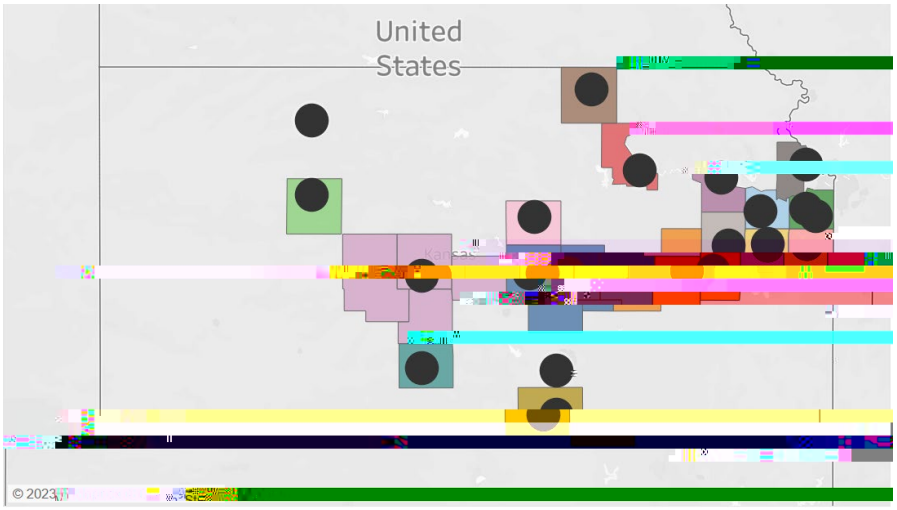
A survey was distributed to recycling organizations across Kansas to better understand the recycling processes and markets in Kansas. The survey was sent to approximately 300 recyclers in the State. 23

In total, 23 (38%) people completed the survey, 31 (51%) began and completed at least 50% of the survey, and 7 (11%) began and completed less than 50% of the survey. Due to the various levels of completion, the results of survey responses will have different numbers of participants (n).

Respondents (n=51) indicated that their organization collects multiple types of materials. In total, almost half of respondents indicated that they collect cardboard, paper, glass, and/or plastic. Furthermore, many respondents indicated that they collect items not listed such as paperboard, lead, or acid

The zip code of the responding organization is indicated on the map. Seventeen (17) survey respondents provided zip code information. The counties surrounding a zip code indicate the service area from which an organization collects materials. For example, the responding organization in zip code 67530 collects materials from all the areas in light purple. The responding organization in zip code 67645 only collects materials from within the city limits containing that zip code.



5: Reported zip code and service area

The survey indicates that most collected recyclables are processed locally and sent to other facilities based on the type of material. For example, facilities in Hutchinson, Kansas accept paper, cardboard, glass, and plastic from survey respondents. Other facilities accept only one type of recyclable material. For example, scrap yards only accept metal from survey respondents. Most recyclable materials collected by survey respondents stay close to our region. The outliers include facilities that accept specialized materials such as textiles or x-ray film. Additionally, some respondents indicated that recyclable materials go to different facilities and/or mills.

A consistent challenge that recyclers face is where to send collected materials. Survey participants responded to a variety of questions to gauge the challenges of finding markets for recyclable materials. Eight (40%) respondents indicated that they collected materials that they cannot sell and eight (40%) indicated that they do not collect materials that they cannot sell. Four (20%) respondents indicated that they do not know.

Collected items without a market include:

- Aluminum and tin cans
- Glass
- Lithium-ion batteries
- Small batteries
- Grain aeration tubes
- Plastics #3-#7

Although many respondents indicated that they collect materials that they cannot sell due to a lack of market, many (n=20) indicated little interest in assistance finding markets.

Of those who indicated that assistance with finding markets for collected materials is needed, the following types of assistance were identified.

- Periodic emails with a list of MRFs or other processors and what material(s) they accept and whether Tc 0 Tw (s)-1.4 ())-2.3 ( )]TJ 0..6 (r)]TJ -Dn52ins7 :.7 (9)oetei5l2.3l s)ss)13y.6mKSAAP½a392.51

To continue to maximize recycling and financial sustainability, respondents (n=26) indicated that they

Thirteen respondents (21%) of respondents indicate that they manage contaminated loads based on the type and severity of contaminant. For example, some respondents indicate that contaminated loads are manually sorted to recover as much as possible. Some reported se

- Schools of all ages
- Social media
- Other media (e.g., newspapers, signage, etc.)

- Containers need to be cleaned after emptying.
- Visual inspection of material before processing

- More options to recycle more materials.
- Better networking of plastic recyclers

- More staff at drop-off
- Intentional design to make products more recyclable.

Communication with customers is essential to ensuring that recyclables are disposed of properly to avoid contamination. Currently, recycling organizations (n=23) use flyers, posters, brochures, websites, social media, newsletters, and media releases to inform, educate, and communicate with the public about pro-0.7 (it)-3 ( )11 (m 19.717 0 Td[r)1.2 6.6 (m)4.5 6 (m)4.5e)4n4a (()-un T-J0.004 Tc 0.5 T (r)8 (4)2.6h4

- Additional outreach to MRFs for in-depth conversations about the unique challenges that they face in the recycling process. Conversations could include investment in upgrades and enhancing networks for markets.
- Focus groups among recyclers, both public and private, to discuss regional opportunities for market development.
- Network development opportunities such as virtual or in-person workshops or meet-and-greets to enhance collaboration across the state.

- Dialogue between municipalities, community groups and organizations, and recyclers to enhance municipal and/or county support of recycling programs and infrastructure.
    - Encourage development of council/committee/board to discuss strategies to increase residential recycling and reduce recycling contamination.
    - Consider municipal curbside organic waste.

- Gap analysis for expanding existing markets and developing markets for items reported that did not fit a specific category, such as toner/ink, oil (motor and cooking), food waste, etc.
- In-depth research into recyclable material end uses to assist with developing markets.

This is a sample of some of the survey questions. It is not a comprehensive list of questions.

Paper		
Cardboard		
Textiles		
Glass		
Plastics		
Metal		
Electronics		
Lithium Batteries		
Other		

- Choose your organization's collection method.
  - Curbside/Pick-up
  - Drop-off
- Which type of stream does your organization collect?
  - Mixed waste
  - Single stream
  - Dual stream
  - Source separated

- Please rank the following contaminants in order of most often found to least often found. (Rank by dragging and dropping options into the preferred order.)

Food waste/organic matter
Plastic bags
Shredded paper
Brightly colored paper
Incorrect plastics
Nonrecyclable plastics
Hazardous waste
Coated paper
Electronics
Textiles
Paper napkins/towels/tissues
Polystyrene
Scrap metal
Construction debris
Yard waste

x

This map shows the service areas and types of materials collected by each respondent. The larger the circle, the larger the service area. The legend explains which materials are collected by each responding organization. For example, the circle southeast of Hays, Kansas shows an organization with a multi-community reach and collects electronics, cardboard, plastics, paper, metal, and other items. The organization west of Hays, Kansas reaches a few areas and collects paper, cardboard, metal, and other materials.