

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHINA & AMERICAN RECYCLING

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SHORT HISTORY

- 2013: Green Fence
- 2017: National Sword
- 2018: Mixed paper/mixed plastic import ban
- 2020: Ban on all recyclables?

KEEP CHINA BEAUTIFUL



WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

- Six big market downturns last three decades

RECYCLABLES ARE COMMODITIES

- Commodities
- Fluctuating value
- Bought, not sold

- DOMESTIC CAPACITY REBOUND

- Eighteen North American recycling capacity expansions announced
- 16 U.S., 2 northern Mexico
- Mostly eastern US
- OCC (15)
- RMP (7)
- Other (2)
- BUT: New paper machines don't spring out of the ground

PLASTIC EXPANSION

- 7 new processing facilities
- Mostly eastern U.S.
- Pellets or resin
- BUT: Mixed plastics?

WHAT NEXT?

- Thaler
- Mill needs
- Latest “ban”

SOURCES

- NERC Recycled Paper Demand Increases Study
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