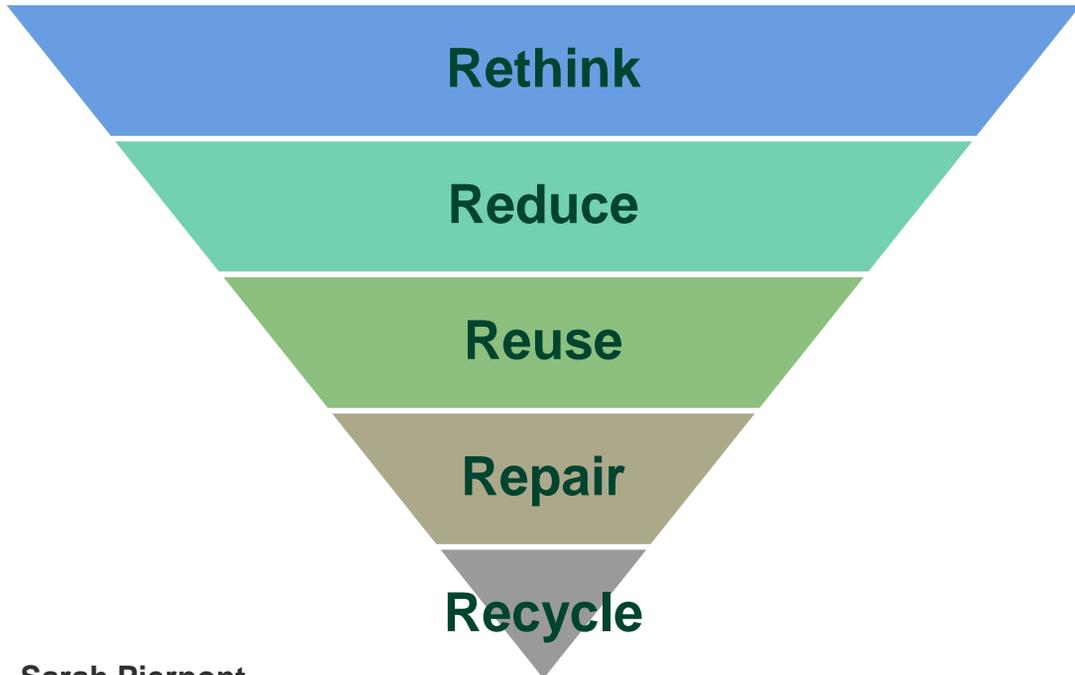


The Discards Hierarchy



Sarah Pierpont
New Mexico Recycling Coalition
sarah@recyclenewmexico.com
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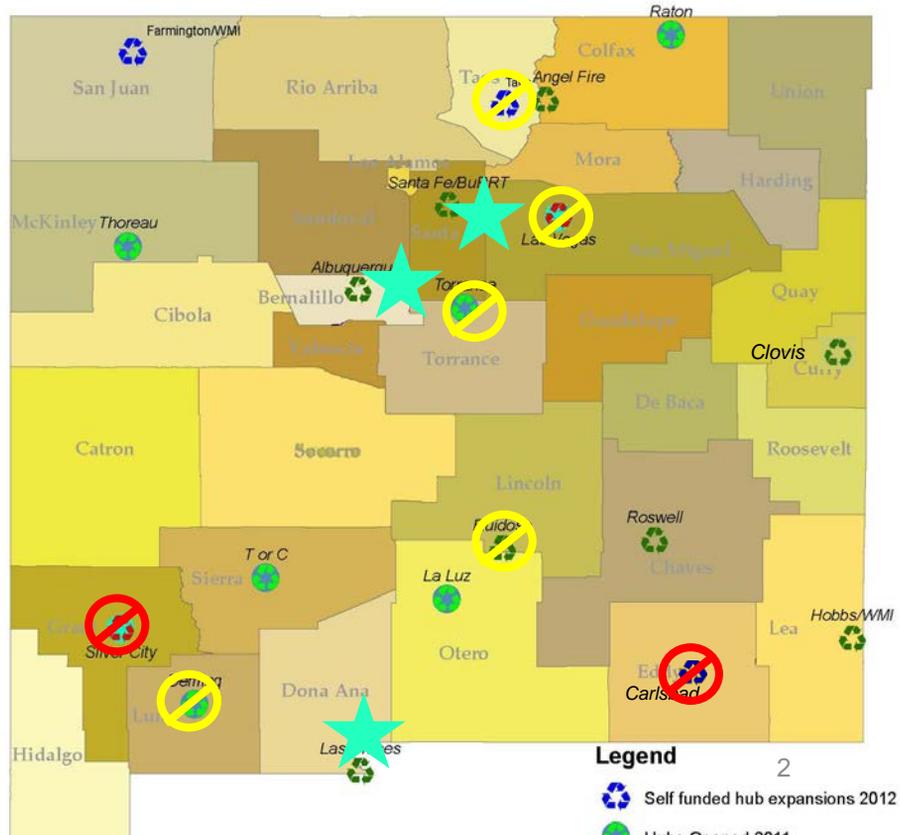
2020

Recycling Hubs
Recently Shuttered
– Silver City,
Carlsbad

Recycling Hubs Have
Stopped Accepting Items –
Estancia Valley (paper &
plastic), Taos (plastic),
Deming (unclear selling to
private hauler), Ruidoso
(paper), Las Vegas (plastics
& paper)

Recycling &
diversion rate
unknown (2015 last
date)

New Mexico Hub and Spoke Recycling



Many communities are committed to keeping their recycling programs going despite increased processing costs



Rethink

When it comes to the global waste crisis, we're trying to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle an unmanageable volume and type of material

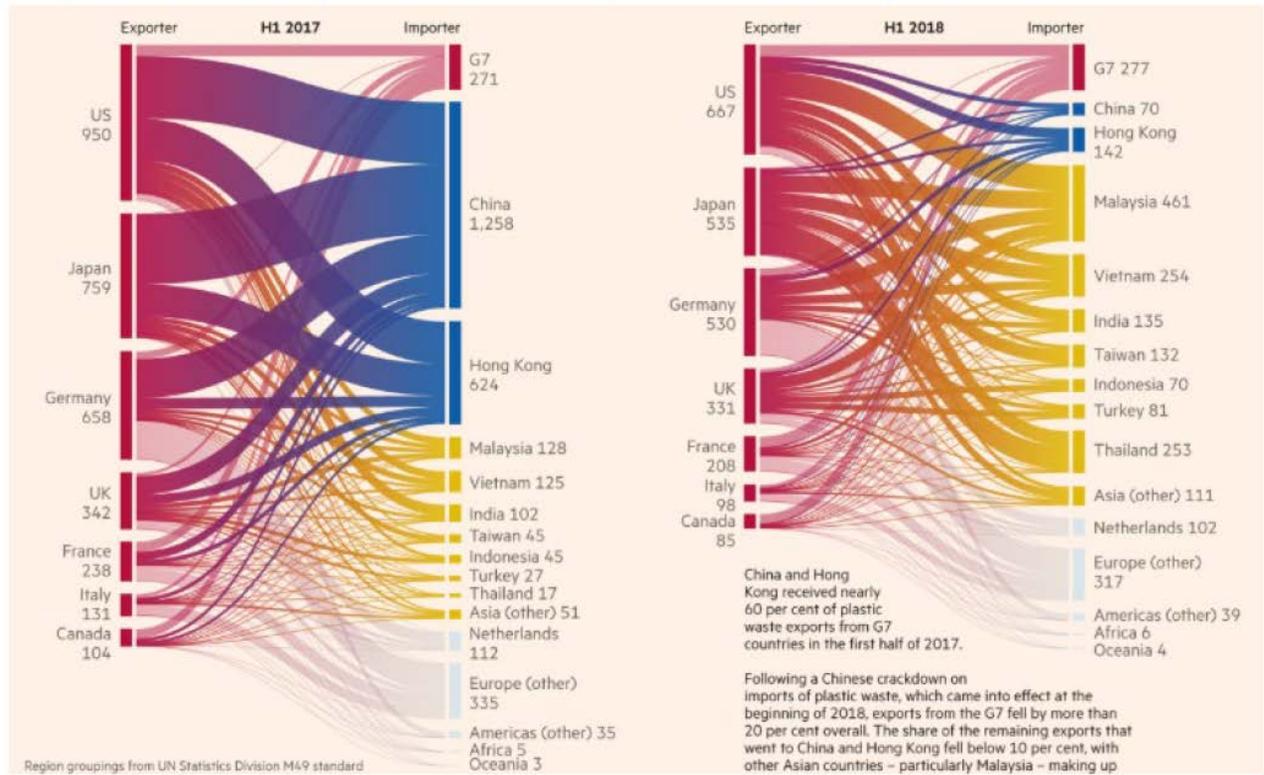
We need to refuse to continue within this broken system and **RETHINK** the way we manage consumptions and materials

Who wants this? NO ONE. Could it be turned into anything else in this state? NO.

Where are exports going after China closed its doors? Plastics

Exports of plastic scrap from G7 countries (000's metric tonnes)

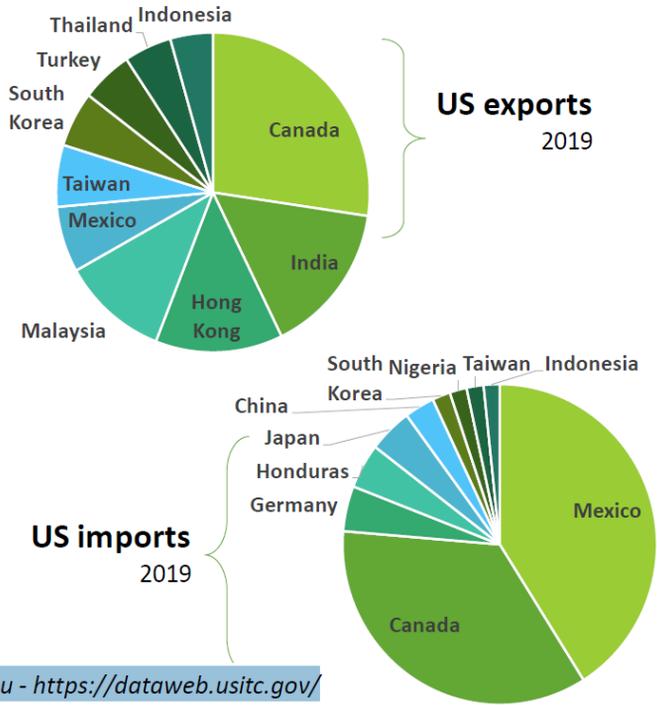
G7 countries



China rec'd 60% of plastic waste exports from G7 Countries in early 2017, following NS G7 plastic exports fell by more than 20% overall & the amount going to China fell below 10%

Where are exports going after China closed its doors? Plastics

- In 2019, the U.S. exported about 667,000 metric tons of plastic scrap worth over \$279 million.
- The same year, the U.S. imported 399,000 metric tons of plastic scrap valued at more than \$226 million.



Source: U.S. International Trade Commission and U.S. Census Bureau -<https://dataweb.usitc.gov/>

New Basel Convention requirements for plastic scrap exports

Background

- In 2016, China imported about half of all plastic scrap intended for recycling globally (Brooks et al., 2018).
- Export flows changed when China implemented strict import restrictions on recyclables, including plastic in 2017.
- Concerns about capacity of 'new' importing countries to dispose of residual waste from recycling in an environmentally sound manner.
- **The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1992), is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries. Entered into force in 1992; 187 Parties.**
- U.S. is a Signatory, but not a Party to the Basel Convention
- **Starting on January 1, 2021, exports of most plastic scrap (i.e., plastic recyclables) will be included in the Basel Convention.**



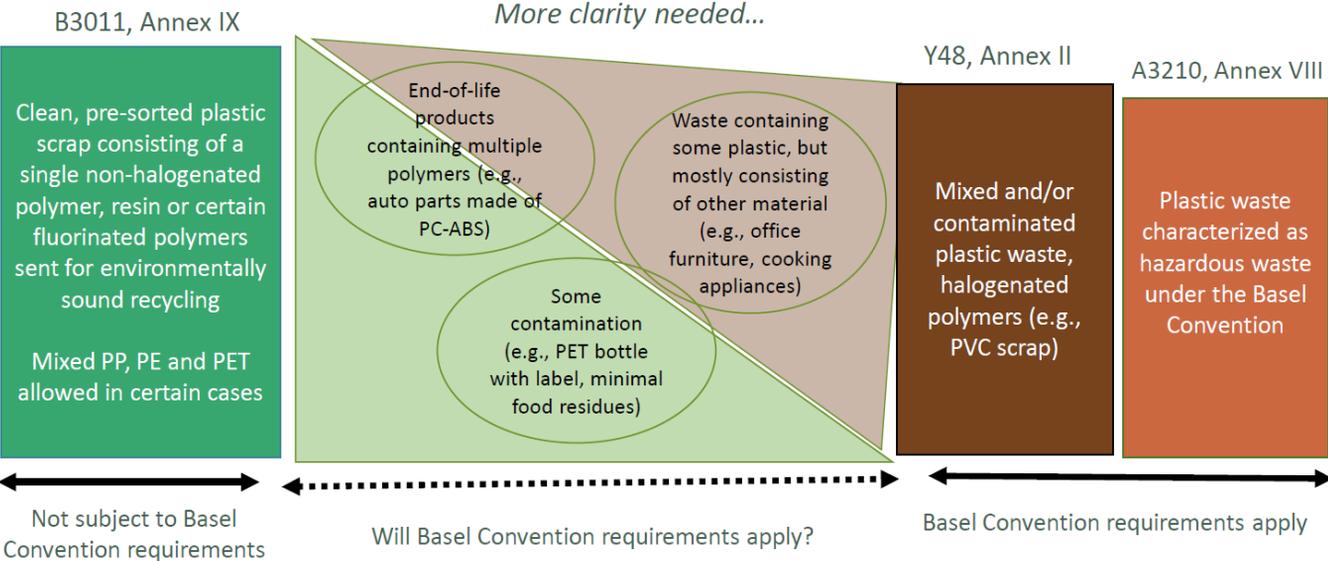
BASEL CONVENTION
*the world environmental
agreement on wastes*

New Basel Convention – Unresolved Questions

Exports must meet a very narrow and strict set of criteria to be classified as not subject to Basel requirements



BASEL CONVENTION
the world environmental agreement on wastes



According to US EPA: Impacts of the Basel Convention in the US.

Anticipated impact: Confusion by the regulated community on technical issues and procedural requirements. EPA anticipates receiving export/import notifications for non-hazardous plastic scrap even though the amendments do not change U.S. export and import waste requirements.

Anticipated impact: Significant limits on the market for U.S. plastic scrap

Anticipated impact: Reduced U.S. exports for plastic recycling will likely lead to increased disposal of plastic scrap in domestic landfills.

Anticipated impact: Significant adverse impacts on U.S. recycling programs that have benefitted from the revenue generated by higher value plastic scrap exports.

Anticipated impact: Closer examination of current U.S. plastic processing capacity

***These changes could lead to greater incentives to improve the efficiency of the U.S. recycling system and develop domestic markets.**

What do you do first?

Turn off the faucet or grab a mop?



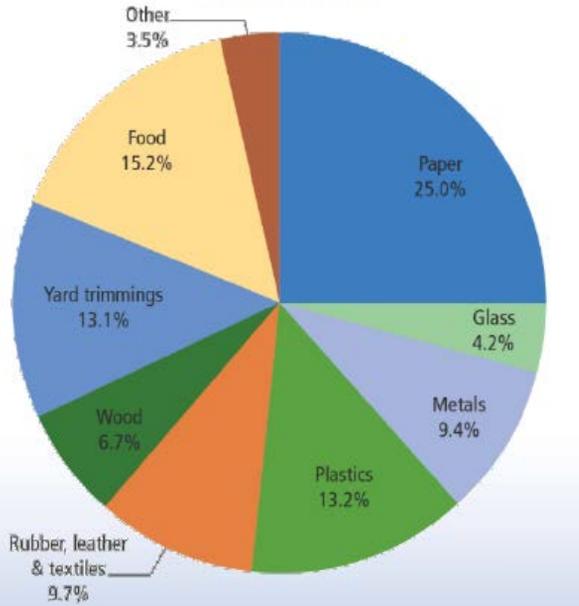
Zero Waste is a Concept that Covers Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair & Recycle

- ① ***Zero Waste International Alliance Definition:*** Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.
- ② Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them (Pollution Prevention!)
- ③ Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health
- ④ Divert 90% and No Burn, No Bury. This means waste to energy is NOT Zero Waste.

Zero Waste – Current Starting Point

Organics – The Low Hanging Fruit

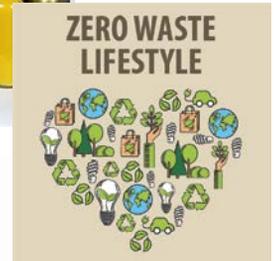
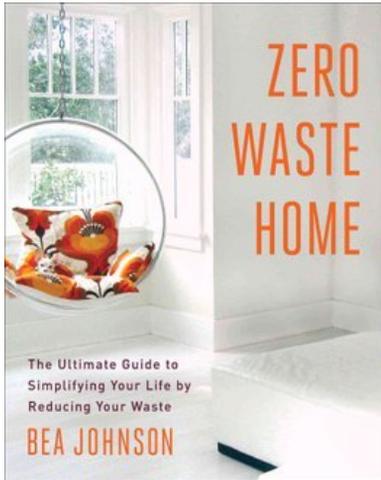
Figure 4. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2017
267.8 Million Tons



- *Nearly 30% of America's Municipal Solid Waste is organic material.*
- *When landfilled organic materials decompose without oxygen to make methane, a greenhouse gas at least 21% more potent than CO₂*
- *Use City's biannual yard debris curbside clean up*
- *Start your own backyard composting system*
- *Don't want to do it yourself? Utilize businesses, such as Reunity Resources*



Zero Waste/Reduce - INDIVIDUAL level



Zero Waste/Rethink & Reduce – SYSTEMATIC level



Rethink - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



*Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that **product and its packaging**. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the producer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.*

Example: Mattress, Carpet, Paint or Other Items Required to Be Taken Back Through Industry Paid For Efforts, PACKAGING

Reduce 

Shell's New est "Cracking" Plant in
Pennsylvania

1 million tons of new
plastic each year.

Reduce ✓

- Eight states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont (also straws and Styrofoam coffee cups and take out containers)—have banned single-use plastic bags.
- In NM – Cities of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County (includes Styrofoam take out containers and straws) and Silver City have some sort of single-use plastic ban (paused due to COVID)
- Cities of Carlsbad and Las Cruces considering bag bans
- Individual businesses banning single use plastic





Our Individual Actions &
Demands are creating a Tipping
Point for Systems Change

BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION ACT

*Introduced by Senator Tom Udall
and Representative Alan Lowenthal*



Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

Source Reduction

- Plastic Carry-Out Bags - 10 cent fee on all other Carry-out bags
- Plastic Utensils
- Styrofoam food and drinkware
- Styrofoam coolers & shipping packaging (medical exceptions)
- Straws available upon request

Producer Responsibility

- Packaging, containers, food service products & paper - All materials (plastic, glass, metal, paper) - Regardless of recyclability/compostability
- Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO)
- Collection/Reuse/Recycling Targets
- Major investment in U.S. domestic recycling/composting infrastructure

National Container Deposit

- 10-cent national refund for all beverage containers - All material (plastic, glass, metal)
- Modeled off Oregon's bottle bill - Producers use unclaimed deposits for investment in recycling
- Existing state programs can continue or harmonize

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

Post Consumer Recycled Content from US Sources

- Plastic beverage bottles - 25% by 2025, 30% by 2030, 50% by 2035, 80% by 2040
- Other covered products/beverage containers
- EPA and National Institute of Standards and Technology set percentages

Recycling

- Define recycling and recyclable - Processing capacity in U.S. and geographical distribution
- Standardize product labels
- Standardize receptacle labeling

Plastic Waste Exports

- Ban on export of plastic waste, scrap and pairings to developing countries.
- Export permitted to OECD countries (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Other Provisions

- Cigarette Butts – Electronic Cigarette Cartridges – Derelict Fishing Gear
- Protect State Action
- **Temporary Pause on New Plastic Production Facilities - Up to three years while Federal Agencies study impacts and update regulations**

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act – Next Steps

- ④ Senator Jeff Merkley (D Oregon) taking the lead in the senate now following Udall's retirement
- ④ Blueprint for adoption on the state/local level
- ④ The Town of Mansfield, CT passed a Break Free from Plastic Pollution Resolution on November 23, 2020
- ④ A coalition of 550+ diverse organizations created [a plan outlining the eight executive actions](#) President Biden can take, *with or without Congress*, to fight the plastic pollution crisis.

#PLASTICFREEPRESIDENT

HOW THE PRESIDENT CAN SOLVE THE PLASTIC POLLUTION CRISIS

Outlines 8 Steps the President
can do to reduce plastic waste
via Executive Action

Presidential Plastics Action Plan

December 2020

www.plasticfreepresident.org

1. Use the purchasing power of the federal government to eliminate single-use plastic items and replace them with reusable products.
2. Suspend and deny permits for new or expanded plastic production facilities, associated infrastructure projects, and exports.
3. Make corporate polluters pay and reject false solutions
4. Advance environmental justice in petrochemical corridors.
5. Update existing federal regulations to curtail pollution from plastics facilities by using best available science and technology.
6. Stop subsidizing plastics producers.
7. Join international efforts to address the global plastic pollution crisis through new and strengthened multilateral agreements.
8. . Reduce and mitigate the impacts of discarded and lost fishing gear.

Reuse & Repair

NMRC received USDA funding this month to work with rural communities to physically implement the grassroots waste reduction solutions, including reuse centers, Fix It Clinics, back yard composting trainings & zero waste efforts.



FIXIT CLINIC

Open it up. See how it works. Hopefully fix it.

As Concerned Citizens What Can We Do?

- Knowledge is power. Host a litter clean up and Brand Audit in your neighborhood – learn more at <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/brandaudittoolkit/>
- Compost your food scraps and yard waste
- Recycle Correctly!
- Support Zero Waste Policy
 - Single use plastic bans
 - Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

