

## National Recycling Markets – What You Need to Know

You may have read in the news recently that markets for several types of recyclables, in particular mixed paper and plastics, have hit record low prices. Residents should know that your recyclables placed at the curb are hauled to Rumpke's recycling facility in St. Bernard. There the materials are separated by type. Lower markets means Rumpke sells those materials for less money to end manufacturers.

Community leaders recently met at Rumpke's recycling facility to learn more about the national situation. Fifteen communities attended and gained an understanding of how each community can help improve recycling. Here's what was learned:

1. Rumpke is not landfilling your recyclables. Some news stories have mentioned that this is happening in other areas of the country but it is not happening here.
2. Commodity prices for paper and plastic have fallen dramatically. For example, mixed paper has fallen from \$97.50/ton in March 2017 to \$5.00/ton in March 2018. At the same time, end users of the paper expect cleaner bales of material with less contamination.
3. Contamination in recycling is a big deal. When residents place non-recyclable items in their carts or at a recycling drop off, they increase the cost of recycling and decrease the value of the recyclables.
4. The primary driver of this shift is a change in China's policies on what material they will accept.

Overall, the good news is that residents can help by reducing contamination in the recyclables by "Recycling Right". The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District provides informational tools on their website to learn more about how to Recycle Right at the curb.

Links:

Here: <https://resource-recycling.com/plastics/2018/02/14/green-fence-red-alert-china-timeline/>

Recycling Right: [http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/residents/what\\_can\\_i\\_recycle](http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/residents/what_can_i_recycle)

Website: <http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/>