

THE STATE OF RECYCLING

ESI CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 2020

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Market Challenges-What's the Same?

You will likely need more than one recycling vendor

- Truckload quantities
- Storage
- Aim for mixed loads

Communication and Time Challenges

- Recycling may not be your only job
- Vendors may have a million questions or,
- Vendors can be unresponsive

Market Challenges-What's the Same?

Your problem recyclables are most likely not a high value material

- Markets fluctuate
- Your problem material is not worth what it may have been in the past
- It's a "buyers market"
- China (less of an issue than before – new normal)
- Cost avoidance
- Best case scenario is a cost neutral solution
- You will likely have to pay to have material recycled

What Do Your Recycling Vendors Need You To Know

- What item do you have?
- How much do you have?
- How frequently do you have it?
- How is it prepared?
- Is the item free from contamination?

What Does Your Recycling Vendor Need You To Know

- May need more item separation than before
 - Example: Plastics that used to be sold in a mixed bale now need to be separated in order to be marketable
- Less room for sorting errors
- Zero tolerance for contamination
- Need more education and enforcement

What Does the Main Office Need To Know

Recycling is not free

Recycling should not be counted on as revenue

Recycling is a utility like water, power, internet

CONSOLIDATION



Brewery Waste Consolidation in NC

Will be announced soon

9 breweries – 4 county region

Consolidate hard to recycle items in 1 place

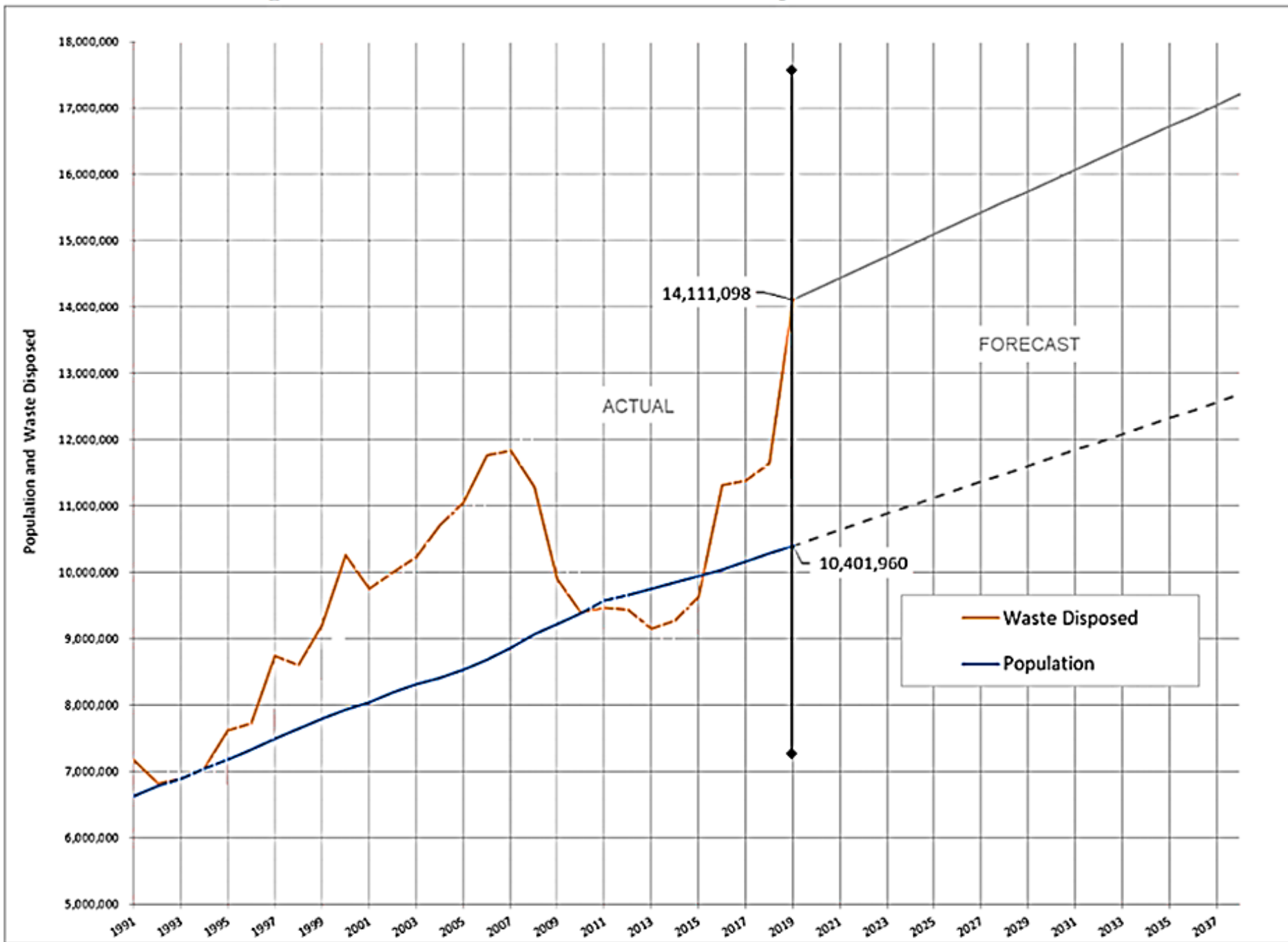
**Quantity creates markets for
hard to recycle items**

Everything is impossible until it is done

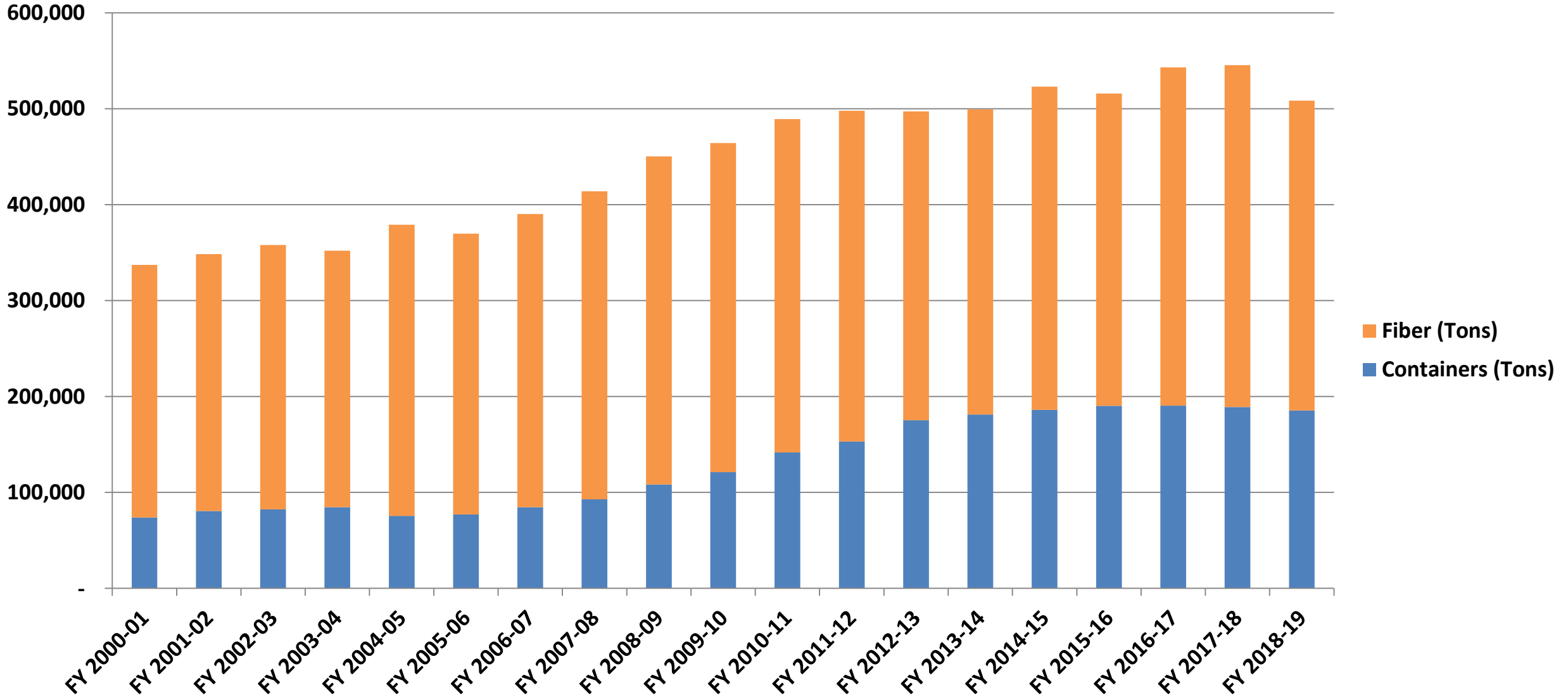
STATEWIDE UPDATE & DATA

- MSW & C&D 20 Year Disposal Forecast
- Traditional Recyclable Material Recovery FY 2000-01 to FY 2018-19
- Characterization of Local Government Recovery
- NC Market Prices for Fiber & Containers as of June 2020

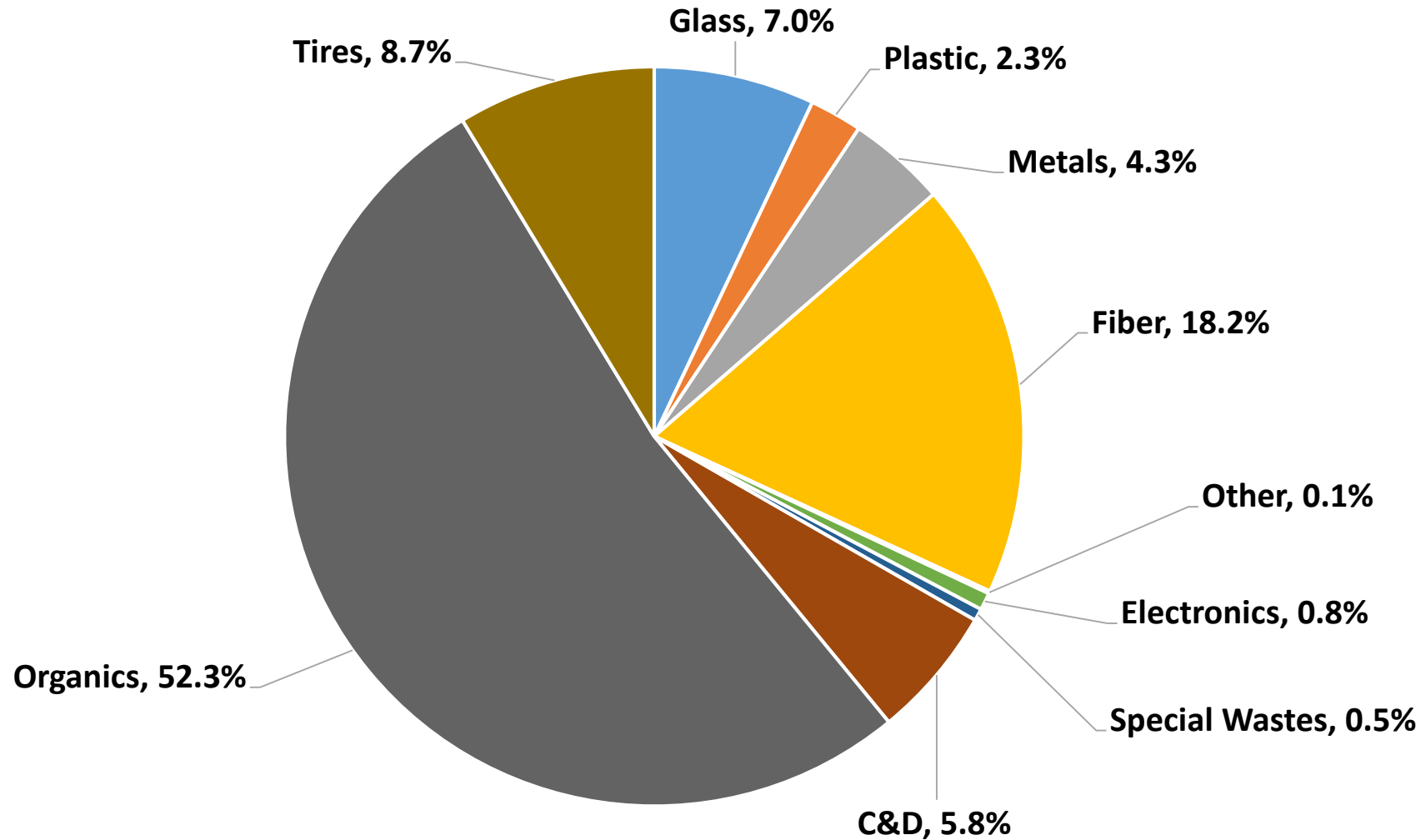
Figure V-1. MSW and C&D 20-Year Disposal Forecast



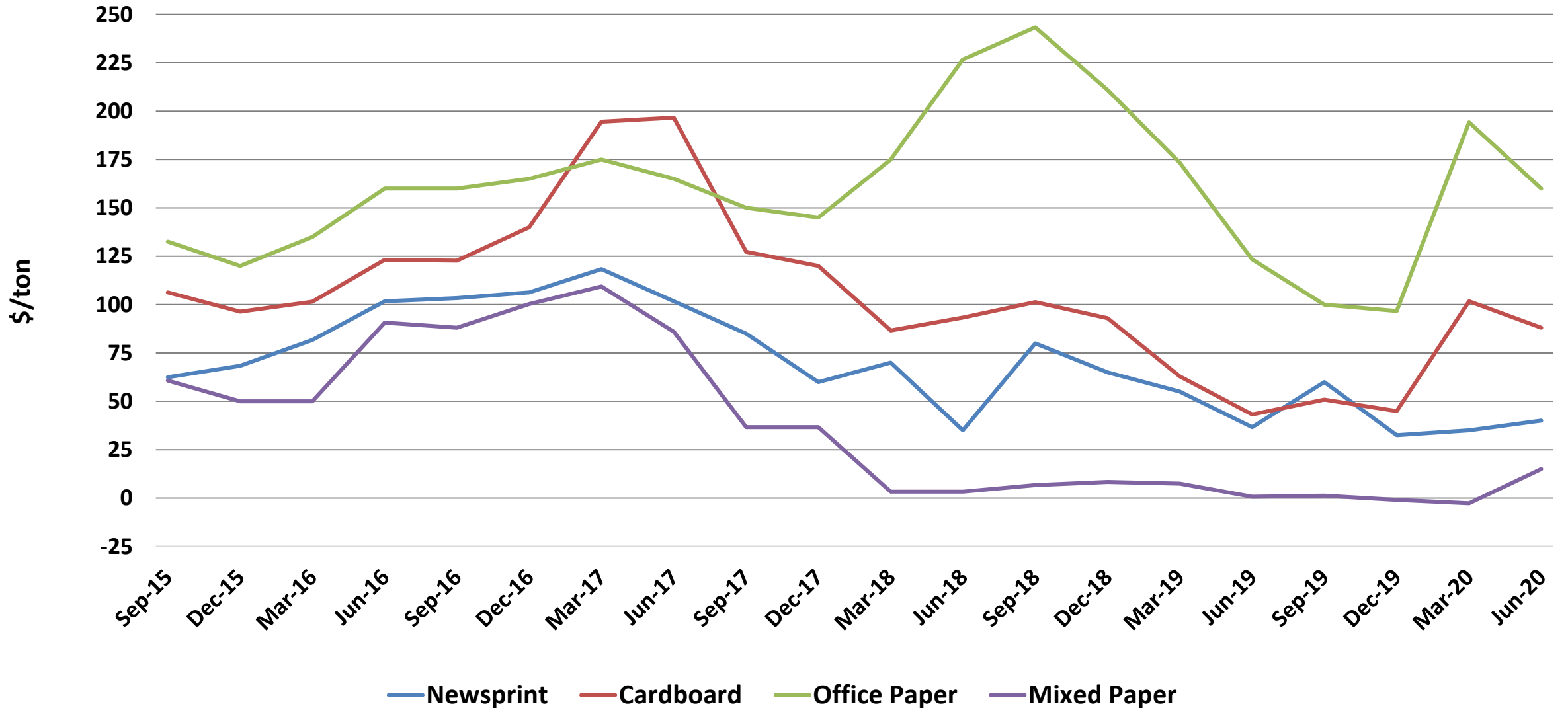
Traditional Recyclable Material Recovery FY 2000-01 to FY 2018-19



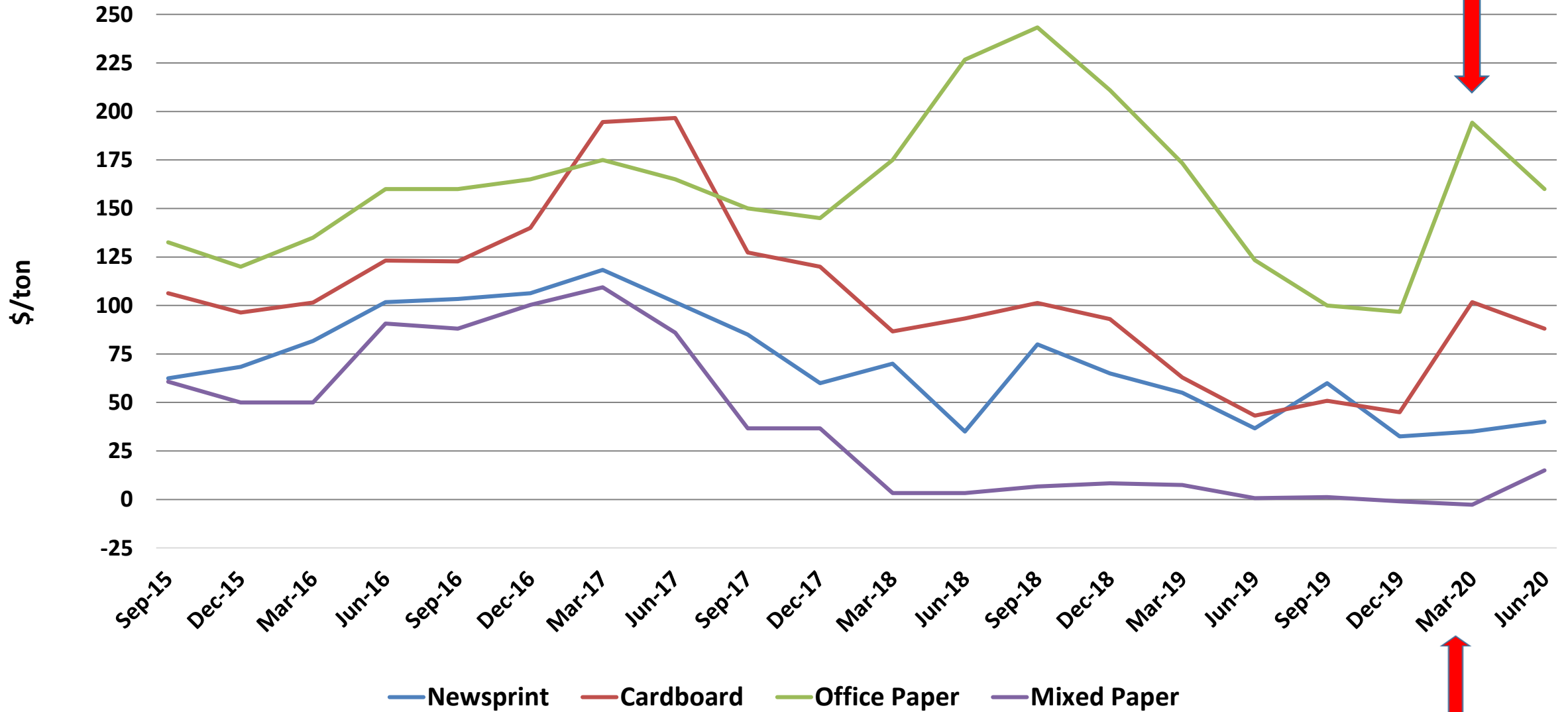
Characterization of Local Government Recovery



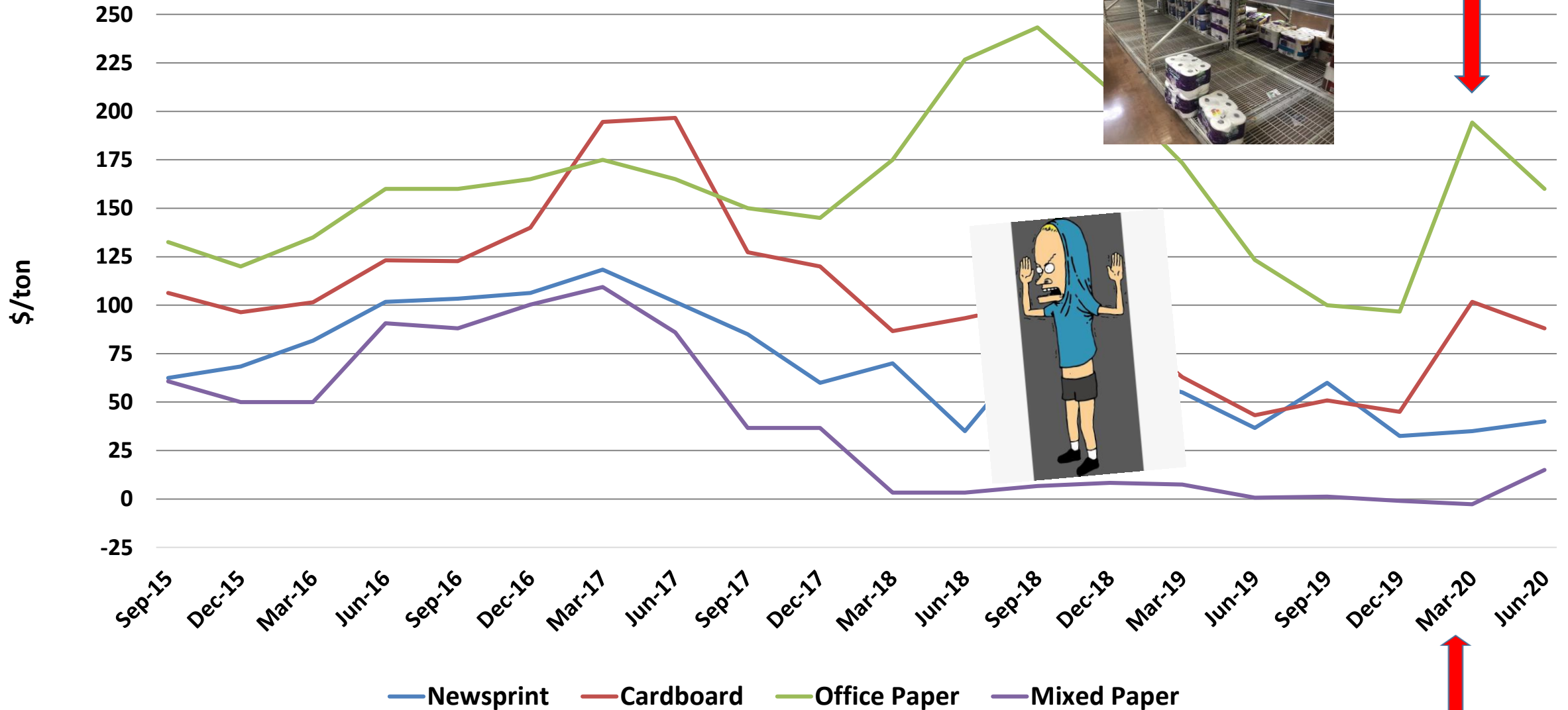
Five Year Pricing Trend for Recyclable Fiber Commodities



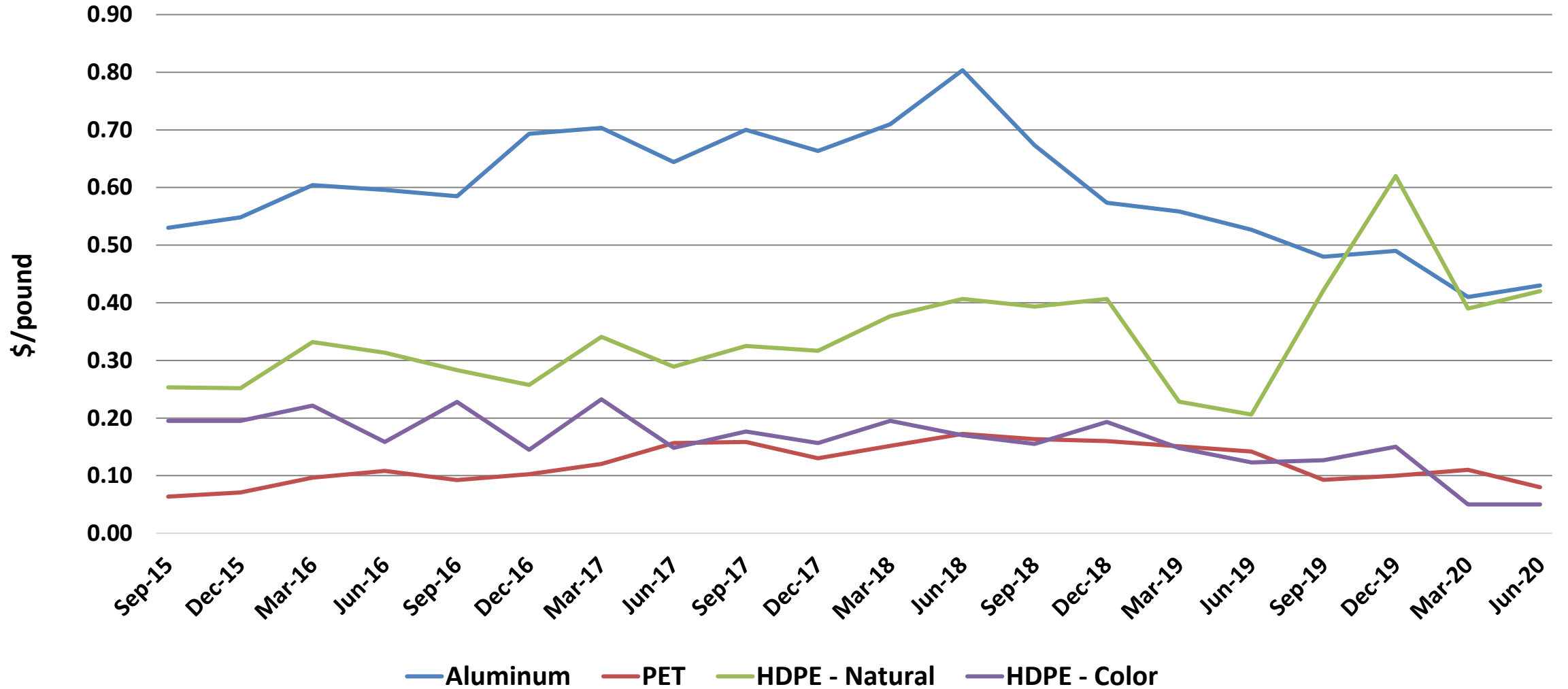
Five Year Pricing Trend for Recyclable Fiber Commodities



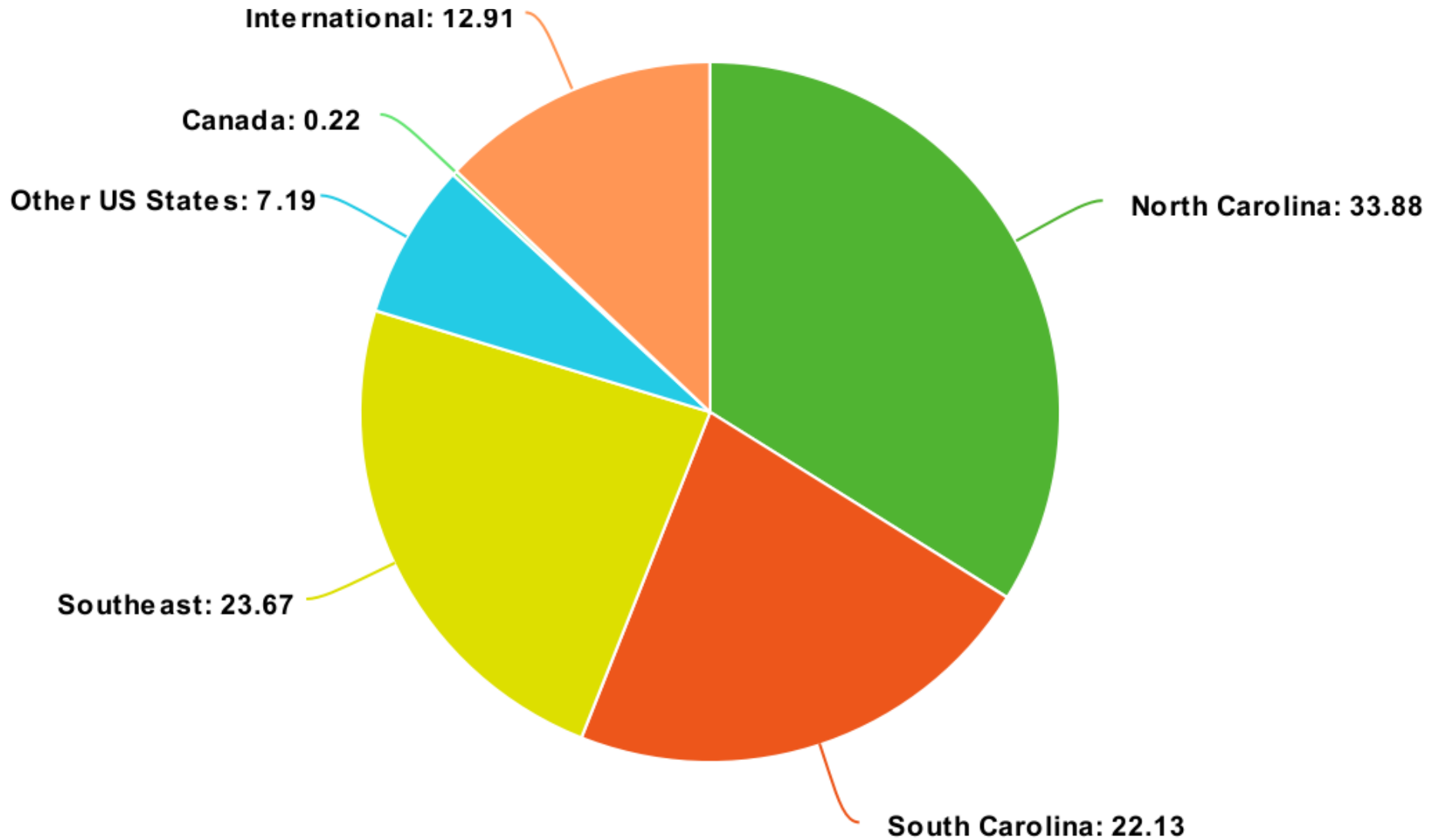
Five Year Pricing Trend for Recyclable Fiber Commodities



Five Year Pricing Trend for Recyclable Container Commodities



Where Does My Recycling Go?



THE GOOD NEWS

Statewide focus on contamination education

Southeast has strong and growing domestic markets

Recyclers and MRFs are investing in facilities and equipment

Grants have been made available

New fiber processing will be online soon

Demand will increase, pricing will improve



Complete the Cycle Challenge

- Reviving “Buy Recycled” campaigns
- Assisting businesses w/ recycled content sourcing
- NC Purchasing Toolkit for private and public sector purchasing agents
- Promoting NC manufacturers that use recycled content in their products or their packaging
- Supporting a NC recycling job study

Want to join the challenge?

Contact Jan Hardin at Jhardin@wrpnc.org for assistance or more info