

# Availability of Recycling Programs: July 2016 Sustainable Packaging Coalition Study



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## Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

08/05/2016

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition ("Coalition") issued a July 2016 document titled *2015-16 Centralized Study on Availability of Recycling ("Study")*.

The Coalition includes the Aluminum Association, Can Manufacturers Institute, Carton Council, Glass Packaging Institute, National Association of PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), and spi.

The *Study* was prepared by RRS and Moore Recycling Associates Inc.

The *Study* provides data on the availability of curbside and drop-off recycling programs for residents in the United States. It was conducted in late 2015 and early 2016. Direct research was conducted on recycling programs serving 50 percent of the United States population along with research on a random sample of recycling programs serving the other 50 percent.

Two thousand community recycling programs were reviewed to better understand:

- Types of services provided
- Materials each program accepted for recycling

The *Study* identifies as key findings:

- 94% of the United States population has some type of recycling program available to them, including both curbside and drop-off recycling programs.
- Curbside recycling programs are available to 73% of the United States population, with 53% of the population having curbside recycling ("automatically") provided at their home, while the other 20% has a type of subscription or opt-in recycling program available.
- Drop-off recycling programs are available to 64% of the United States population.
- For 21% of the population, drop-off recycling programs are the only programs available
- 6% of the United States population has no recycling programs available
- Recycling programs were more widely available to residents in higher-population communities, compared to less populated areas.
- Almost 90% of residents with single-family curbside recycling programs now have single stream collection.
- Large rolling carts for recycling collection are now used by at least 44% of residents with single-family curbside recycling programs, and are used by more programs than use traditional recycling bins.

[A copy of this study can be downloaded here.](#)