

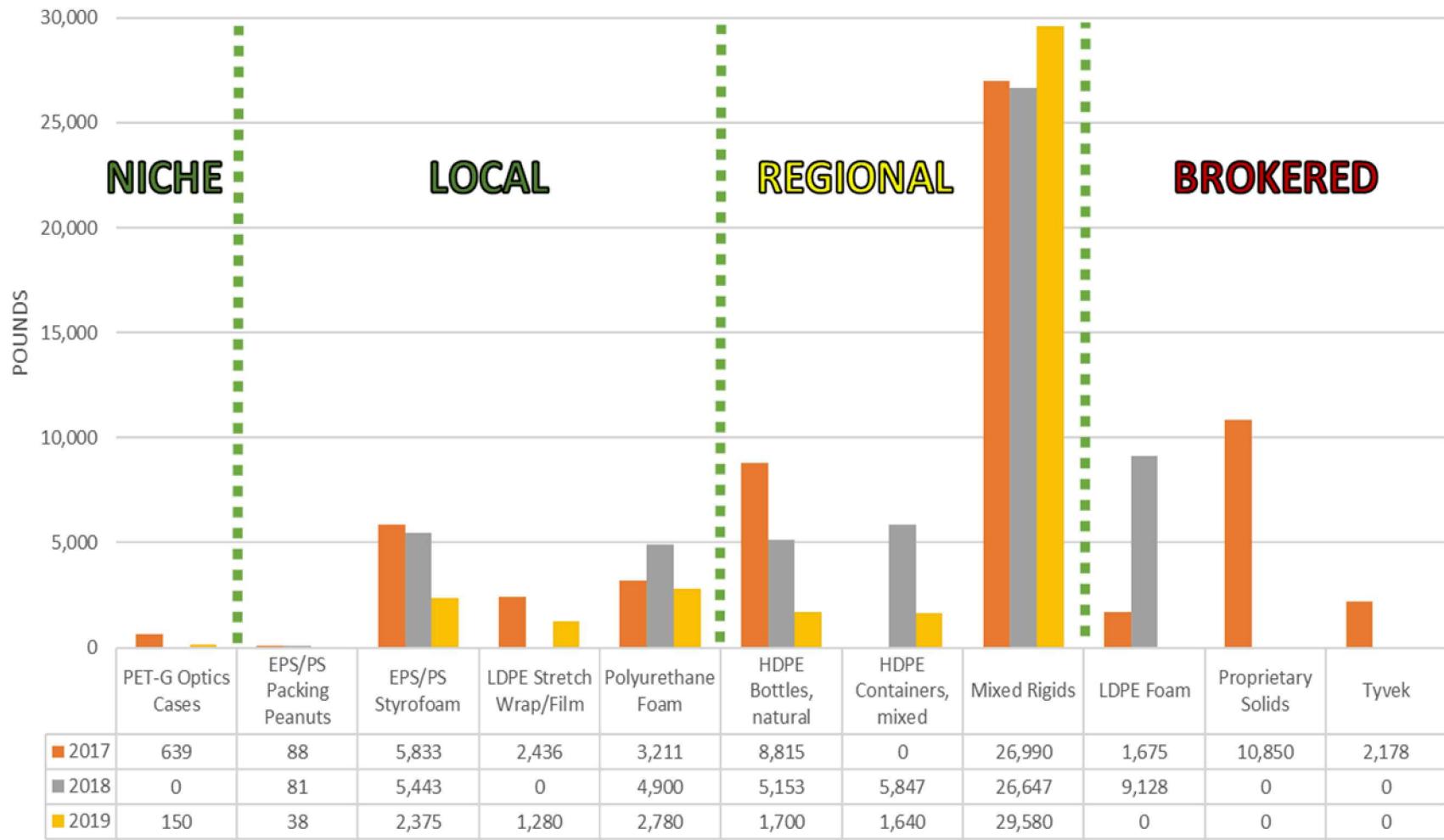
Plastics in a Tough Market

Samuel McCord
Recycling Planner

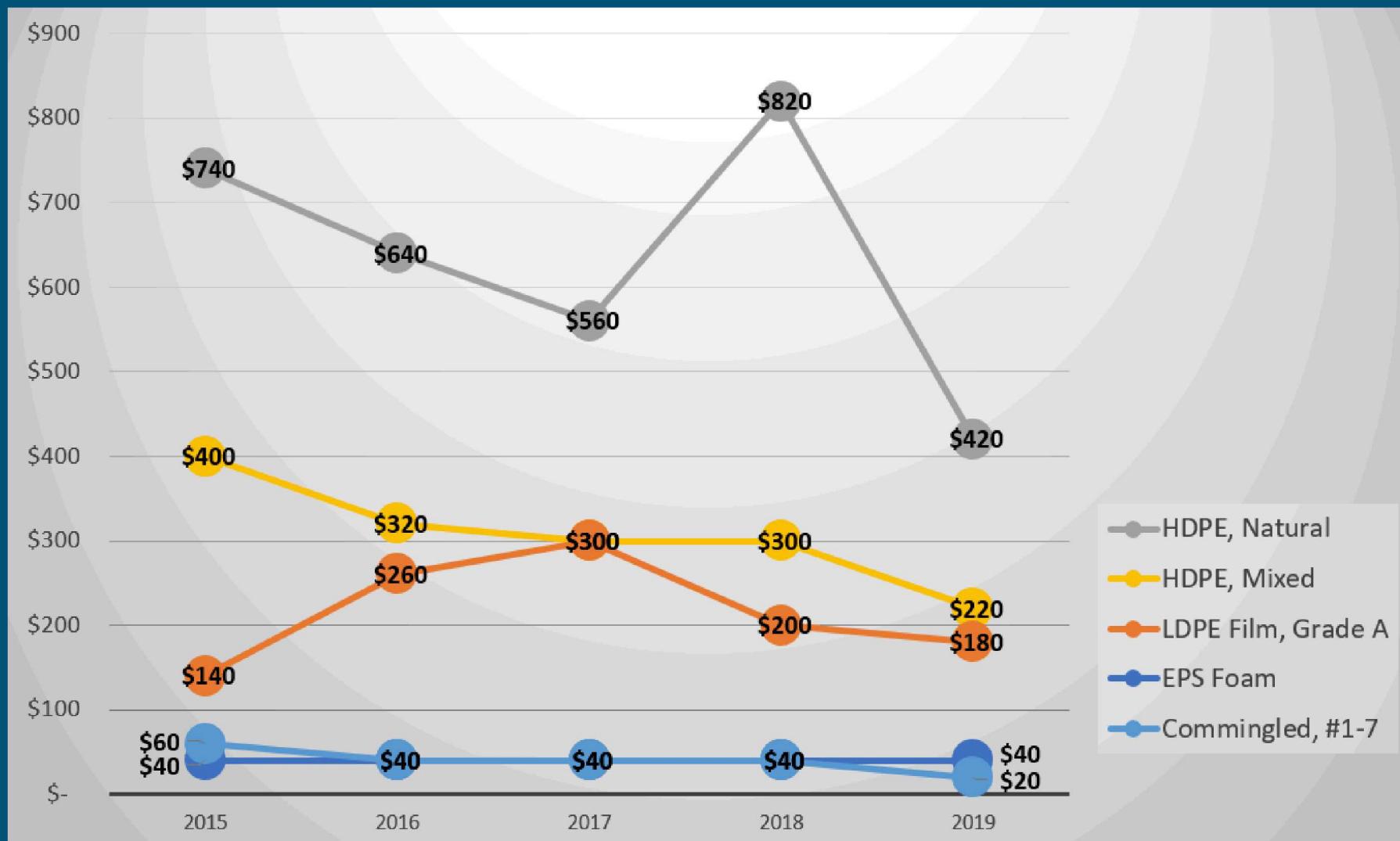
Going to cover...

- Scrapping Outlets
- Regional Pricing
- Specific Materials Still Processed
- Viability of Plastics

Plastic Types Shipped



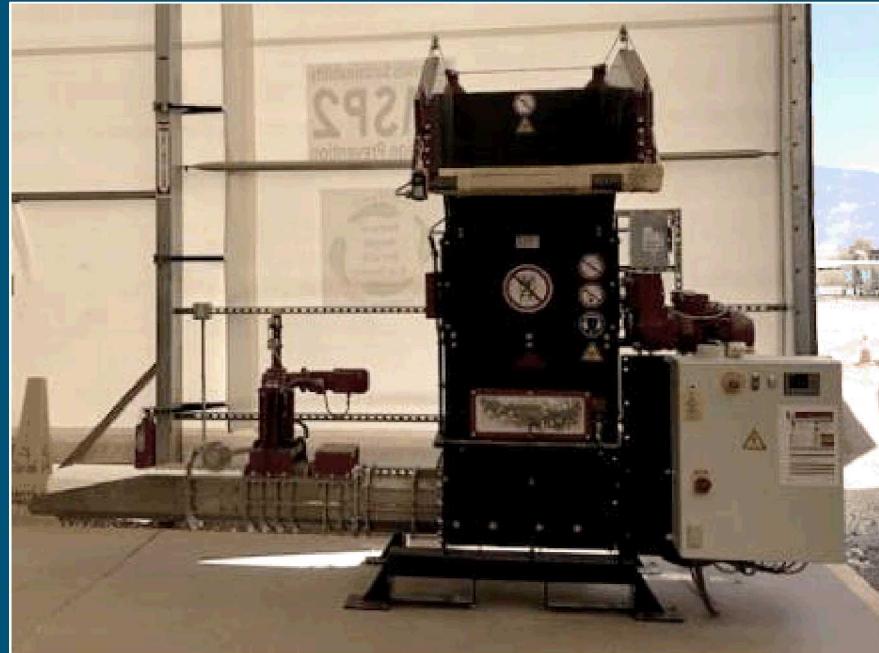
Houston Market Prices per Standard Ton from 2015 through 2019



Source: [RecyclingMarkets.net](https://www.RecyclingMarkets.net), 7/2019

EPS / Polystyrene

- Post-consumer
- Hand processed onsite
- 500 lbs. per pallet
- Made into picture frames

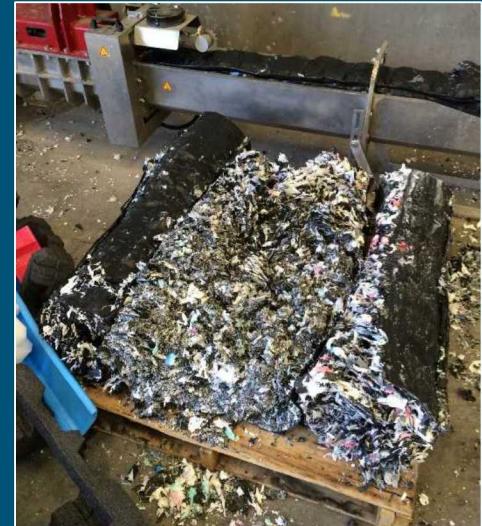


LDPE Colored Foam

- Same process as Polystyrene
- 1000 lbs. per pallet
- Shipped to broker in California



2011	2013	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$180/ton	\$200/ton	\$200/ton	\$40/ton	\$40/ton	\$0/ton



Polyurethane and Peanuts

- Hand collected to remove contaminants
- No mechanical processing
- Foam sold loose locally

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$100/ton	\$80/ton	\$80/ton	\$80/ton	\$20/ton	\$60/ton



Local
Shipping
Company

PET-G

- Rigid PET, mixed with a glycol
- Not recyclable with PET
- Returns to manufacturer to grind and reuse for new packaging
- Shipped 2011, 2017, and 2019 to California, not overseas



Proprietary Rigid Plastics

**Sheets and blocks of acrylics:
Lexan, Plexiglas, etc.**

- Never really sure what we're getting
- Comes mixed, sometimes dirty

- Shipping in:

2010-2016 = \$

2017 = Accepted, no \$

2018 = Declined

2019 = Declined



LDPE Film (Grade A - 95% Clear)

- From busy docks
- Collected loose
- Picked clean before baling

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$160/ton	\$160/ton	\$80/ton	\$80/ton	\$20/ton	



Common Rigid Plastics

HDPE, Natural & Colored

- Still good value
- Keep it clean!

Mixed Plastics (1-7)

- Barely any value
- Negative value after local MRF
- How to report recycling weight?



So Many Quandaries

If it doesn't make money:

- Continue collecting until market improves?
- Change what you accept?
- Tell the generators?
- Retrain generators?
- How do you report when there is known contamination?

Take Aways

- Mixed plastics is not working in the Southwest
- Identify what you have the most of and segregate it
- Look for direct buyers such as manufacturers
- Keep tabs on your markets
- Can you change your inputs? Procurement control...