

WM Position Plastic Exports Policy

October 2025



BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2018, media attention increased on the topic of plastic waste in the environment. In particular, plastic marine debris began to draw heightened scrutiny on the use of plastics, its potential health impacts and end-of-life solutions for this material. Since then, many governments have passed laws restricting certain types of plastics from sale or use. These restrictions have, in part, increased pressure for WM recycling facilities to accept a broader array of plastic materials in curbside recycling and composting programs in order to alleviate public pressures to ban the sale of those materials. However, with no or limited viable end markets for many of these materials, WM and other recyclers are working to educate and remind customers of the need for end market demand and economic viability to support the inclusion of certain materials in recycling programs.

PLASTICS RECYCLING

In recent years, WM has recovered hundreds of thousands of tons of plastic materials for recycling. The three main types of plastics that WM recovers are PET #1 (bottles), HDPE #2 (detergent/milk containers), and polypropylene or PP #5 (yogurt/butter containers). Once recovered, these valuable materials can be turned into new bottles and containers, clothing, carpet, agricultural tubing, paint cans, new recycling bins and more.

More broadly, WM has a goal to increase its annual recovery of recyclable materials to 25 million tons by 2030. To make progress toward this goal, WM is committed to efforts to help grow domestic markets for recycled commodities, including plastics. WM's objective is to find domestic customers for a variety of plastic types as well as other recyclable material such as paper and cardboard. WM focuses its efforts on recycling materials with responsible end markets, or manufacturers, secondary processors and others who manage materials in a transparent manner and with the intent to recycle, while educating consumers on which materials can and cannot be recycled.

WM'S POSITION ON PLASTIC

In pursuit of our intention to recycle materials with responsible domestic end markets, WM generally does not export plastics outside of North America that are collected on WM's residential routes and processed in WM single-stream recycling facilities, except in very limited circumstances when no other commercially viable domestic end markets are available. Since 2021, WM has also taken steps to voluntarily comply with the rules established under the Basel Convention¹ with respect to any plastics marketed internationally. WM is working to help establish responsible domestic markets for recycling and beneficial use of these materials. WM is an advocate for proper management of materials through end of life.



¹ And any Article 11 bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements thereunder