

# The Current State of Recycling

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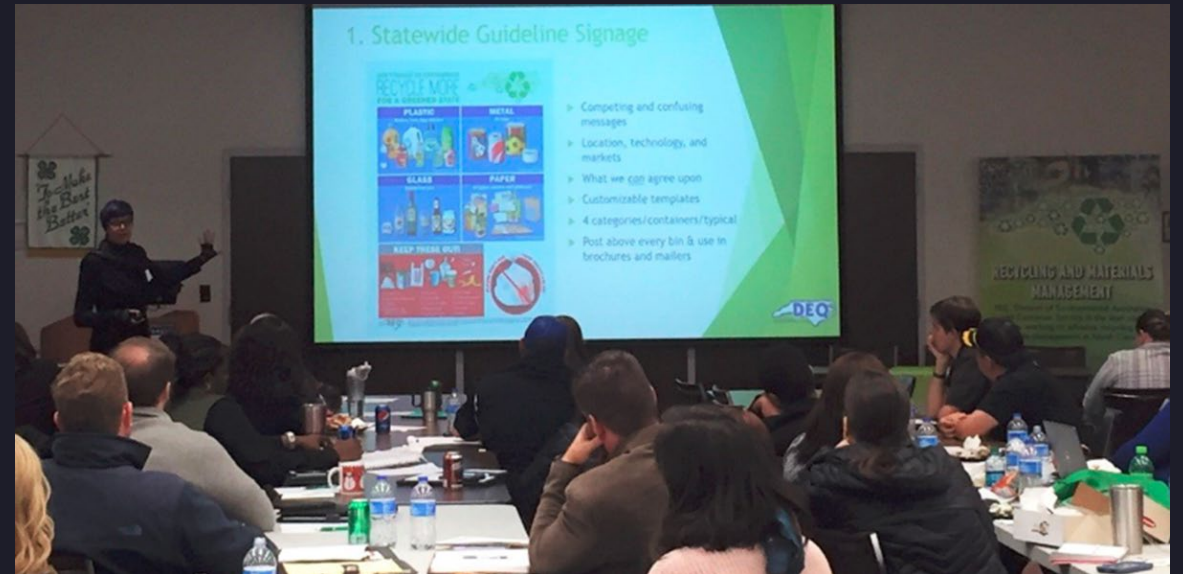




# State Recycling Program

## Division of Environmental Assistance & Customer Service Recycling and Materials Management Section

- Non-regulatory
- Recycling Business Assistance
- Local government Assistance
- Technical assistance
- Grants
- Studies, Data, Reports
- Conferences, Workshops & Events

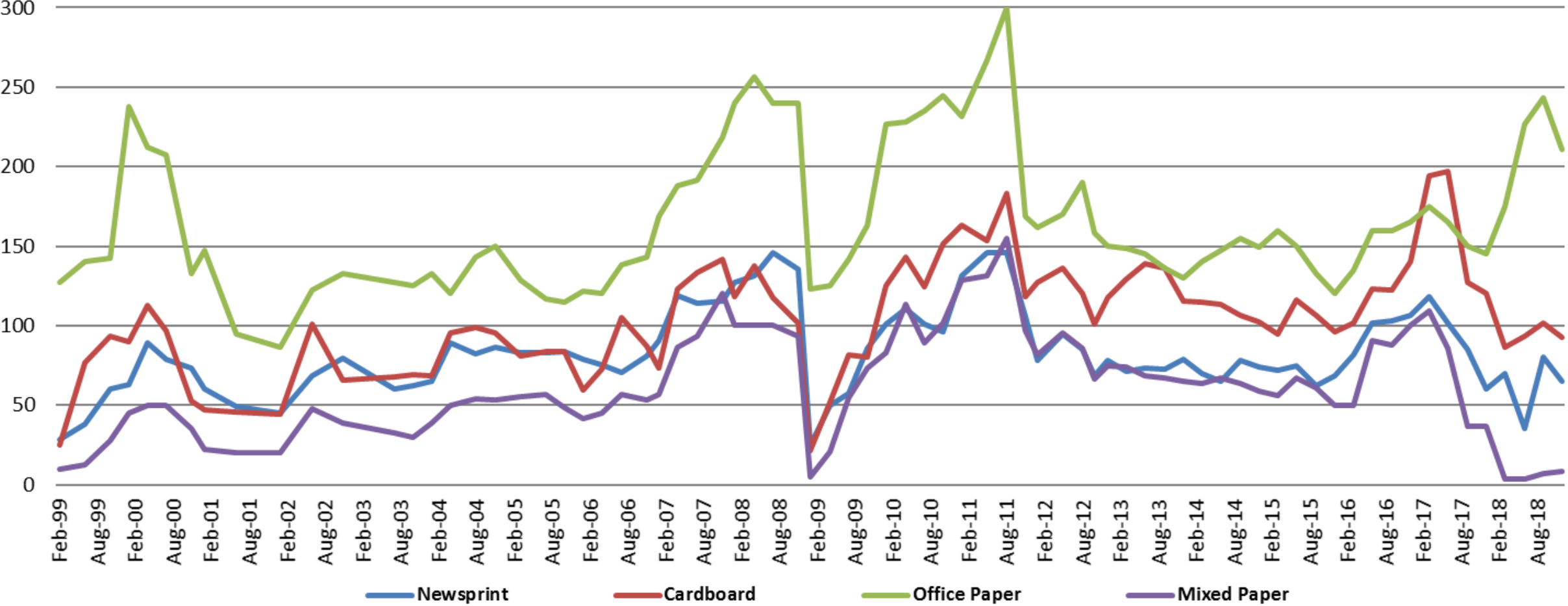


# Recycling Market Disruptions

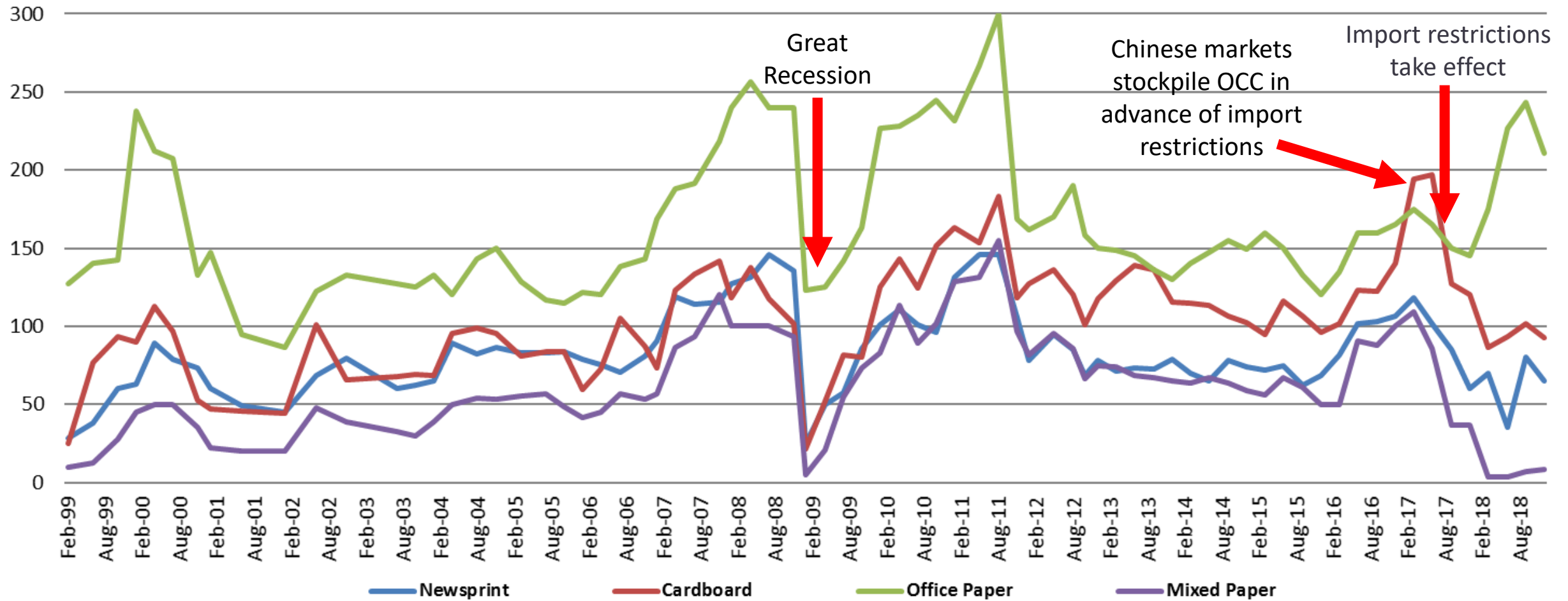
- 2017 China announces National Sword
- Unprocessed plastics are BANNED  
Effective January 2018
- Mixed paper is BANNED  
Effective January 2018
- Other recovered paper and plastic must not exceed 0.5% contamination  
Effective March 2018
- Other southeast Asian countries following suit



# NC Fiber Pricing



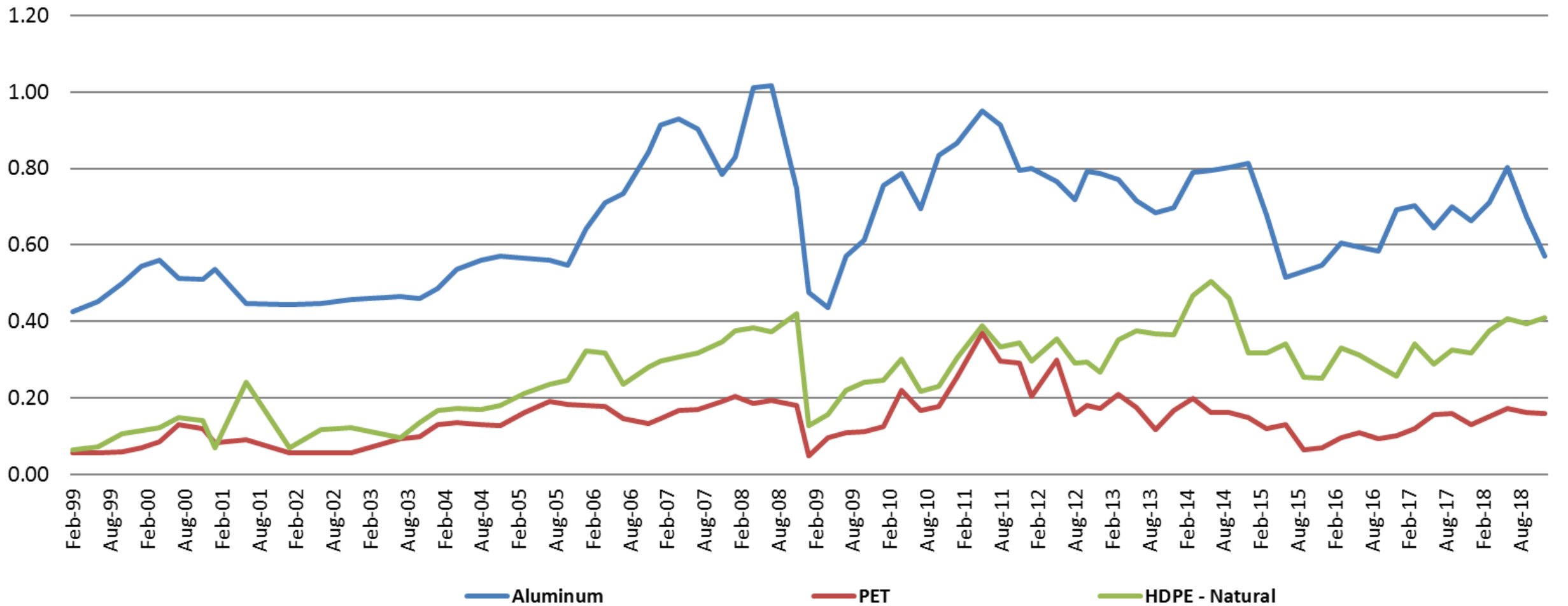
# NC Fiber Pricing



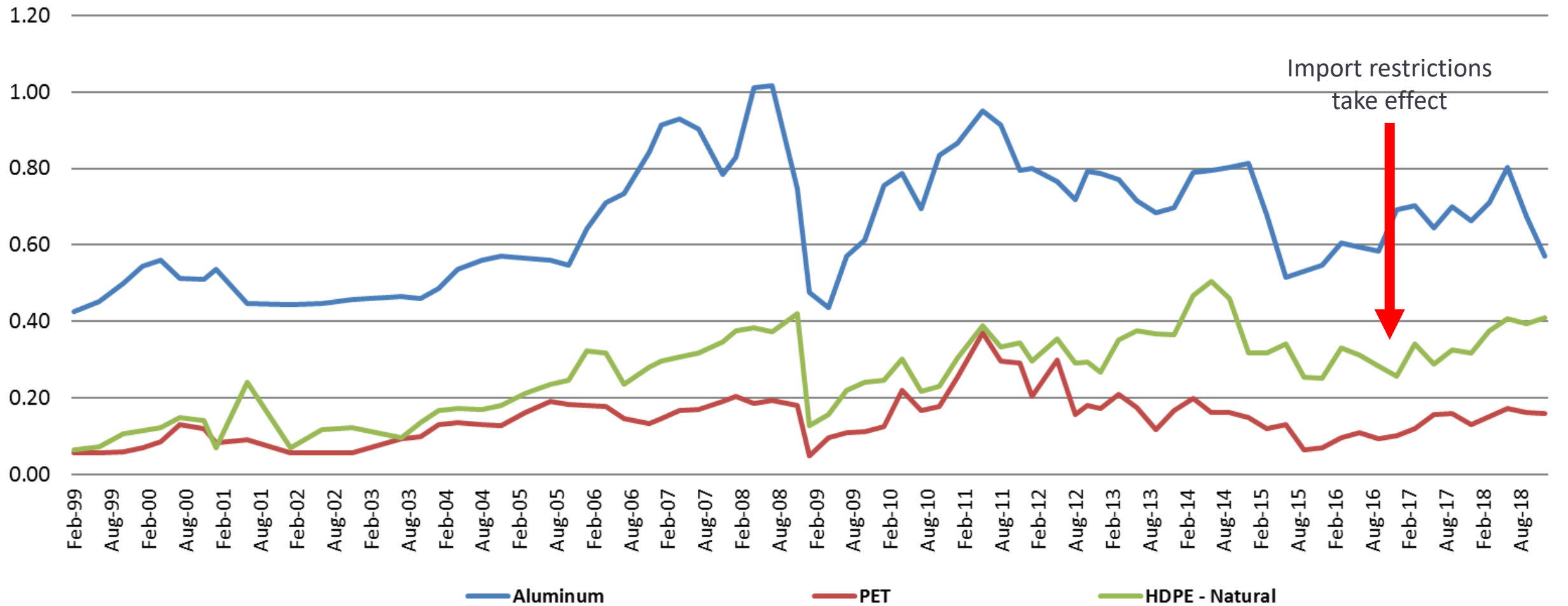


- Some vendors are currently experiencing record low cardboard prices or disruptions in the ability to sell cardboard
- Temporary issue
- Due to paper mill retooling
- Cardboard market should improve mid-summer

# NC Market Prices – Containers

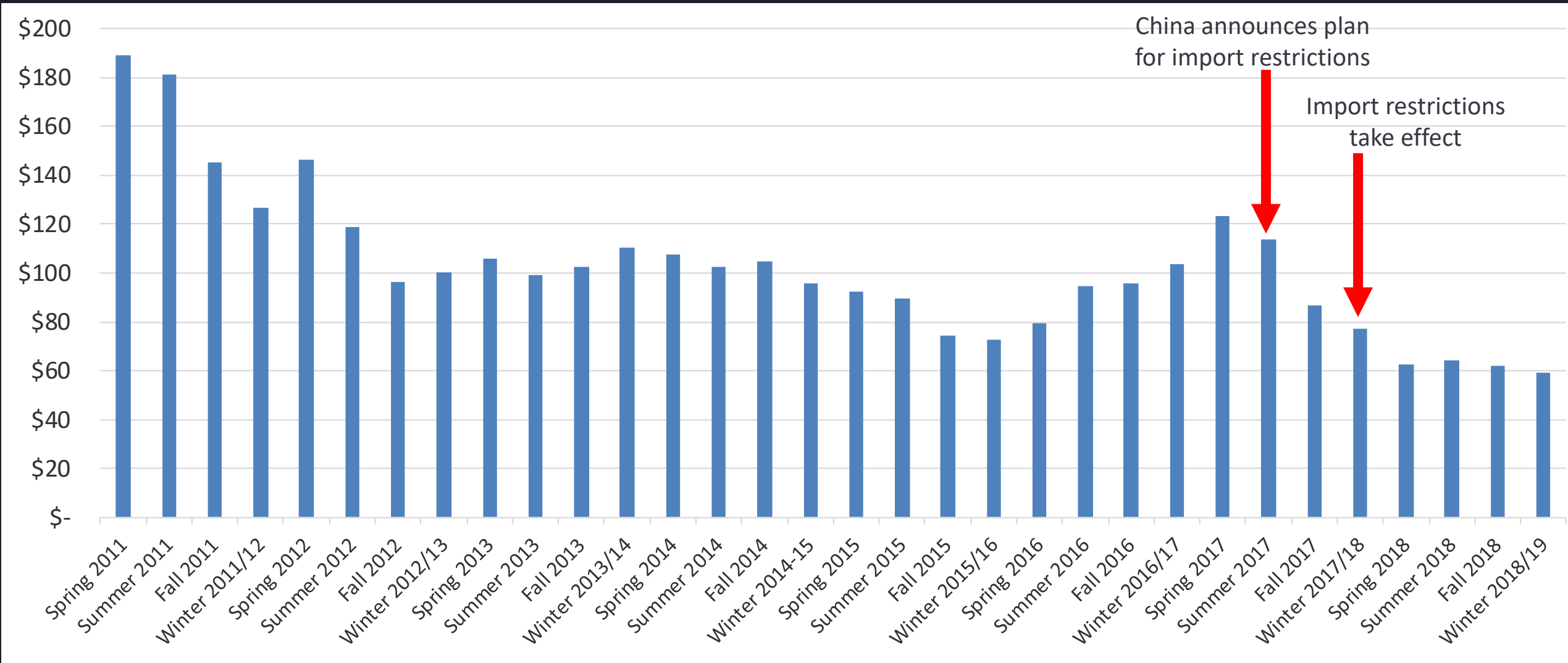


# NC Market Prices – Containers





# Value of a Commingled Ton



# Recycling Challenges for Manufacturers



- “Hard-to-recycle” materials
  - Specialty or blended/layered material
  - Most likely not high value material
  - Markets fluctuate -- not worth what it may have been in the past
  - It’s a “buyers market” due to global market changes
- Cost avoidance
  - Best case scenario is a cost neutral solution
  - You will likely have to pay to have material recycled

# Don't forget: Reduce/Reuse



- Could you change the material you are using?
  - Source reduction
- Can you change the packaging to be reusable or reduce the amount of packaging?
- Is your packaging recyclable?
- Will your supplier backhaul the scrap material for recycling?
- Is your waste a resource for someone else?



# Find Your Recycling Vendor – Need Help?

- NC DEACS
  - Recycling Section
  - ESI – *coaches, listserve, peers*
  - Waste Reduction Partners
- NC Recycling Markets Directory
- NC Waste Trader



# How Much? How Is It Prepared?

- May need more than one recycling vendor
  - Logistics or brokerage services available
- Truckload quantities preferable
  - Storage
- Aim for mixed loads
- Will your vendor provide equipment?
  - Balers, trailers, Gaylord boxes, densifiers
- Will your company need to purchase additional equipment?
  - Can increase value
  - Tax credits available



# What Your Recycler Needs 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
- Recycling is not free and should not be counted on as revenue
  - Recycling is a utility like water, power, internet

# Check for Cost Savings

## *Trash and Recycling*

- When does your trash contract expire?
- Are the charges correct?
  - Correct number of tips
  - Correct number and size of dumpsters
- Are they “dumping air”?
- Are you paying more than one trash company?
- When is the last time you compared pricing?
- Do you have a contract for recycling services (hauling & processing)?
- Look for cost efficiencies – in recycling storage, handling, containers, hauling methods



## Bad News

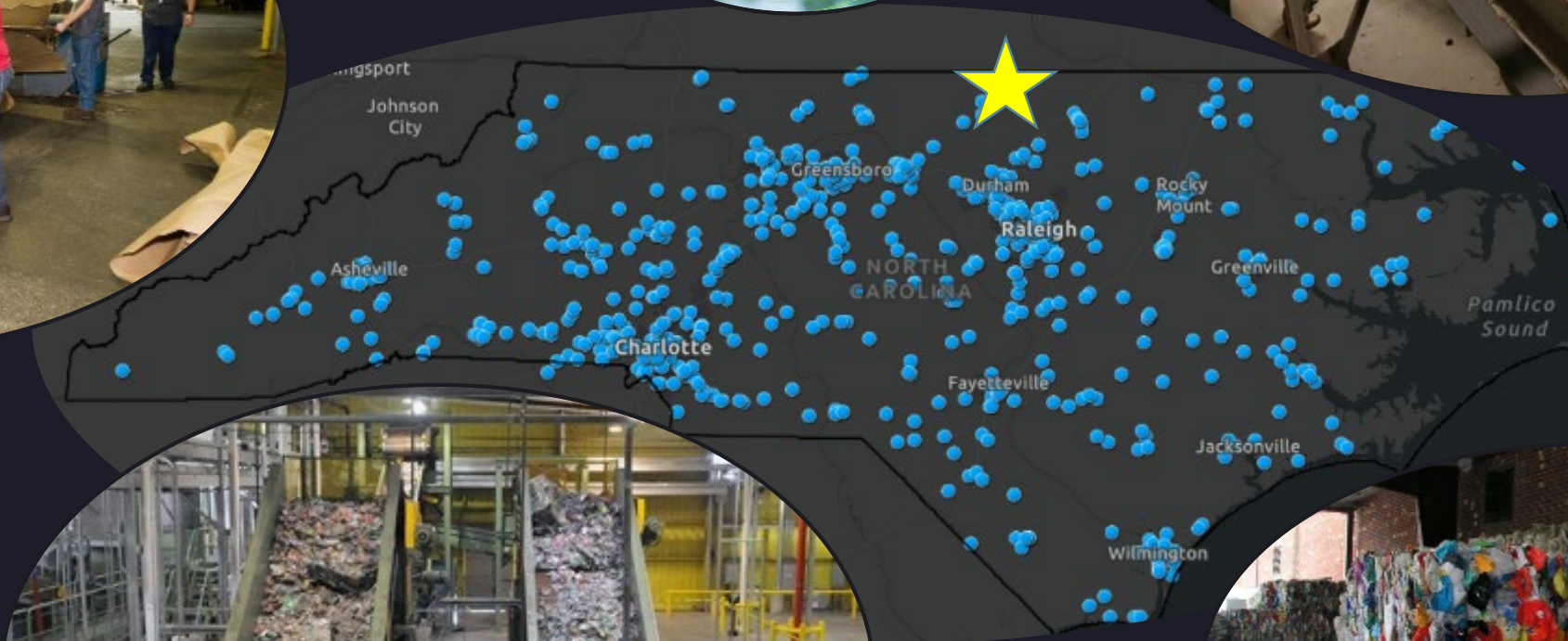
- Experiencing Down Market
- Cost to Process Recycling is Up
- Little room for contamination

## Good News

- We can work on contamination
- Southeast has strong and growing domestic markets
- Recyclers are investing in facilities and equipment
- We have experienced low market values before



# NC Recycling Infrastructure



# 2018 Announcement

Recruiting New Recycling Business to the State

POLYWOOD

manufacturer of outdoor furniture from recycled plastics

Person County, NC

384 Jobs | \$35 M Investment

Will consume 34-40 million pounds HDPE each year

RBAC worked with EDPNC & Person County Economic Development to support the company's NC expansion



# Other Market Announcements



## Alabama provides stability for plastics processor

Import disruptions convinced a longtime Chinese plastics processor to launch a new facility in Alabama. Roy Tech Environ first announced its new facility in February.



## Chinese company to open recycling plant in South Carolina

Ecomelida will focus on processing cartons and plastic scrap separated from paper pulp.



## Nine Dragons Paper to Buy Two U.S. Paper Mills



## UPDATED: Chinese Company Plans To Reopen Wickliffe Paper Mill By The End Of 2018

By WIKMS STAFF • AUG 16, 2018

## Pratt moves forward on recycled paper mill

Posted on September 11, 2018



## Cascades Acquires Virginia Plant to Produce Recycled Linerboard





# Targeted Grant Funding For Your Recycling Vendors

## Recycling Business Grants

2018 – prioritized projects addressing materials affected by China’s policies (mixed paper, non-bottle plastics)

21 grants awarded

11 involve materials affected by China

3 involve MRFs upgrades

# Targeted Grant Funding For Your Recycling Vendors

## Recycling Business Grants

2019 – prioritized projects addressing materials affected by China’s policies (mixed paper, non-bottle plastics)

17 grants awarded

8 involve materials affected by China

2 involve MRFs upgrades

**RBAC**  
Recycling Business Assistance Center

**N.C. RECYCLING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT**  
**POST-INDUSTRIAL PLASTIC RECYCLERS**

**BROMLEY PLASTICS CORP**

GRANT PRIORITY PROJECT: EXPANDING PLASTIC PROCESSING CAPACITY IN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL MARKET CHALLENGES

**LOCATION**  
Fletcher, Henderson County

**AMOUNT REWARDED**  
\$ 40,000

**NUMBER OF JOBS**  
Current: 42  
Added with grant: 6

**END PRODUCT**  
Pellets – to manufacture containers and packaging

One state is using... Here's a look at...  
China's recent import policy changes have disrupted business-as-usual for the recycling industry. Threatened by additional restrictions and tariffs, what is a state recycling...  
...tics, that are no longer welcome in China...  
...ports. The result is a stronger local market...  
...plants, creation of new jobs, and a statewide...  
...system of materials diversion that is less...  
...reliant on foreign demand.  
...Grant Program has steadily...  
...component of North Carolina's...  
...market development success. Each year,

# Thank You

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