

Northeast Recycling Council's Glass Committee



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What is NERC

- Promote waste prevention, toxics reduction, reuse, recycling and organics recovery.
- 11 Northeast states and several national programs
- *Membership organization:* government, nonprofit & private sectors



Northeast Region

- 11 States – CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, & VT
- 5 Bottle Bill States – CT, ME, MA, NY, & VT
- 3 States with Glass Container Disposal Bans - MA, PA & VT
- 7 States with Glass Container Recycling Requirements - CT, ME, MA, NJ, PA, RI (now is using glass as ADC), & VT



NERC's Work in Glass

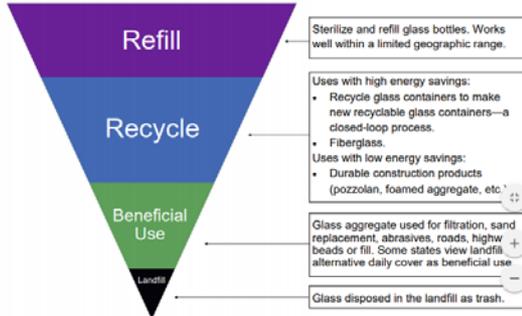
- Held Glass Forum - 2015
- Developed Glass Committee – August 2017
- Committee 17 Members—Government, Industry, Non-profits, consultants

Committee's Work

- Goal - to better understand the recycled glass value chain and gaps in the Northeast.
- Identified primary problem with the region's glass is the material coming from MRFs

Glass Recovery Hierarchy

Glass bottles and containers are a valuable and versatile material resource. This hierarchy prioritizes common uses for glass including reuse, recycling and substitution with other raw materials.



NORTHEAST STATES' DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION USE OF POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED GLASS FACT SHEET

State	Are there BUDs/specifications* for the use of post-consumer recycled glass** by the DOT?	Is the DOT Using Post-Consumer Recycled Glass?
Connecticut	Yes	Not recently***
Delaware	No	Not recently****
Maine	No, but is considering the use of glass foam (made from post-consumer recycled glass) for backfill material	No
Maryland	No response received	No response received
Massachusetts	Yes	Not recently
New Hampshire	Yes	Not recently, but used by municipalities and contractors***
New Jersey	No response received	No response received
New York	Yes	Yes, but seldom due to insufficient quantities
Pennsylvania	Yes	Not clear if used by PennDOT, but used by municipalities and contractors
Rhode Island	No	No
	Yes	No, but used by municipalities and contractors

* Decision made by a state over waste material that is to be beneficially used.

** It is used for DOT applications.

*** In the past, but the results were not good.

**** In the past, but the increased cost to clean the recycled glass makes it economically infeasible.

Northeast Recycling Council, Revised 4/24/19



NORTHEAST MRF GLASS SURVEY

REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



Committee's Work continued

Resources Developed

- MRF Survey - February 2017 – June 2018
- Glass Recovery Hierarchy – July 2019
- Northeast States' Departments of Transportation Use of Post-Consumer Recycled Glass Fact Sheet – April 2019

<https://nerc.org/projects/current-projects/nercs-glass-committee>

(scroll down to the bottom of the page)

Contact Information

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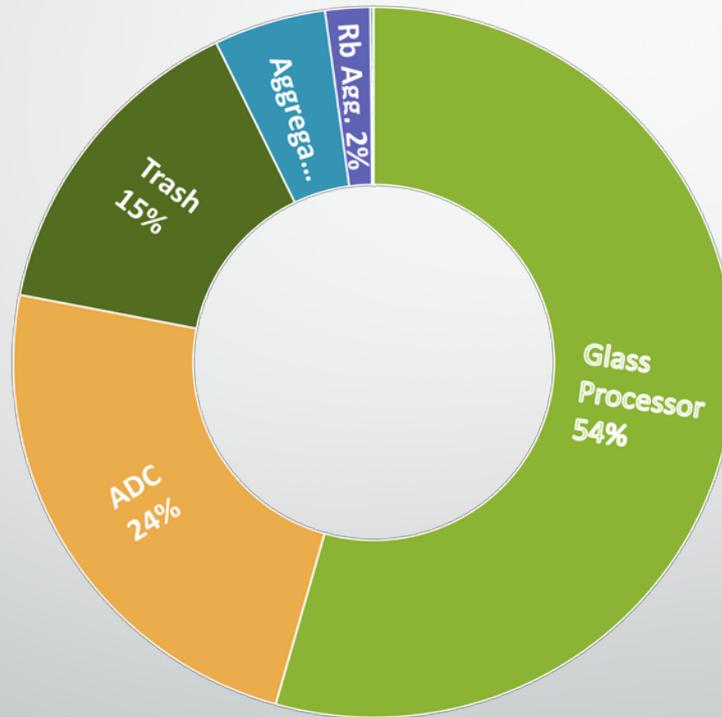
www.nerc.org



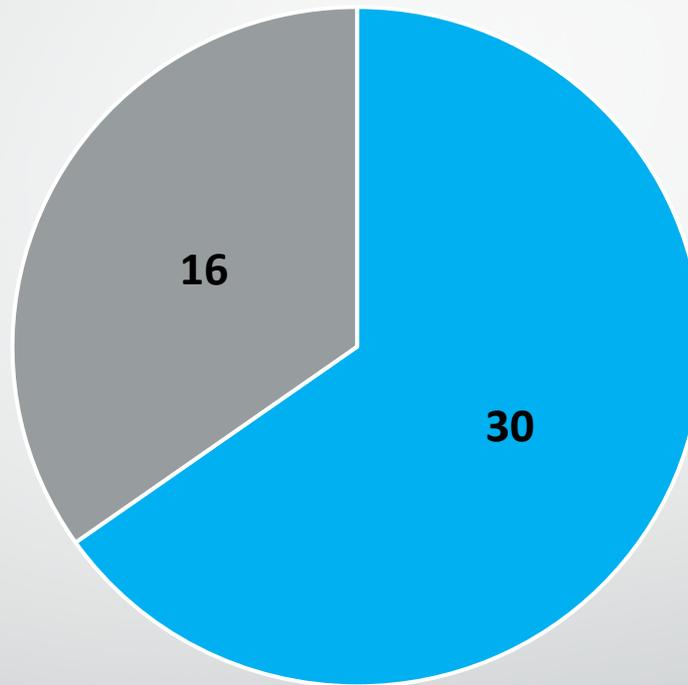
Report Contents

- Demographics
- Recycling Collection Methods
- Glass Processing
- Glass Cleaning
- Quality of Processed Glass
- Quantity of Recycled Glass
- Changes in Recycling Markets & Effect on Glass Recycling
- MRF Issues with Recycling Glass

Reported End Destinations of MRF Glass

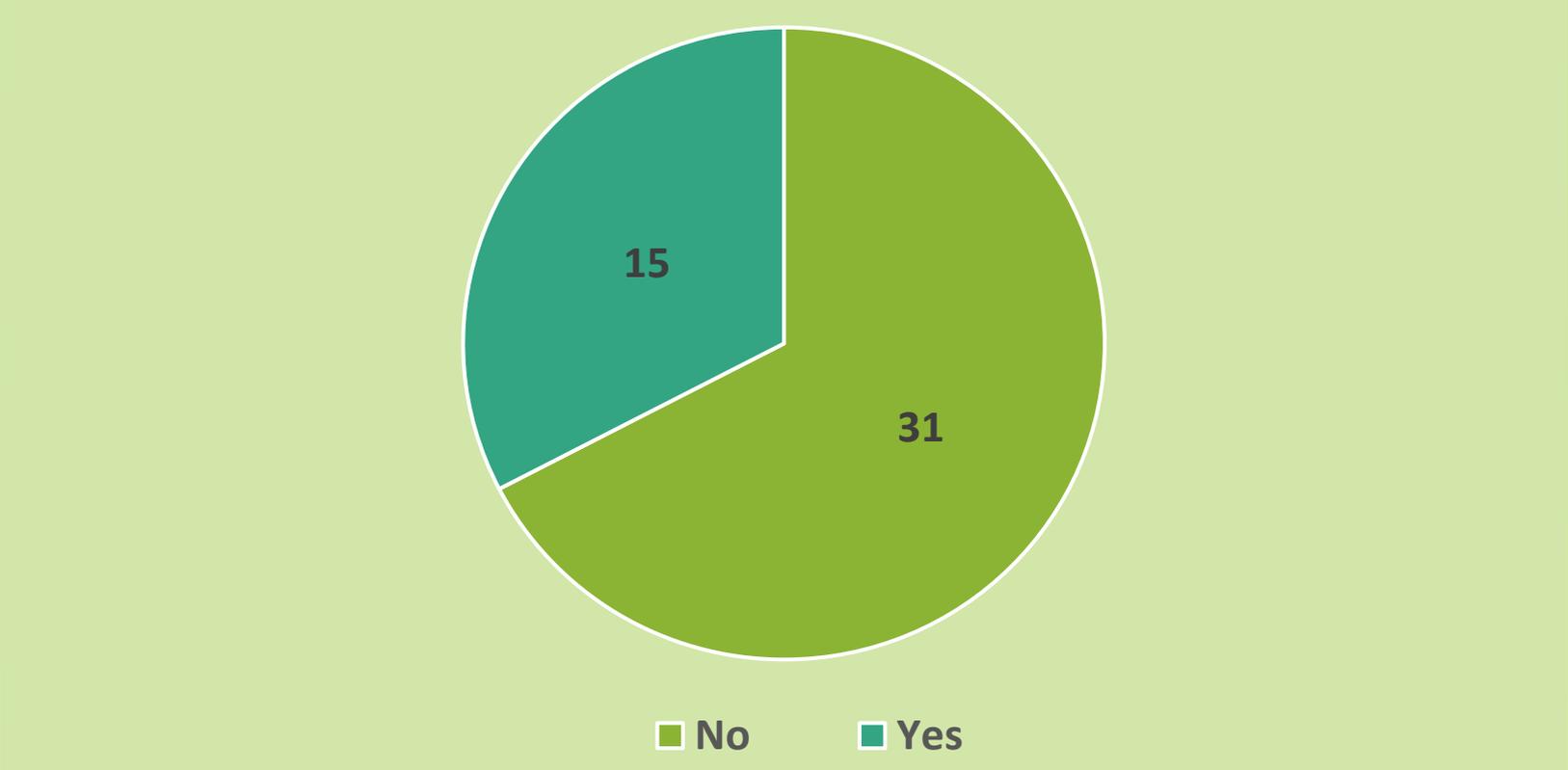


Additional Cleaning of Glass at MRFs



■ No ■ Yes

MRFs Made Upgrades to Facility in Past 3 Years



Comparison of Six MRFs with Lowest % of NGR & Fines

0% - 10% Total NGR & Fines	Type of Recycling Collection Program	Cleaning System(s)	Upgrades Made in Past Three Years
0	Source Separated at Curbside & Facility & Drop Off Locations	Pickers	No
0	Source Separated at Curbside & Facility		No
3	Dual Stream	Pickers, Glass Breaker, & Vibratory Screen	Yes
5	Dual Stream & Source Separated at Facility	Vibratory Screen & Optical Sorter	Yes
10	Single Stream	Glass Breaker, Vibratory Screen, & Vacuum System Post Vibratory Screen	Yes
10	Single Stream & Dual Stream	Trommel & Glass Breaker	Yes



Northeast Glass Markets

In 2017

- Seven glass manufacturing facilities—and eleven glass processing facilities

In 2018

- New England Closures – One & Only glass container manufacturer and two glass processing facilities



Conclusions

- MRFs w/ lowest % NGR and fines – cleaner materials (separated glass) and/or updated glass cleaning equipment.
- MRF glass end markets depend on local processors and manufacturers (300 - 500 mile radius).

Conclusions Continued

- More access needed to glass processors.
- More separation collection methods or equipment for cleaning glass.
- Measuring and reducing contamination at MRFs.