

RECYCLING COMMODITY UPDATE

— AUGUST 2021 —

Recycling commodity values have improved over the last several months.

The push for recycling contents within finished products coupled with e-commerce demand has created a stronger desire for recycled feedstock.

FIBER



Mixed Paper value has increased 30% during the summer months, from near historical lows, with a boost in demand both domestically and overseas. Most domestic fiber mills are now utilizing mixed paper as an alternative to buying corrugated cardboard. Approximately 35% of single stream material consists of mixed paper which is comprised of junk mail, newspaper, magazines, paperboard packaging—such as cereal boxes—and office paper.



Currently, there is strong demand for **OCC (old, corrugated containers)**. E-commerce continues to be the big driver as consumers shop more online. The value of OCC has increased with the higher demand.

PLASTIC & METAL & GLASS



Casella continues to make good on our pledge to market all residential **plastic** domestically. In line with the entire industry, we have seen stronger demand across various plastic grades, including PET and HDPE. Societal and producer desire to add more recycled content to finished products has contributed to this increase.



For example, milk jugs (HDPE Natural) have become the “universal” plastic grade, as it can be used to make cleaning containers, which have been in higher demand through the pandemic.



Domestic **aluminum** and **steel** producers have become increasingly dependent on recycled metal as the main raw material input due in part to the large energy and cost savings associated with consuming secondary scrap over primary. With the economic reopening and as COVID-19 related restrictions have loosened, the supply of recycled aluminum beverage containers has outweighed the demand causing a decrease in value.



Glass continues to be problematic with insufficient demand from end sites. Beneficial use and aggregate mix continue to be our main resolution.

- Bob Cappadona

Vice President - Casella Resource Solutions



ESTABLISHED 1975

RECYCLING • SOLUTIONS • ORGANICS • COLLECTION • ENERGY • LANDFILLS

casella.com