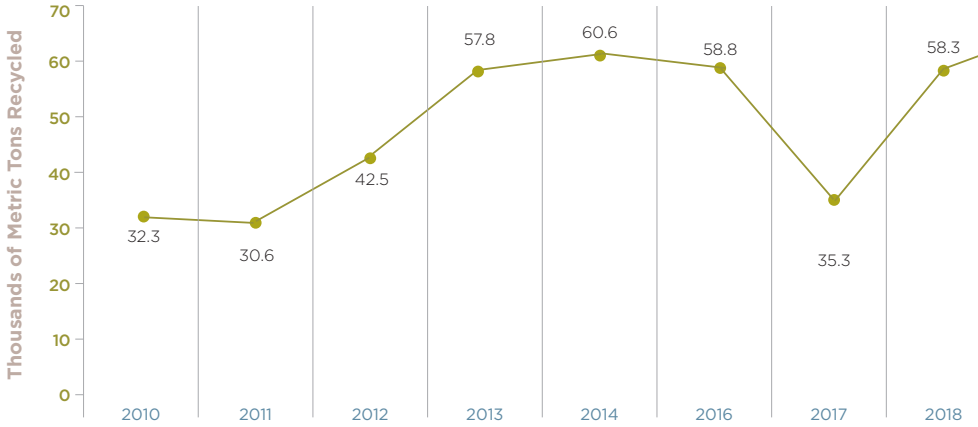
2019 NORTH AMERICAN

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) RECYCLING REPORT

North American EPS Recycling 2010-2019*



*Data not reported in 2015 due to lack of survey respondents

GLOBAL HARMONIZATION FOR RECYCLING DATA & REPORTING

Over time, federal and state governments around the globe have developed different criteria to measure recycling ratios. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the European Union and even the United Nations have recognized the need for improved recycling data and international harmonization.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) serves in a consensus-based, non-governmental function to develop and publish a range of proprietary, industrial and commercial standards widely recognized by the international community.

ISO 14021: 2016 Environmental Labels & Declarations — Self-Declared Environmental Claims (Type II Environmental Labelling) is used to determine recycling rates for various materials. It defines 'post-use' recycling as material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

2019

65.6
thousand metric tons

42.6%
North America EPS Recycling Rate

Resin Production
153,963
metric tons

Regional Population
496.9
million

"EPS transport packaging meets the 30% threshold for global recycling criteria."

65,997 METRIC TONS

OF EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) WAS RECYCLED IN 2019

WHICH WAS USED TO CREATE SOMETHING NEW

MORE THAN **450** LOCATIONS ACCEPT EPS FOR RECYCLING IN NORTH AMERICA

MADE OF 98% AIR, EPS IS A VERSATILE MATERIAL WITH UNIQUE CUSHIONING PROPERTIES & AN EXCELLENT SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE.

RECYCLING *RATE* VS *GROWTH*

Recycling 'rates' calculate how much material is collected and reprocessed for recycling versus how much material was produced. When production numbers go down, but the amount of material recycled is constant, it can appear recycling has improved. Conversely, when production numbers go up and recycling is constant or even increases, rates can still appear to be lower even though more material was recycled. The EPS industry has demonstrated consistent growth in the volume of material recycled, whereas rates may paint a different picture.

Recycling rates can be deceptive in other ways when considering variables in data collection. Global distribution does not account for packaging material end-of-life location and production rates are another imprecise data point being that not all material feedstock is designated for use in packaging. As the global community looks to harmonize recycling statistics these and other factors should be accounted for.

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