

Unlocking the Power of National Recycling Data

May 22, 2025



**The Recycling
Partnership**
Solving for Circularity

We mobilize people, data, and solutions across the value chain to reduce waste and our impact on the environment while also unlocking economic benefits.



Who We Are

The Recycling Partnership is a team of experts, practitioners, and thought leaders with real-world experience who are delivering on our mission of building a better recycling system.

Our Vision

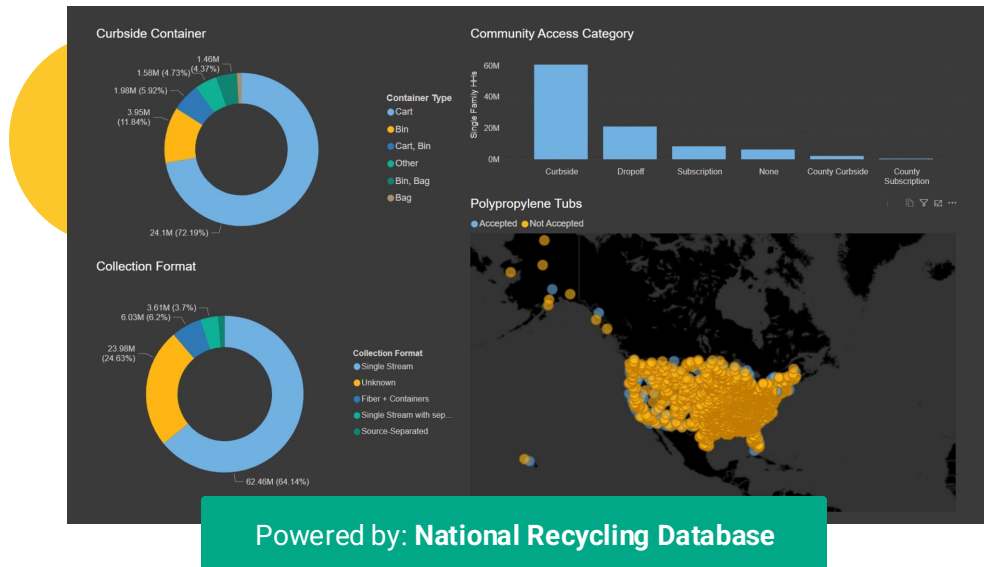
A future where the burden of waste has been transformed into a beneficial resource.

Our Purpose

Protecting natural resources, building more sustainable communities, and ensuring that everyone who wants to recycle can recycle is at the heart of everything that we do.

Our Mission

Our mission is to build a better recycling system, one that delivers the economic and environmental benefits our communities and the hundreds of thousands of people who work throughout the recycling industry deserve.



What Makes us Unique 🏆

The Recycling Partnership both insists on meaningful change across the recycling system and assists communities, companies, and policymakers in enacting such change.

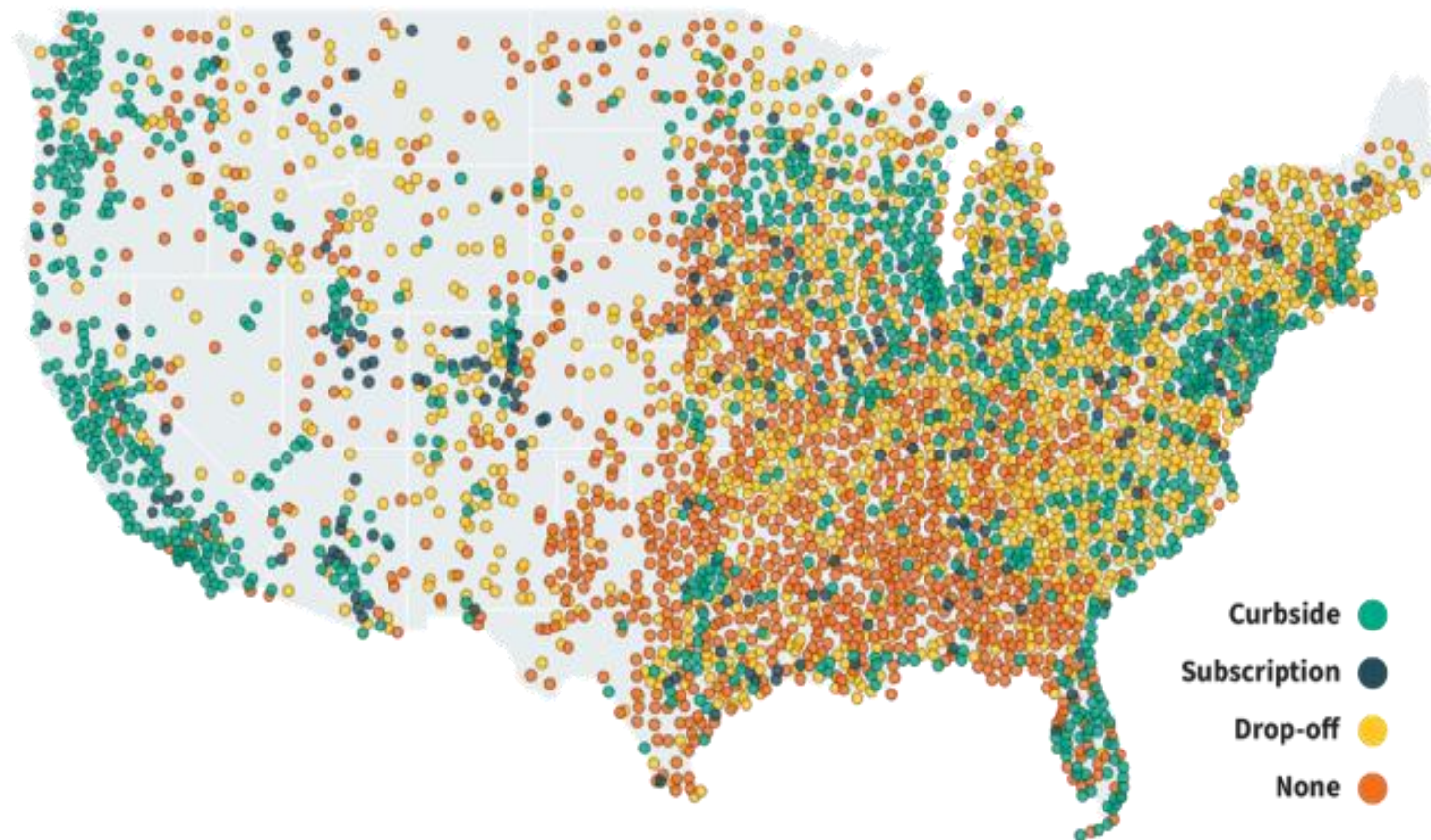
Our work is powered by our National Recycling Database, a one-of-its-kind trusted source for localized information across more than 9,000 U.S. recycling programs and informed by the work we've carried out across more than 3,500 communities.

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with a teal overlay on the left side containing the title text. The skyline features several tall skyscrapers, including one with an 'Allianz' logo at the top. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the city.

The National Recycling Database

Disjointed Landscape of Local Recycling Programs

9,000+ Programs
30,000+ Communities



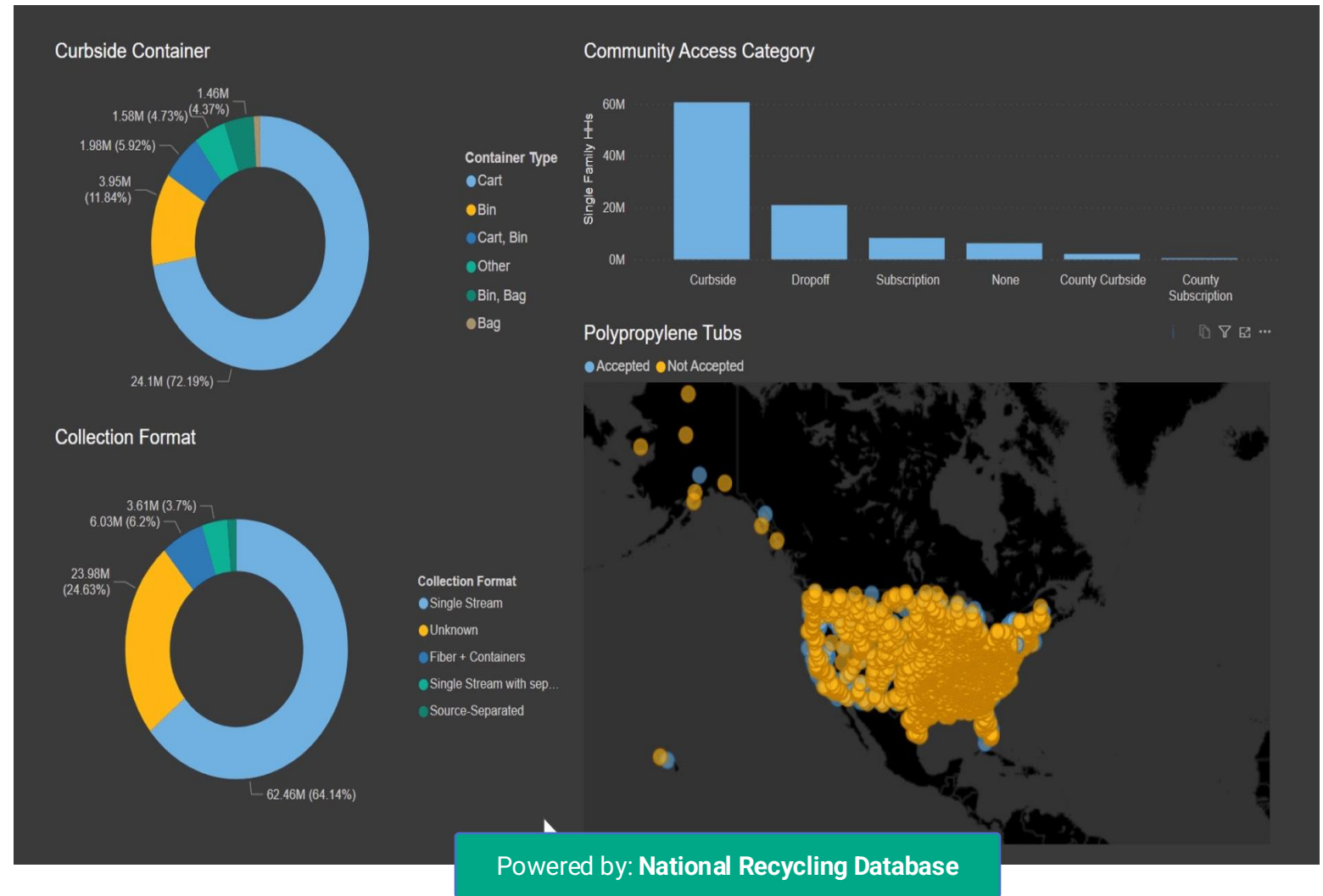
Goal: Up-to-Date, Continuously Monitored Residential Recycling Data



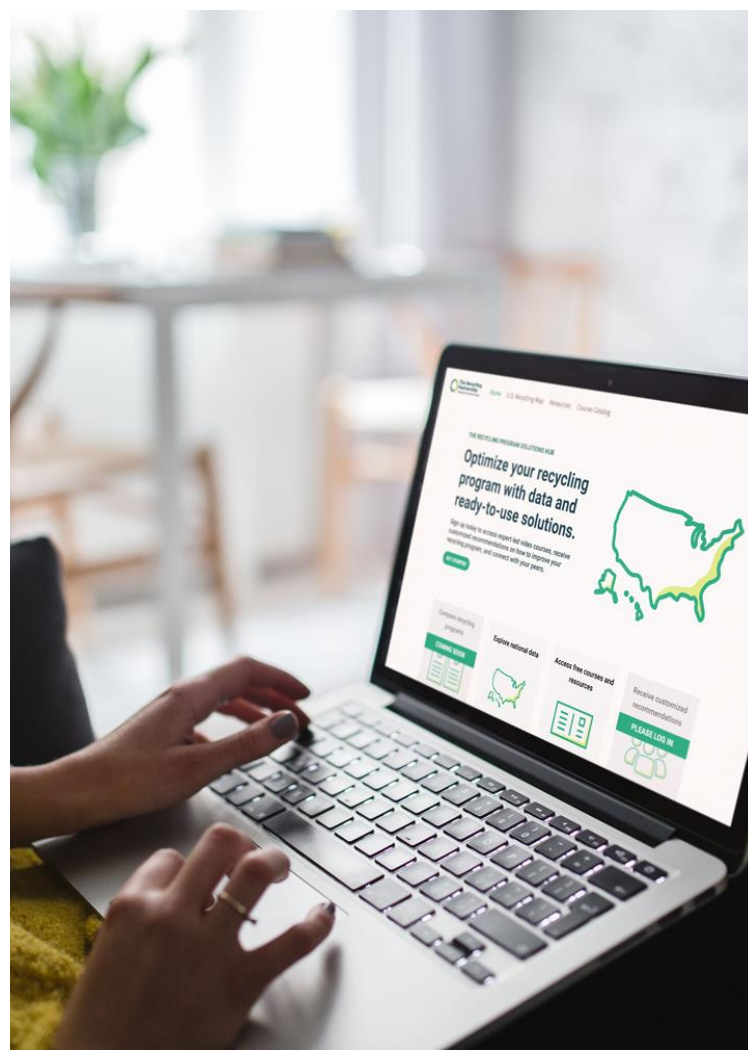
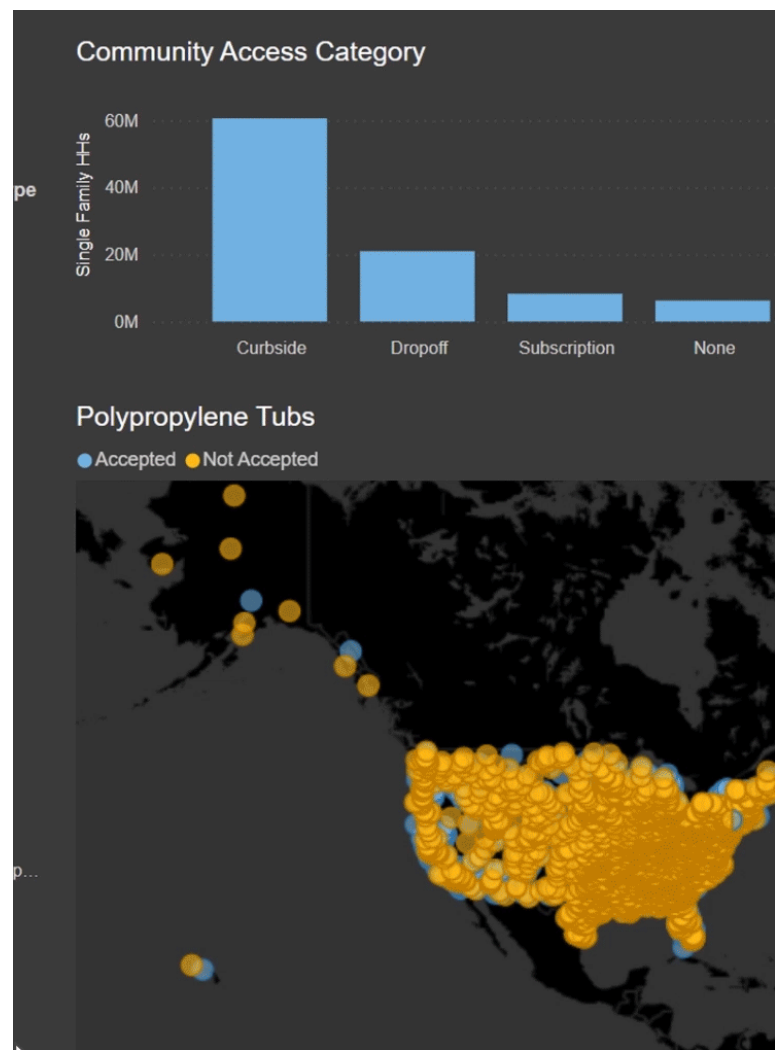
The National Recycling Database centralizes recycling program and access information from more than **9,000 U.S. communities** covering **99% of the population**.

The database aims to:

- Display the most up-to-date understanding of the residential recycling system in the U.S.
- Provide residents & consumers with local, accurate information on what is accepted in their local recycling program
- Inform companies of the percent of households that can recycle a specific package type



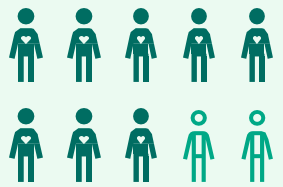
Connecting Data Sources to Provide Up-to-Date Info for Residents



Data from the National Recycling Database informs Partnership Reports and Recommendations

The State of Residential Recycling

Recycling systems in the U.S. are significantly underperforming, but the good news is that we can fix this.



8 out of 10 people living in the U.S. believe recycling has a positive impact and see it as a valuable public service

Five Requirements of an Effective Recycling System



1. All packaging needs to be designed for recyclability.
2. All households need access to recycling in their home.
3. Residents need to fully engage in recycling.
4. Recycling facilities need to effectively process the material.
5. Recycling facilities need sufficient end markets.

Community Recycling Program Acceptance Data



Material Acceptance is an indicator of community communications

Acceptance rates should not be used as the sole means of determining recyclability



Acceptance is one component of many considerations when assessing a product's recyclability.

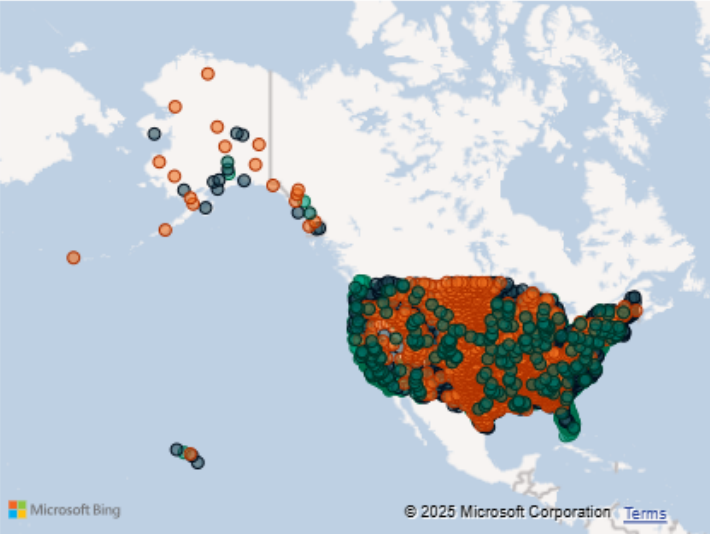
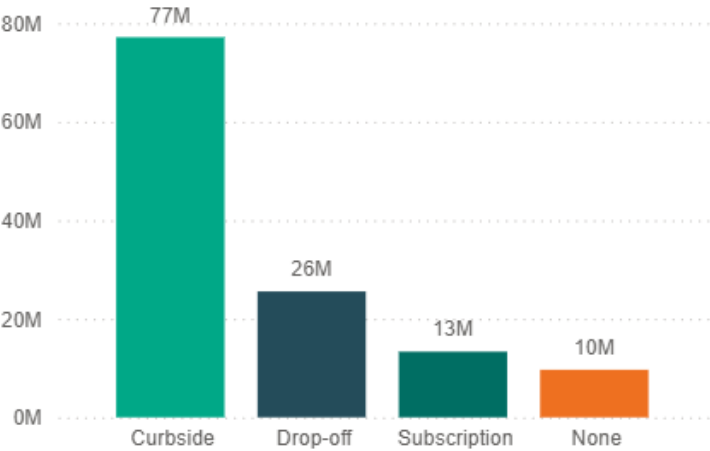


Community Recycling Program Acceptance Data

Publication Date: Sept 16, 2024

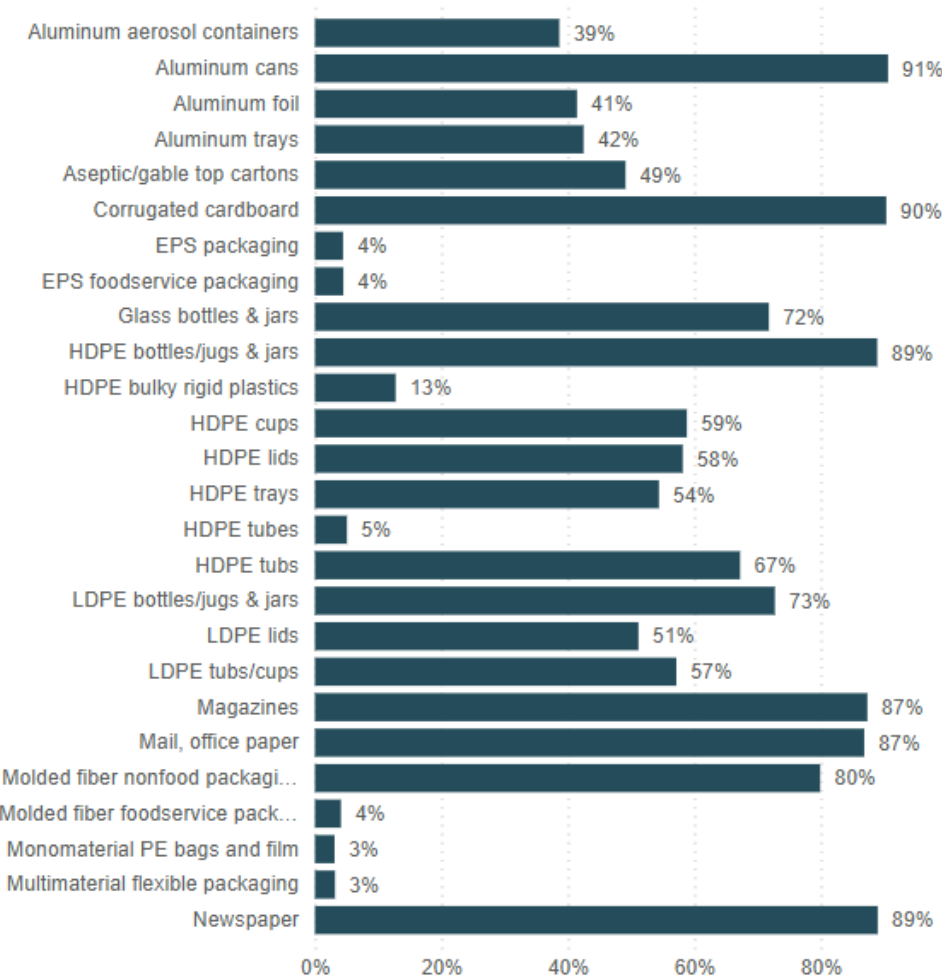


Households by Primary Program for All States



Acceptance Rate by Category for All States

Includes all households (single-family and multifamily) in a community if the primary program accepts the category.



125.7M

Total Households

Select options below to filter all visuals.

State

All

Material

All

Recycling Category

All

Reset Filters

View State Data

The Big Picture

Companies, policymakers, and the public can now harness accurate, current, and actionable data showing gaps or inconsistencies in program acceptance

The National Recycling Database delivers acceptance rates at **national and state levels**, providing a clearer picture of recycling trends and helping shape EPR policies.

In a joint effort between The Partnership and GreenBlue, the data will be updated **twice a year**.

Provides information to support informed decision-making by communities, companies and citizens.



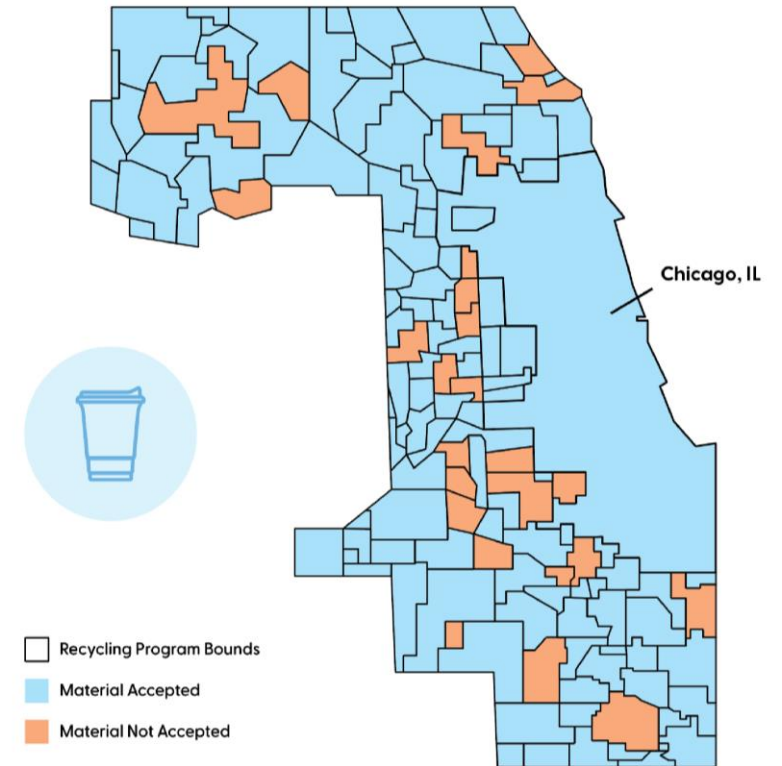
Why Understanding Acceptance Matters

The domestic residential recycling system is a complex network that processes billions of pounds of material each year.

However, with **9,000 independent local programs** and **varying guidelines**, the acceptance of recyclables is highly fragmented across communities.

Source: [Understanding Community Recycling Program Acceptance](#)

The Acceptance of Polypropylene Plastic Cups in Cook County, IL



While the City of Chicago accepts polypropylene cups, many communities in the surrounding metro area do not.

The Recycling Program Solutions Hub

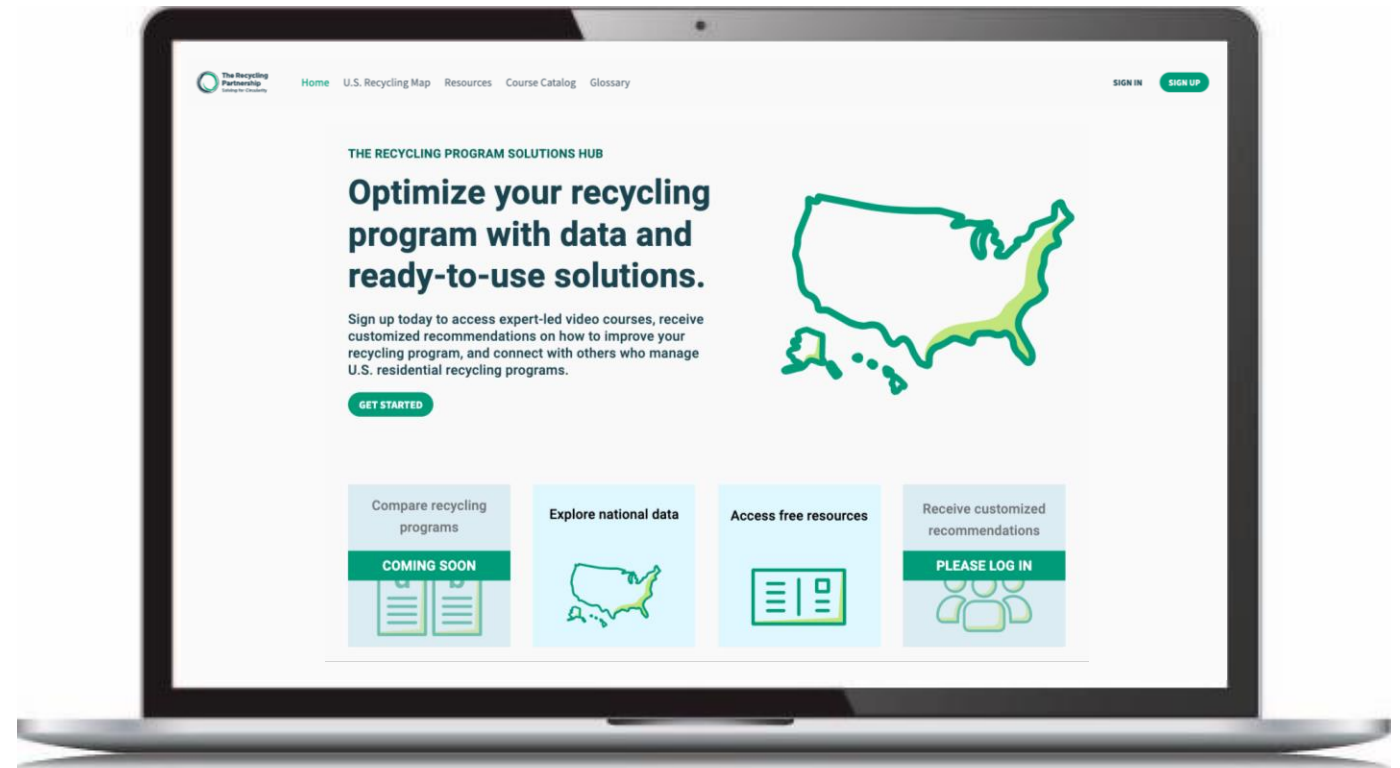


The Recycling Program Solutions Hub

A Community's Pathway into the National Recycling Database

An open-access, free tool for recycling program leaders to **access, track & verify** critical recycling program data.

- Update recycling program attributes and facts.
- Gain access to a wealth of resources and support for recycling program leaders.
- Facilitates a **two-way information exchange**, strengthening the national recycling system in the U.S.
- Ensure your citizens have access to accurate information as consumers and recyclers.



Key Features

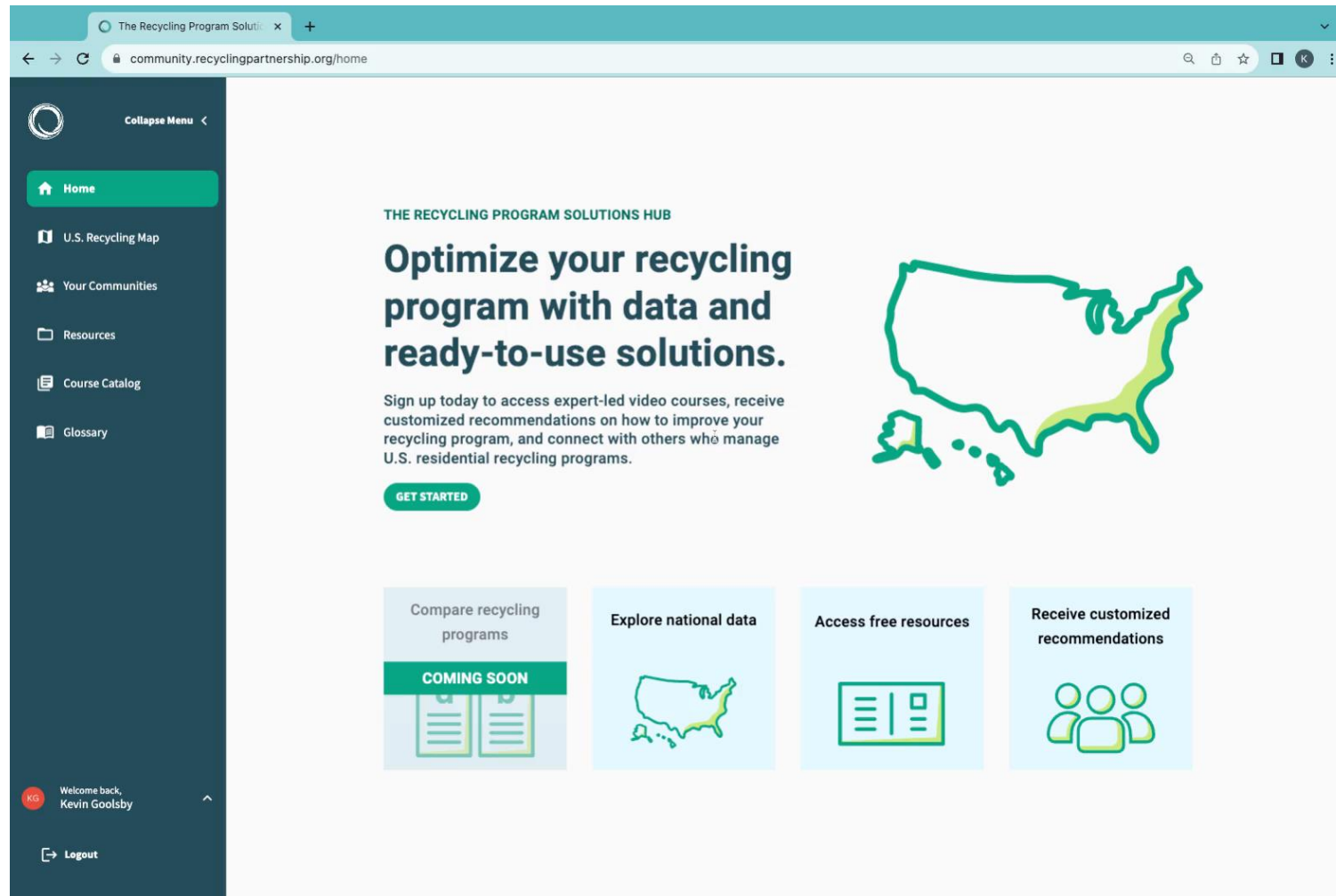
Interactive Map

Custom Recommendations

Learning Hub & Resources

Peer-to-Peer Networking

Recycling Program Solutions Hub for Communities



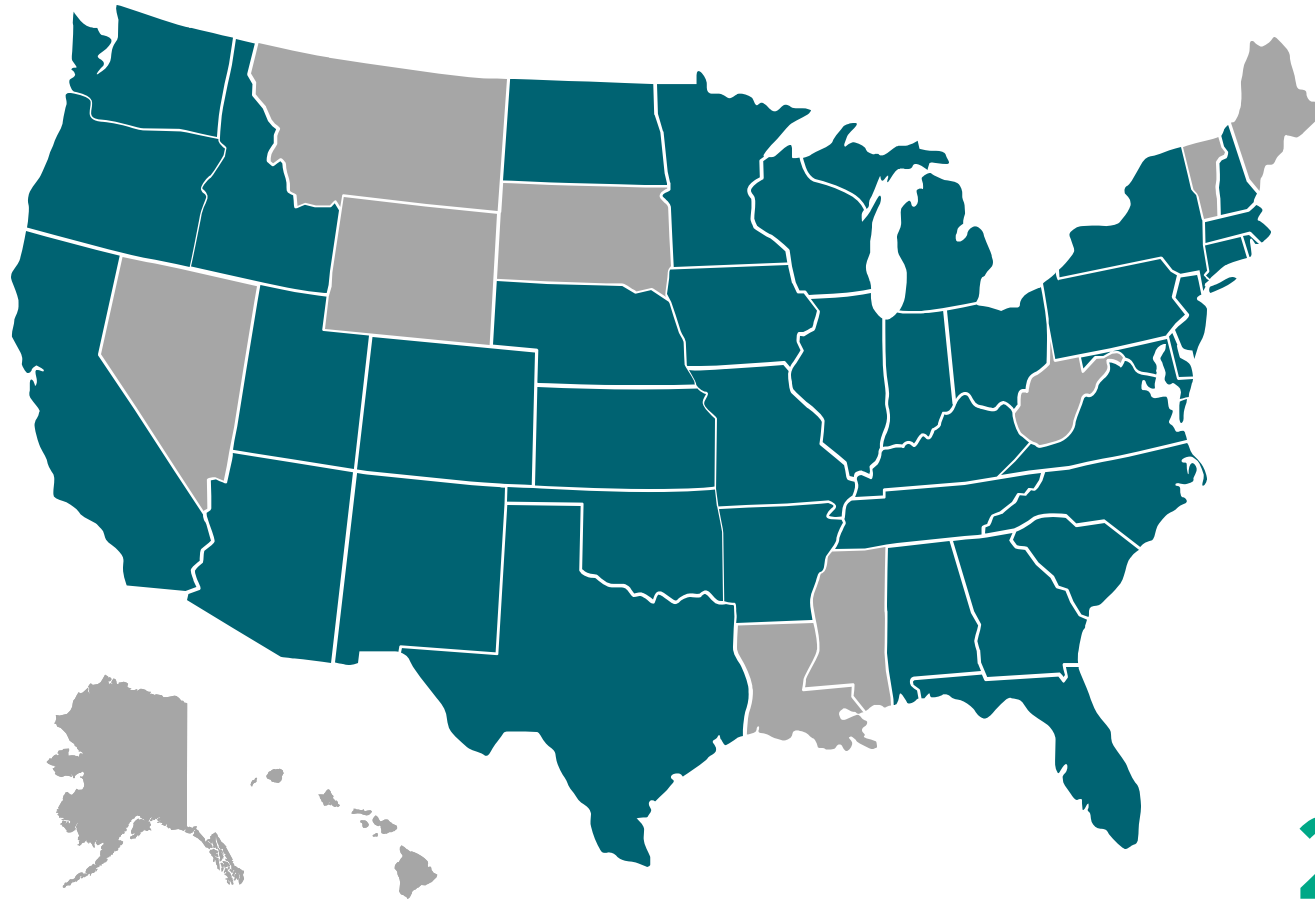
Review, verify, & update accepted materials list to power..

- National Recycling Database
- How2Recycle Label
- Recycle Check

Utilize best practices, toolkits, courses, & resources to...

- Optimize programs
- Increase capture of recyclable materials
- Improve consumer recycling literacy & participation
- Reduce contamination

Hub Use Across the U.S. is Growing



States with Hub users

U.S. Users

855+

Registered
Users

DC COG Users

3

Registered MD
Users

MD + VA Users

12

Registered MD-VA
Users

662+

Communities
Represented

3

MN Communities
Represented

24

Registered MD-VA
Users

25.4M+

US Households
Represented

333K+

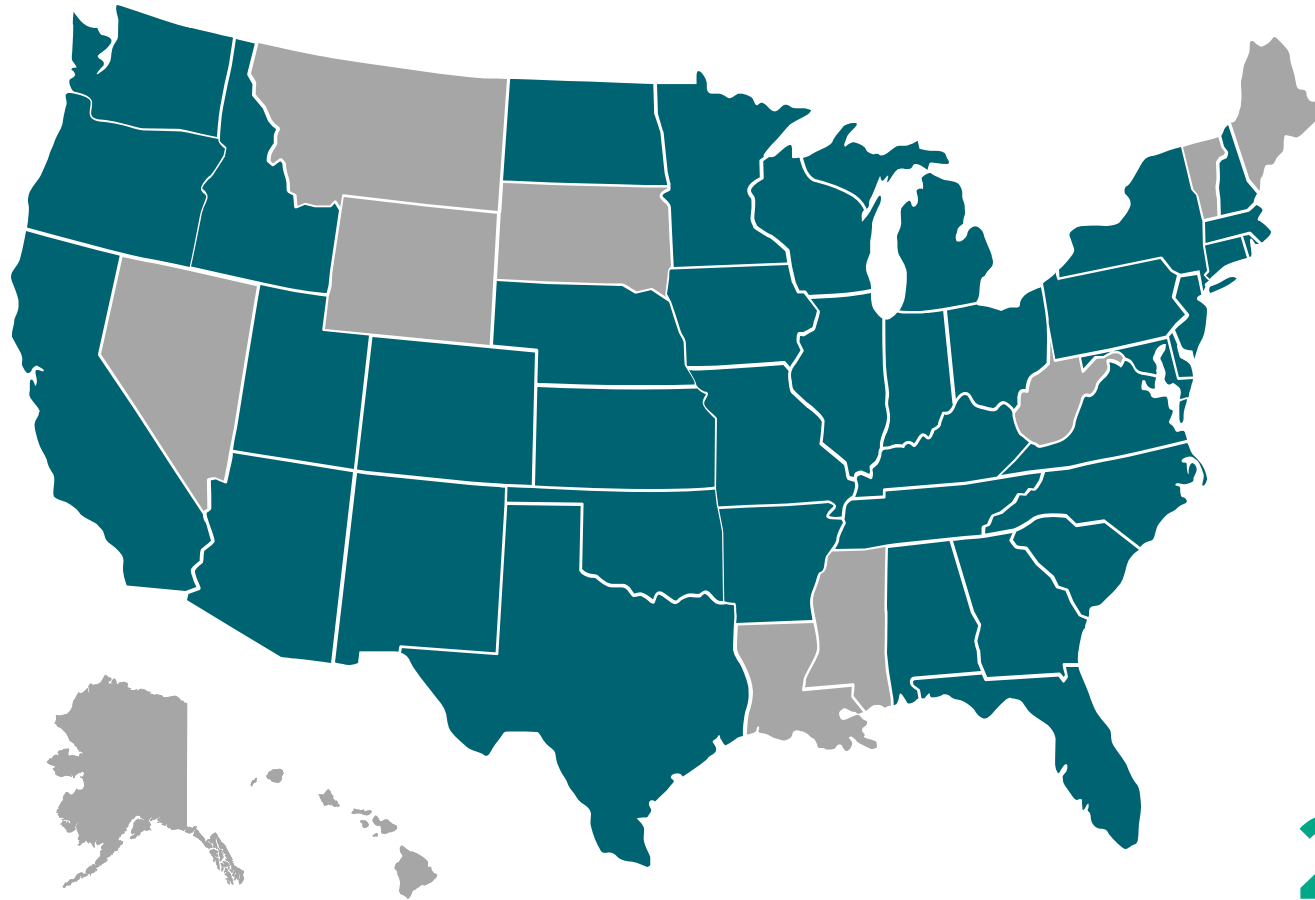
Households
Represented

1.67M

+

Households
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Get in Touch:

Create an account today!

✉ solutionshub@recyclingpartnership.org

🌐 community.recyclingpartnership.org



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Get in Touch:

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