

# Waste Management

## Changes in the Recycling Industry

THINK GREEN.®



2013-0021



# What Makes Something Recyclable?



# Collection is not recycling



≠



- Recycling doesn't happen until a material displaces virgin resources
- Unless materials becomes a feedstock for a new product, it increases cost and environmental burden.

# Recycling Changes

How did we get here?

## Wishful Recycling :

The act of having hope or desire for something to be recyclable.

# So What?

## What if I recycle something that cannot go in my bin?

- One wrong item in the recycling bin can ruin the whole load – we call this contamination.
- Trash in the recycling bin ends up in the landfill anyway.
- Quality recyclables can also end up in the landfill during the process to remove contamination.

**Contamination is a big problem for our industry, and an issue we have been fighting for many years.**





# Film Plastics in Disc Screens



# Recycle or Trash?





# Recycle or Trash?

## Continued





# Final Product to Market



# Recycling Changes

Not just a local issue

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

May 14, 2018

### Recycling Firms Hit by Crushing Economics

Plunging prices for scrap paper, plastics prompt cities to send some items to landfills

By Ben Elms

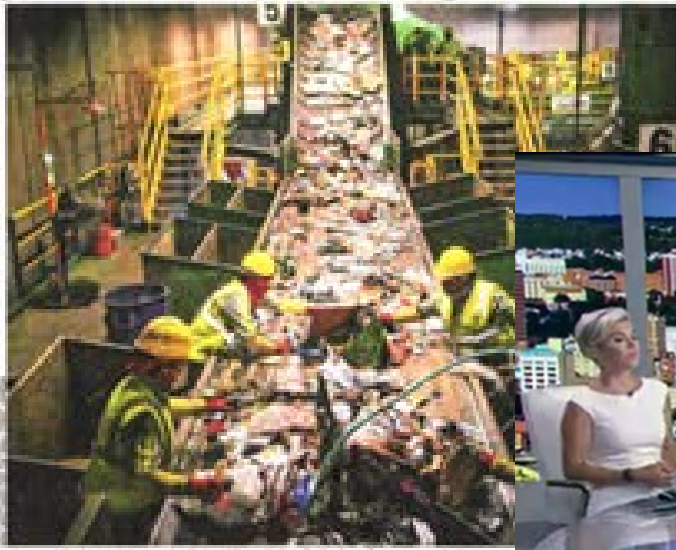
The U.S. recycling industry is breaking down.

Prices for scrap paper and plastic have collapsed, leading local officials across the country to change policies meant to collect, recycle and send some to landfills. Local waste agencies, meanwhile, have and others have are giving up on plastics that can't make a profit processing them for export as markets weaken.

"Recycling is no longer a sure thing," said William J. O'Connell, chief executive of the Waste Management Institute, Inc. "There's always been up and down in the market, but this is the biggest disruption that I've seen."

U.S. recycling programs cost off in the 1990s as cities to have less than 10% of the waste they collected was recycled. Since then, the industry has grown to handle about 25% of the waste generated in the U.S. and is now the largest source of revenue for many local governments. But as prices for recycled materials have fallen, some cities are starting to send more waste to landfills.

Photo by AP/Wide World



Many waste leaders and city agencies that push for universal collection for recycling are now being hit.





# What does this mean for me and how did we get here?

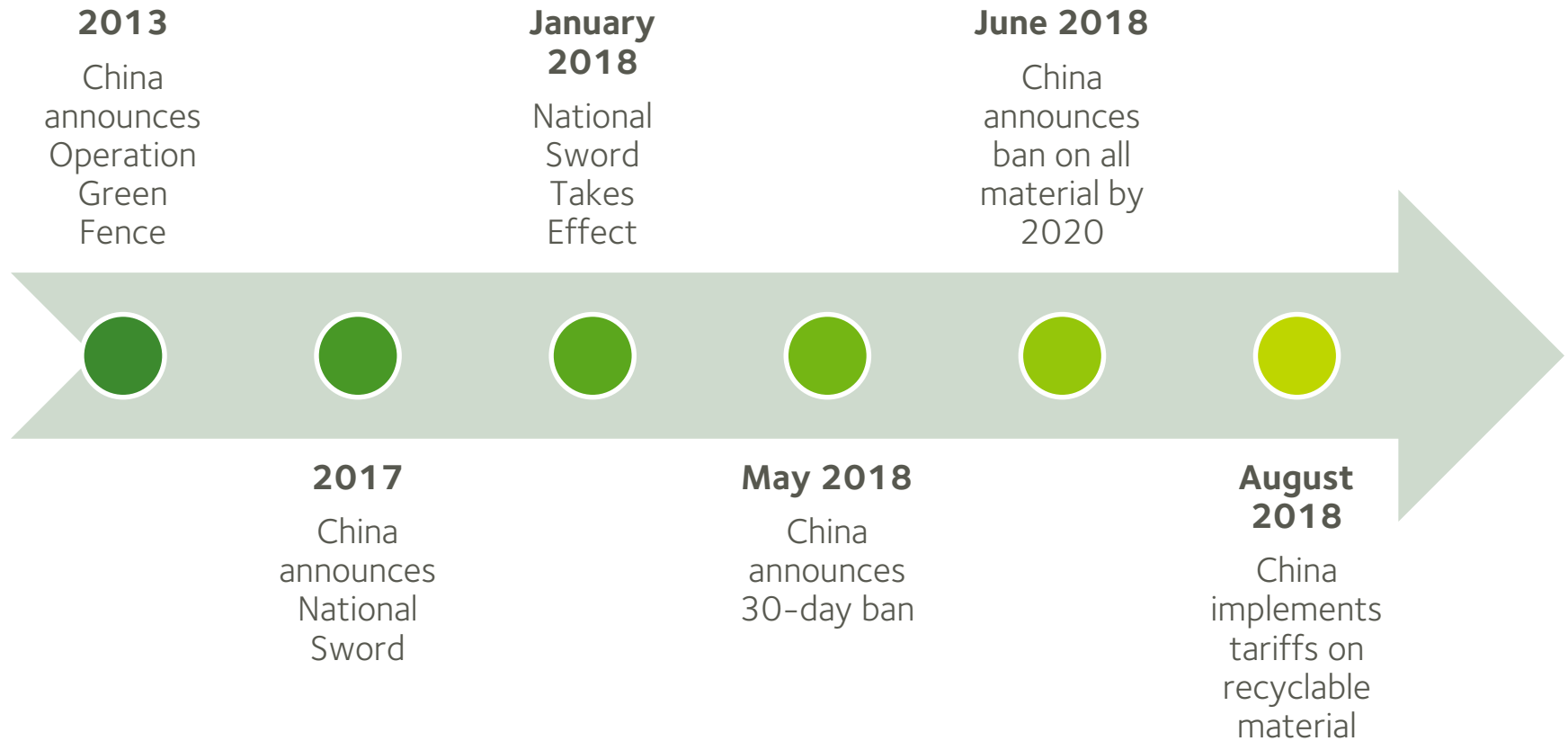
## Biggest changes impacting recyclers:

1. Greater focus on eliminating contamination
2. Reviewing material accepted for recycling

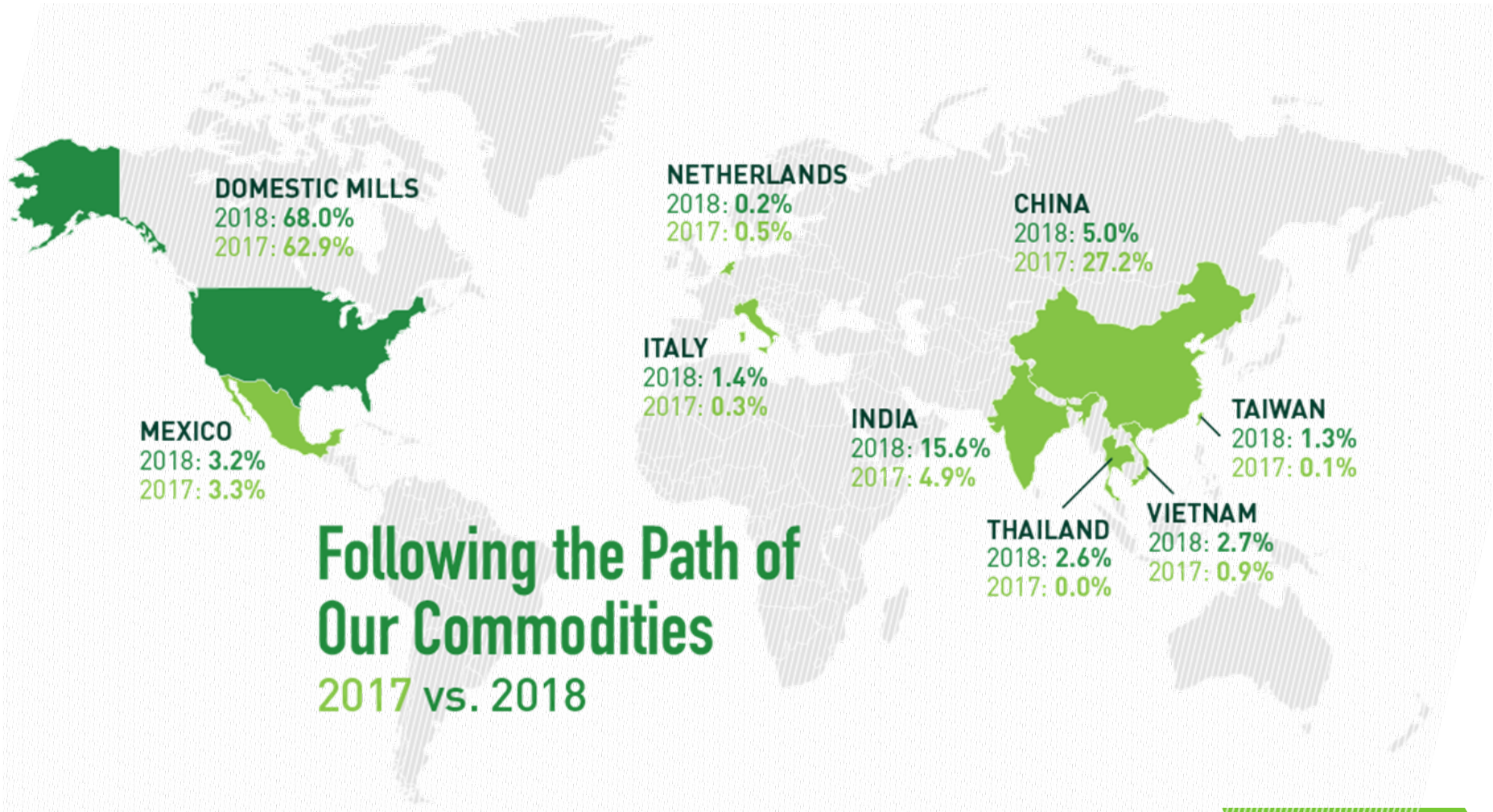




# Timeline - Events in China Leading up to Current Market Conditions



# Waste Management exports material to commodity markets around the world



# Effects of China's Policy Changes

**Elevated quality expectations for all buyers**

**Increased recycling processing costs**

**Surplus of material**

**Increased residue rates**



# How you can help

- Review your acceptable items list.
- Review informative recycling education materials to recycle right.
- Actively discuss the current state of recycling how you can be a good recycler.



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
RECYCLE

# Focusing on what we can control



**Plastic Bottles, Jars and Jugs**



**Aluminum and Tin Cans**



**Paper**

**(bigger than a standard sheet)**



**Cardboard**

# Thank you!

## Questions?