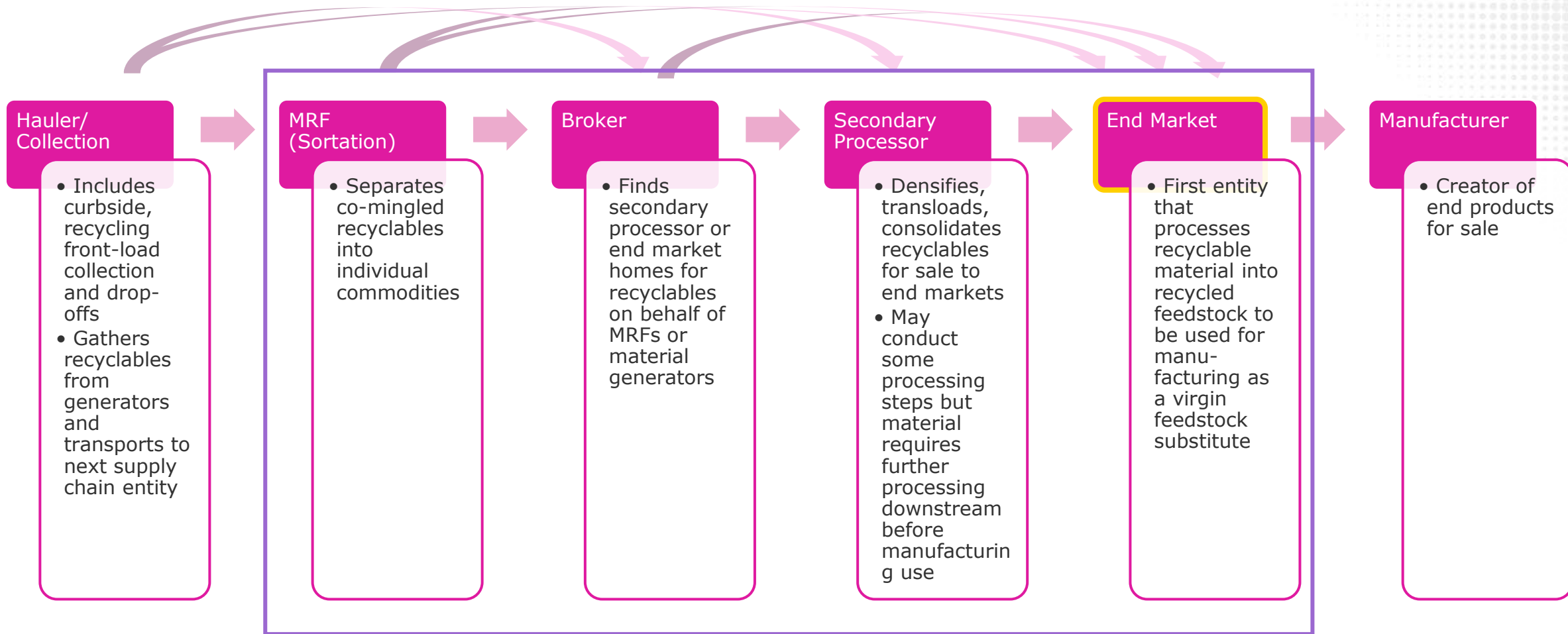


Plastics



Tire/Rubber

Residential Recycled Materials Supply Chains: Overview

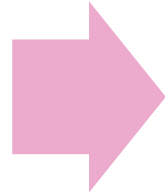


Aluminum



MRF Output

- UBC
- Off-spec (non-beverage can aluminum)



Aluminum Mill

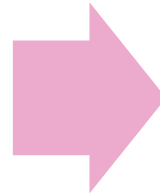
- Shreds, melts and rolls aluminum sheet for new products

Paper



MRF Output

- **OCC: Cardboard**
- **MP: Mixed Paper**
- Less common: 52- Aseptic & Gabletop Cartons as own bale, SRPN, SCN, DS OCC, SOP



Paper Mill

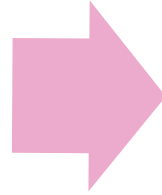
- ~80% of mills use some recycled content, can be up to 100% (AF&PA)
- Depending on product made, can accept OCC, mixed paper (w/ or w/o polycoated paper) or combination

Glass



MRF Output

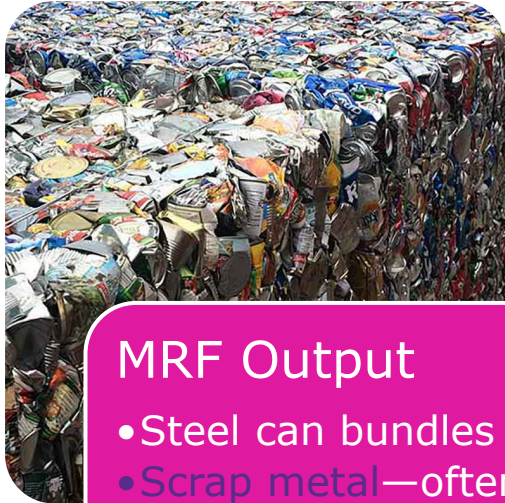
- Broken glass in roll-off containers
- Not baled



Glass Beneficiation Plant

- Removes contamination and sorts by color
- Produces glass cullet sold to glass product manufacturers

Steel



MRF Output

- Steel can bundles
- Scrap metal—often not accepted but removed manually and sold unbaled



Metals Shredder

- Also processes automotive, appliances, C&D, industrial material



Electric Arc Furnace Steel Mill

- 70% of US steel made with EAF furnace mills
- Can use up to 100% recycled metal

Plastic



MRF Output

- PET
- HDPE Natural
- HDPE Color
- PP
- Bulky Rigids
- Mixed plastics



PRF

- Separates mixed plastics by polymer type
- May conduct size reduction or flaking



Reclaimer

- Conducts washing, float/sink, decontamination, pelletization

What Makes Something Recyclable*

+ Commodity Value

- Cost to Collect
- Cost to Sort & Remove Contaminants
- Cost to Transport to Market

≥

Value of Substitute Commodity

Residential vs. Commercial & Industrial

- Residential packaging materials are recycled by markets who primarily recycle commercial & industrial material
- Especially for metal and paper/fiber: the majority of an end market's material is likely from commercial & industrial sources
- Commercial (post-consumer) and industrial (pre-consumer) material is preferred due to **volume** and **quality/value**



ReMA's Position on EPR

Overall position:

- Product stewardship should be used only for hard-to-recycle products

If packaging EPR is passed:

- Recycler system opt-out allowance (i.e. metal recyclers accepting aluminum cans)
- Recycler representation in advisory bodies
- Recyclability lists need flexibility to reflect market realities
- Source reduction focused on virgin material reduction
- Scope should be narrowly tailored to post-consumer residential paper and packaging materials

ReMA's Position on EPR: Responsible End Markets

- Not well-suited for defining criteria in detail in statute
- Support concept of third-party, nationally harmonized verification system
- Protection of confidential business information is essential
- Clear definition of end market entity as first entity making substitute for virgin material
- Minimize administrative risks and costs
- End market development should be material-neutral and end-use neutral, allowing continued market competition

Thank You

Natalie Messer Betts

VP, Sustainability & Materials Systems
nbetts@recycledmaterials.org

Justin Short

AVP, State Affairs
jshort@recycledmaterials.org



Recycled Materials
Association

recycledmaterials.org