

2024

# EPS RECYCLING REPORT

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE IN NORTH AMERICA

The 2024 EPS Recycling Survey was conducted by the EPS Industry Alliance (EPS-IA) to collect data reflecting pre-consumer and post-consumer expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging recycling activity across North America. The report is based on the best available data and includes responses from 39 EPS manufacturers and independent recyclers in the US and Canada.

A total of 206.2 million pounds (93,531 metric tons) of expanded polystyrene (EPS) protective packaging was collected and recycled in North America in 2024, a 22% increase since 2022.

Post-consumer EPS recycling more than doubled over the same period, reaching 125.0 million pounds (56,699 metric tons), the highest level ever reported, while pre-consumer EPS recycling totaled 81.2 million pounds (36,832 metric tons).

The 2024 recycling data demonstrates that EPS packaging—an essential use material—is being recycled in North America both in practice and at scale. The increase reflects continued growth in collection infrastructure, processing capacity, and end-market demand for recycled EPS material.

EPS protective packaging remains a very small portion of the municipal solid waste stream. Access to EPS recycling continues to expand through municipal programs, drop-off sites, retail collection programs, and commercial recovery systems, increasing 77% over the past five years.



ACCESS THE  
EPS RECYCLING MAP

## 2024 EPS RECYCLING DATA

Pre-Consumer  
EPS Recycled

81.2  
Million lbs

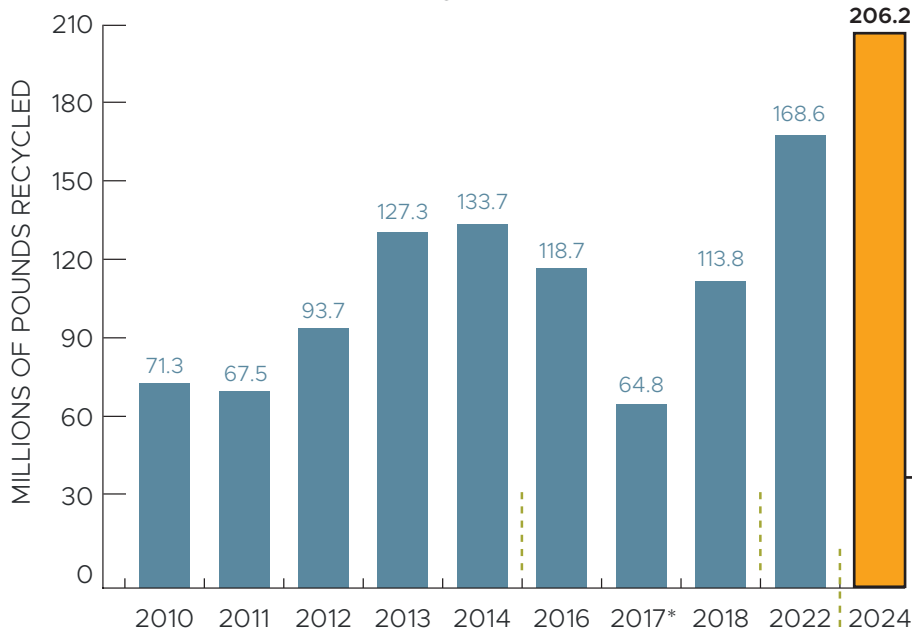
(36,832 Metric Tons)

Post-Consumer  
EPS Recycled

125.0  
Million lbs

(56,699 Metric Tons)

U.S. EPS Recycling 2010-2024



\*China's Green Sword Policy enacted



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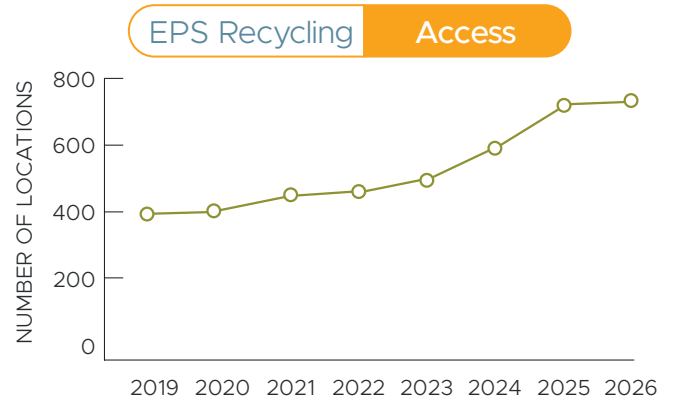
@EPSRecycling #RECYCLEEPS

# RECYCLING GROWTH & END MARKETS

Growth in EPS recycling continues to expand organically through ongoing investments in collection infrastructure, technology advancements, transportation efficiencies, and end-market development.

Recycled EPS is used in a broad range of applications, including protective packaging, safety helmets, automotive components, furniture products, building materials, and consumer goods.

Backed by more than 30 years of commitment to environmental stewardship, the EPS industry continues to advance recycling technologies and expand the use of recycled content applications. Today, EPS raw material suppliers are producing resin with 30% to 50% post-consumer recycled content—a significant achievement that reflects the industry’s \$185 million investment in circularity, helps conserve natural resources, and supports the reduction of material sent to landfill.



## METHODOLOGY

The 2024 EPS Recycling Survey was conducted by the EPS Industry Alliance (EPS-IA) in 2025 to collect data reflecting both pre-consumer and post-consumer EPS recycling activity in North America. This report is based on the best available data and includes responses from 39 EPS manufacturers and independent recyclers. No data extrapolation was used; all results are derived solely from reported survey responses and collected data.

Participation in the EPS recycling survey is voluntary. Because participation is not universal across the industry, the reported totals do not capture all EPS recycling activity occurring in North America. As a result, the findings presented in this report should be considered a conservative estimate of total EPS recycling volumes.

The survey was conducted in accordance with ISO 14021 definitions and guidelines for recycling.

## DEFINITIONS

- **Post-Consumer:** 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. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.
- **Pre-Consumer:** Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind, or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

## EPS Recycling Growth



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