

NW Commingled Workgroup: Focus on Metals & Glass

Summary from Southwest Workgroup
on Aluminum, Steel & Glass

May 23, 2013



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington



Metal

Collection

What is included?

Yes:

Aluminum and steel cans

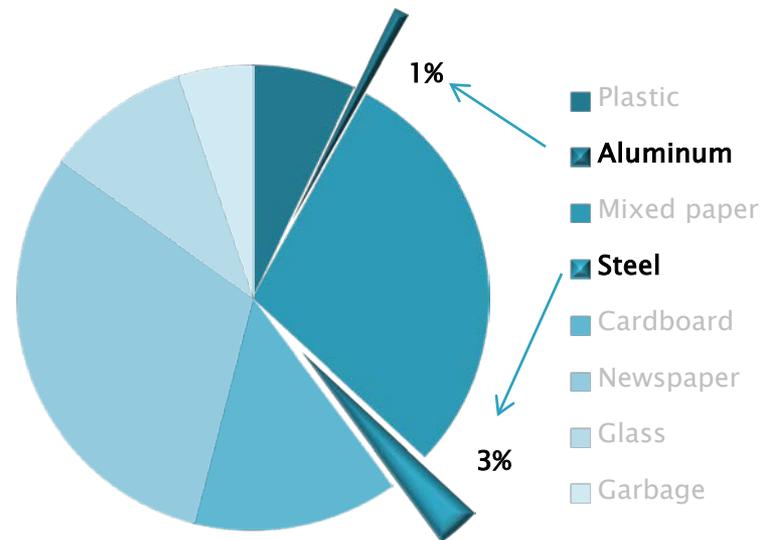
Maybe (some programs accept):

Aluminum foil, pots and pans, aerosol cans, and scrap metal smaller than 2 ft and less than 35lbs

No:

Large scrap metal, hangers, foil juice pouches, batteries and ammo

How much is in the cart (by weight)?



Issues: Collectors noted that scrap can be a hazard in the truck (i.e. pipes). Aerosol cans are also problematic due to insecticide, paint spray mess, and safety concerns.

Metal

Processing

- ▶ **Quality of incoming:** Good
- ▶ **Key Problems:** Crushed aluminum cans, lids, and scrap metal
- ▶ **Not recovered:** Aluminum foil and foil pans, and all lids
- ▶ **% of Revenue:** 15% for Aluminum and 0.7% for Steel

Areas of Improvement:

- ▶ Scrap metal acceptance gives wrong impression MRFs can take everything
- ▶ Don't flatten metal containers
- ▶ Leave lids off and throw away (or crimp inside)

Metal

Markets

- ▶ **Domestic/Local** : Aluminum is mostly domestic. Anheuser Busch is main consumer. Mills are in AL, KY, TN
50% of steel is domestic. Local end-users are Nucor Steel, Seattle, WA and Schnitzer Steel, McMinnville, OR are local end-users.
- ▶ **Export**: 50% of steel is exported

Glass

Collection

What is included?

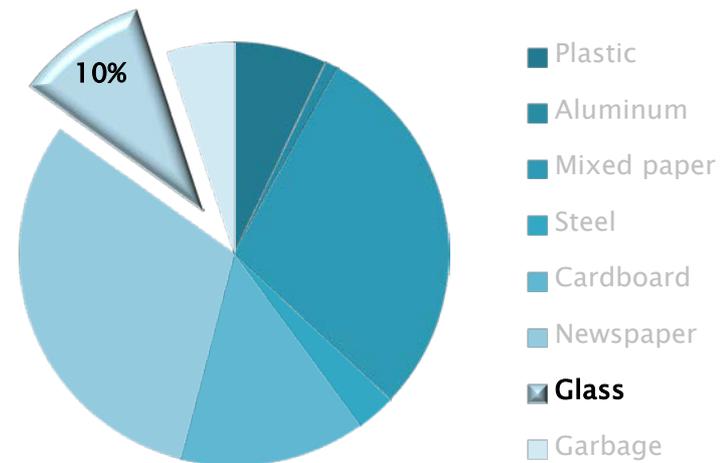
Yes:

Bottles and jars

No:

Pyrex, vases, ceramics, mirrors, windows, plate glass, light bulbs

How much is in the cart (by weight)?



Issues: Collected differently across region.
Cost to collect if not in commingled cart.

Glass

Primary Processing

- ▶ **Quality of incoming:** Poor
- ▶ **Key Problems:** Removal of glass from paper and removal of small items from glass
- ▶ **% of Revenue:** Negative value

Secondary Processing

- ▶ **Quality of incoming:** Poor if commingled (15-25% contamination)
- ▶ **Key Problems:** Contamination (ceramics, porcelain, rocks, and fines)

Glass

Markets

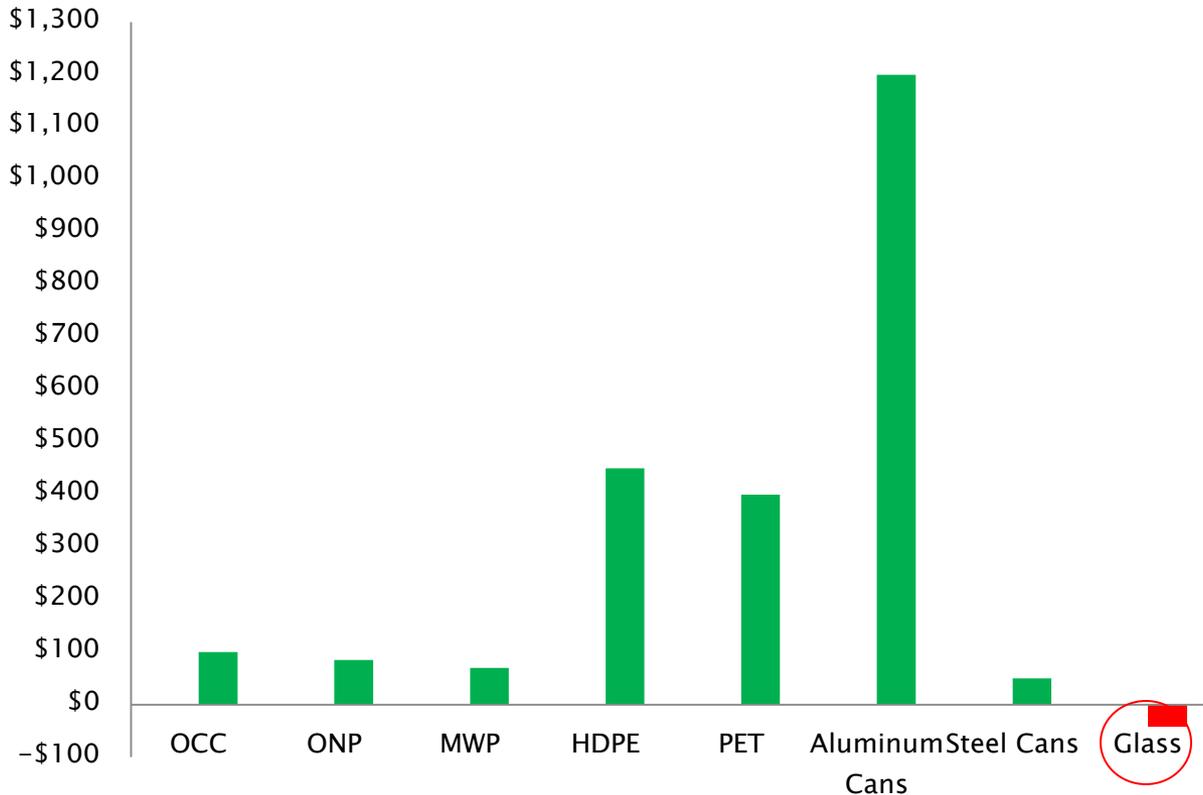
- ▶ **Domestic/Local:** Singlestream glass is used locally for aggregate by Concrete Recyclers, Olympia; Lloyd Enterprises, Milton, and others.

Non-singlestream from some jurisdictions goes to secondary processor and then to Saint Gobain, Seattle and O-I, Portland for glass containers; but some is being sent directly for use in local aggregate.

- ▶ **Export:** None
- 

Glass

Revenue by Material Type¹ (per ton)



• Prices per ton for fiber grades are closer to double on the export market.

Note: This is an aggregate average for prices in the PNW at time of publishing and are meant for comparison purposes only.

Source: Aggregated data from Southwest WA Region MRFs

Questions?

Shannon McClelland

Waste 2 Resources Program

Shannon.McClelland@ecy.wa.gov

360.407.6398



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