

2019

Update on Chinese Market Restrictions Related to Program Material

The impact of the contamination restrictions by China on low grade recyclables including plastics is having a substantial impact on municipalities in their responsibility for solid waste management.

There should not however be a negative impact on plastics generated from the Electronics and Paint Recycling Programs (the Programs). The Programs in effect are part of the solution as they divert higher grade plastics from the municipal waste stream.

i. Electronics Program

- Electronics are dismantled by the Registered Processor. The plastics are broken down and separated through mechanical or manual processing. These processes minimize contamination and mixing of materials.
- The result is that the Program's plastics are more at the commodity stage which has value and enters the global recycling/manufacturing markets with bales shipped to approved downstream processors.
- Registered Processor are not permitted to send any Program material to China as it is not a member of the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](#).
- Further processing occurs at the downstream processor sites which may include sorting, shredding, and granulating, reducing it further to a commodity state after which they may choose to ship it to China.

ii. Paint Program

- Empty plastic paint pails form the largest component of plastic material recycled through the Paint Program. Currently there is an Alberta-based recycling solution for the pails.
- The downstream processor shreds the plastic and runs it through an extruder to produce products such as fence posts and boards, nail boards, benches, picnic tables and parking curbs.

Administration will continue to monitor the situation, especially what is happening between Processors and their approved downstream processors, for any indirect impacts that may have a secondary impact on non-restricted plastics.