

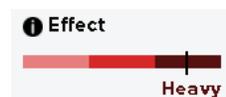
How recycling is changing in all 50 states

Waste Dive began tracking the effects of China's scrap import policies across all 50 states (and the District of Columbia) during Nov. 2017 in honor of America Recycles Day. Since then, a host of other foreign and domestic changes have spurred ongoing ripple effects that will continue for years to come. Want to learn more about China's initial July 2017 announcement and how the industry has reacted since? [Check out our ongoing coverage and other industry resources here.](#)

We scan the news daily, and update monthly, but can't spot it all. See information that doesn't reflect your knowledge or would help expand ours? Send an email to waste.dive.editors@industrydive.com.

Based on our observations, the effects are heavy in 13 states, noticeable in 28 (plus DC) and minimal in 9. For a state-by-state breakdown, click on the menu below or scroll through.

NORTH CAROLINA 2018



The state's Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service has been very engaged on the topic as signs continue to grow of a fundamental collapse in local recycling economics.

Side Effects

- Sonoco reports market challenges and asks New Hanover County to stockpile cardboard, [according to Port City Daily](#). (Feb. 2018)
- Pink Trash tells customers that [costs will go up](#) because it doesn't have a contract with Sonoco, and [later tells Waste Dive](#) that education will be an even higher priority to improve material quality. [The News & Observer reports](#) that Raleigh is no longer receiving rebates from the company. [The Jacksonville Daily News](#) says Sonoco's terms will now affect Onslow County. (Feb.-March 2018)
- [WECT reports](#) that Kure Beach expects to see recycling costs go up by 50% if it sticks with Waste Management and will reassess in six months. (June 2018)
- [The Charlotte Observer reports](#) dire economic conditions for companies such as Republic Services. It now costs Mecklenburg County more to recycle than landfill, and that is expected to widen after new contract terms. Republic

approaches Gastonia about new terms ahead of a 2021 contract expiration, according to the Gaston Gazette. (July 2018)

- The town of Wrightsville Beach was on track to launch a curbside recycling program with Pink Trash this year, but those plans are now on hold. Lumina News reports the company can no longer guarantee its monthly cost of \$5 per household. Meanwhile, New Hanover County is said to be faring better because of an existing direct agreement with Sonoco Recycling. (Aug. 2018)
- Waste Industries is seeking a rate increase in Hertford, prior to the expiration of its current contract in 2021, according to The Perquimans Weekly. Local officials have mixed feelings on how to proceed as participation is low. (Nov. 2018)
- Moore County has approved a tip fee increase for recyclables at its local facility from \$25 to \$100, according to The Pilot. **(NEW - Dec. 2018)**

Changes and Solutions

- Lincolnton suspends curbside service after Sonoco can't move its material, but asks residents to continue sorting material as the city is "working diligently on alternatives" to potentially present at an August council meeting. (June 2018)
- The Salisbury Post reports that Rowan County has switched back to a source-separated system at its seven recycling centers, after going single-stream earlier this year, due to material backlogs. (July 2018)
- Aberdeen will drop glass from its program in January to mitigate rising costs from Moore County, as reported by The Pilot. (Nov. 2018)
- Signature Waste, a Charlotte-area company, announced it will stop accepting all plastics effective Jan. 1, 2019. The company's owner cited contamination as a main factor, according to WCNC. **(NEW - Dec. 2018)**

Related Stories

- The Charlotte Observer Charlotte's recycling 'is broken.' Could your plastic, paper be headed for a landfill?

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/what-chinese-import-policies-mean-for-all-50-states/510751/>