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What's Driving the US Recycled Plastics Industry?

May 7th, 2024



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What's Driving the US Recycled Plastics Industry?

Emily Friedman

Recycled Plastics Senior Editor • ICIS

Agenda

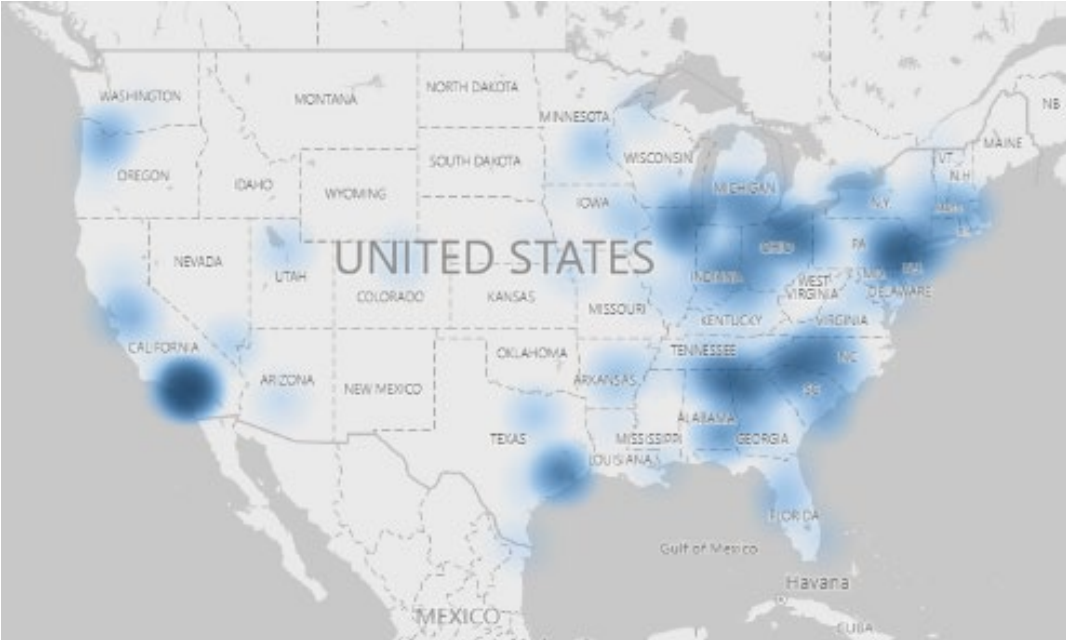
US recycled plastic capacities
and global trade

US recycled plastic market
drivers and pricing trends

01 Capacity and Supply

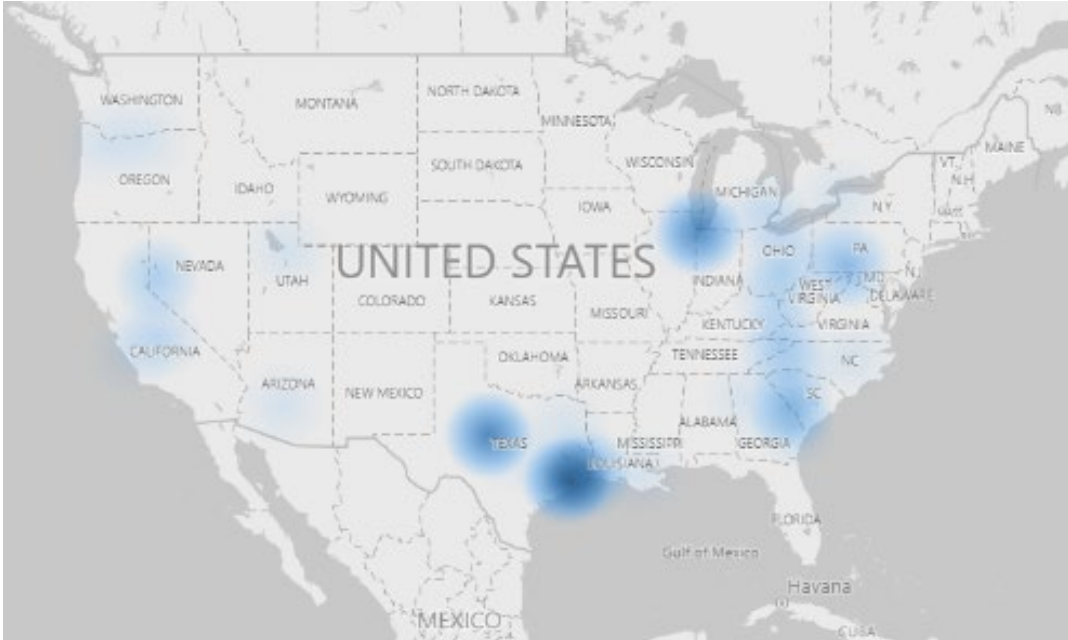
Mech. recycling relatively established compared to chem. recycling

Mechanical Recycling*



Plant count: ~260
Capacity: ~7.5 million tonnes/year

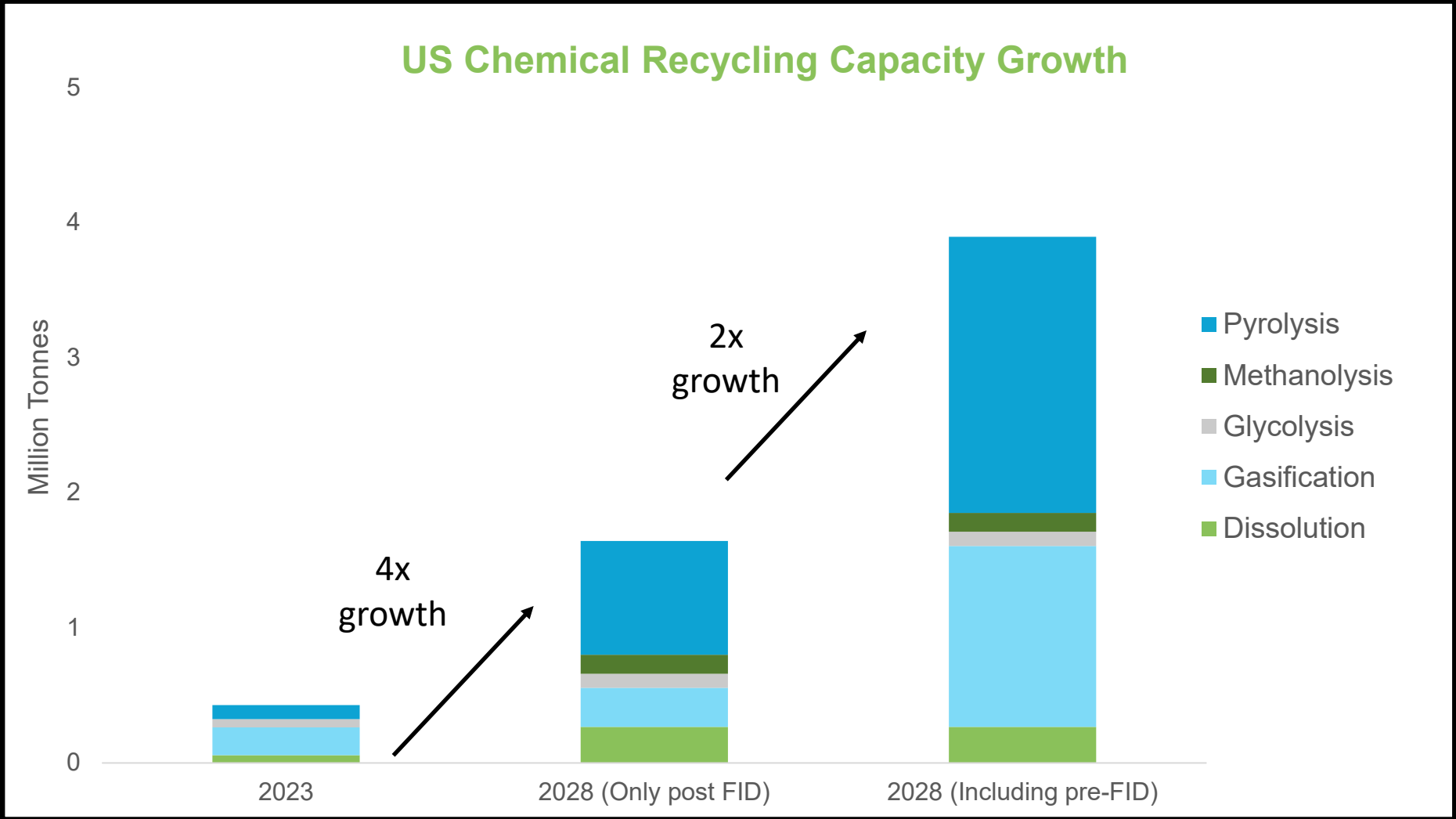
Chemical Recycling**



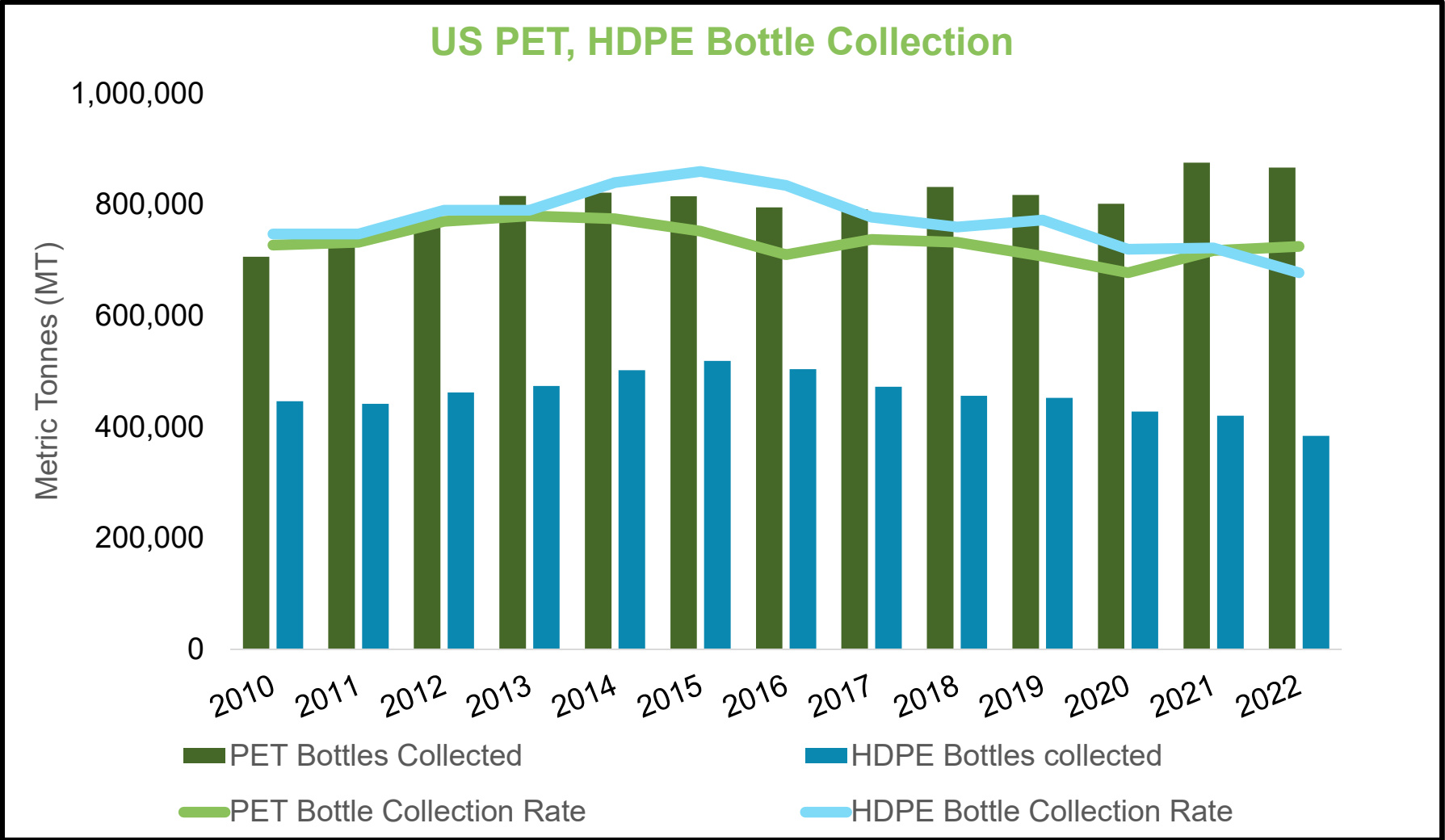
Plant count: ~15
Capacity: ~440,000 tonnes/year

* Includes PET, PE and PP capacities
** Includes all types for all polymers and all plant scales (both pre-commercial and commercial)

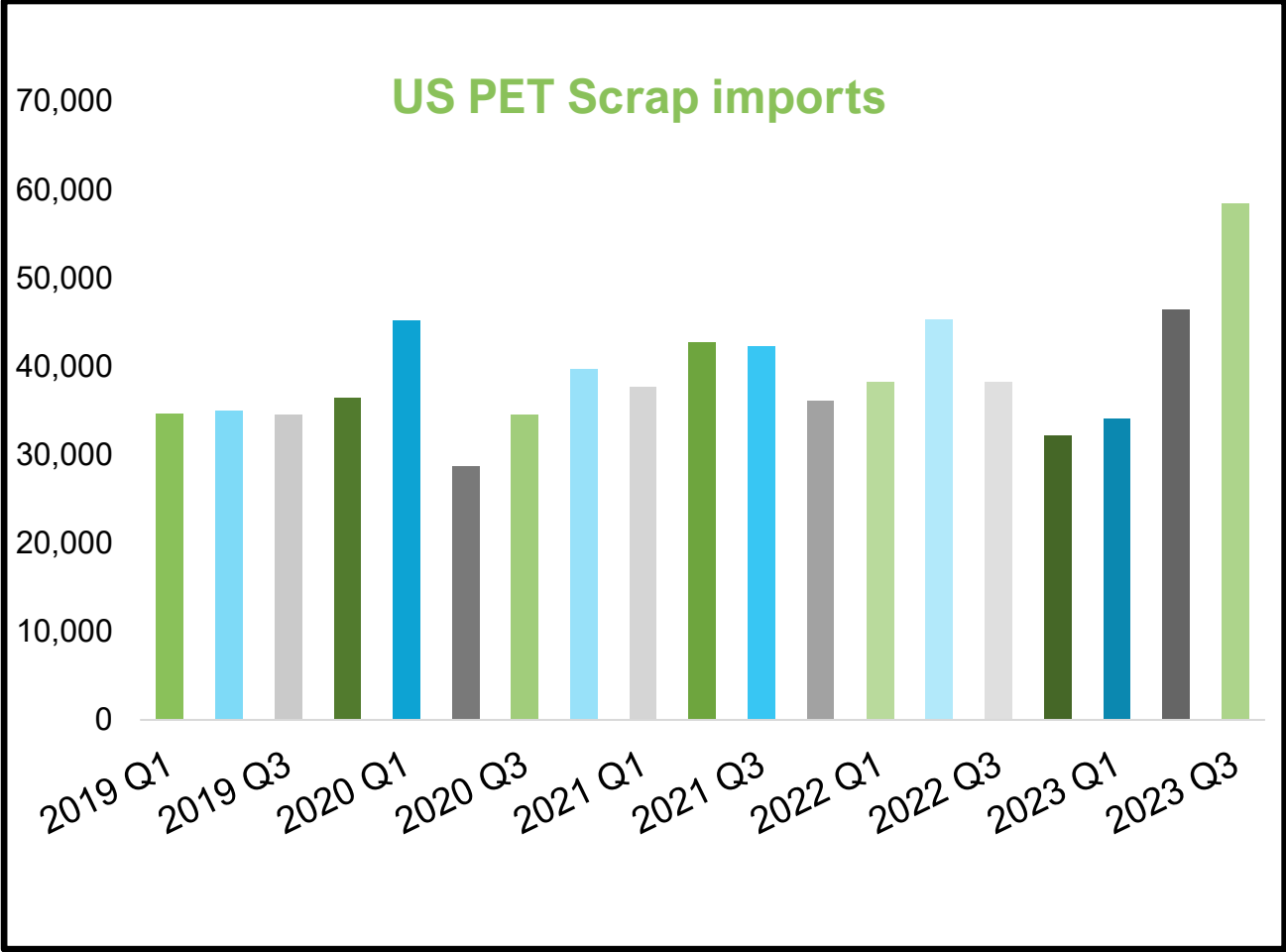
Variable, yet high growth expected for chemical recycling



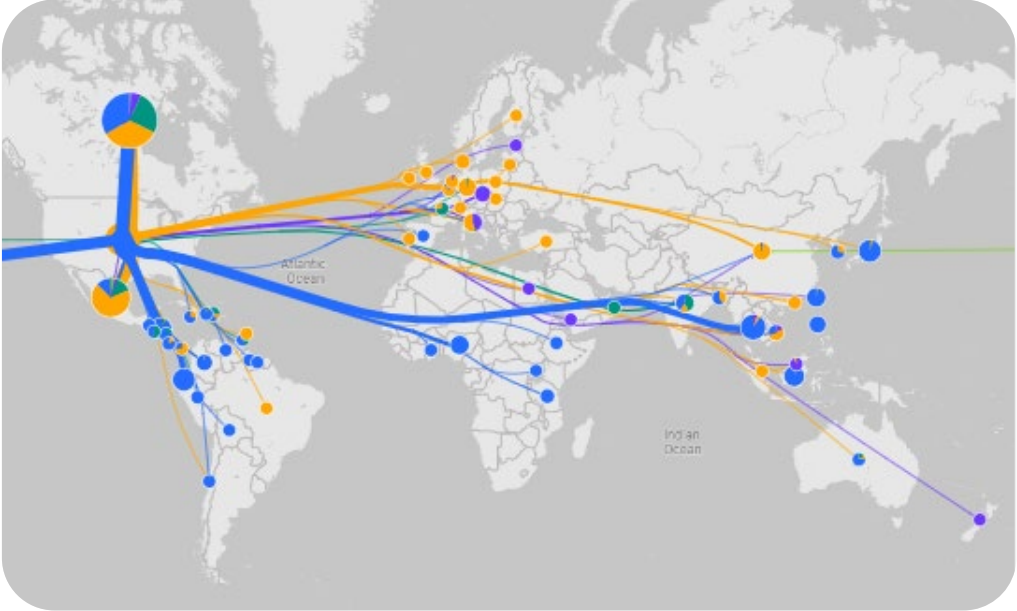
New capacity investment limited by future feedstock availability



US market facing onslaught of imported recycled resins



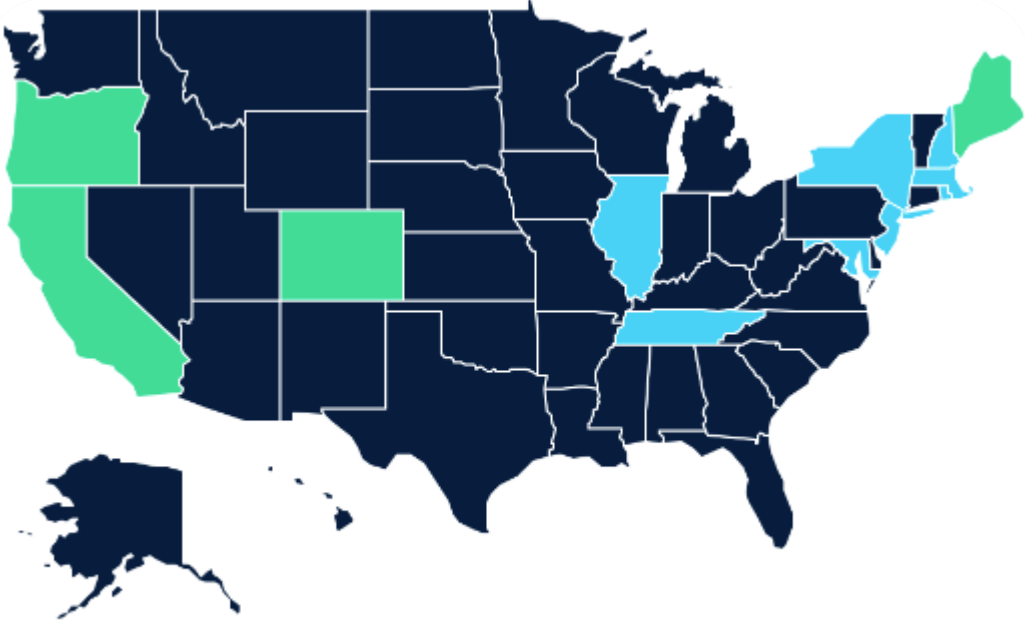
US Scrap Trade Flow



02 Market Drivers and Pricing Trends

Plastic packaging EPR, bottle bills to boost supply

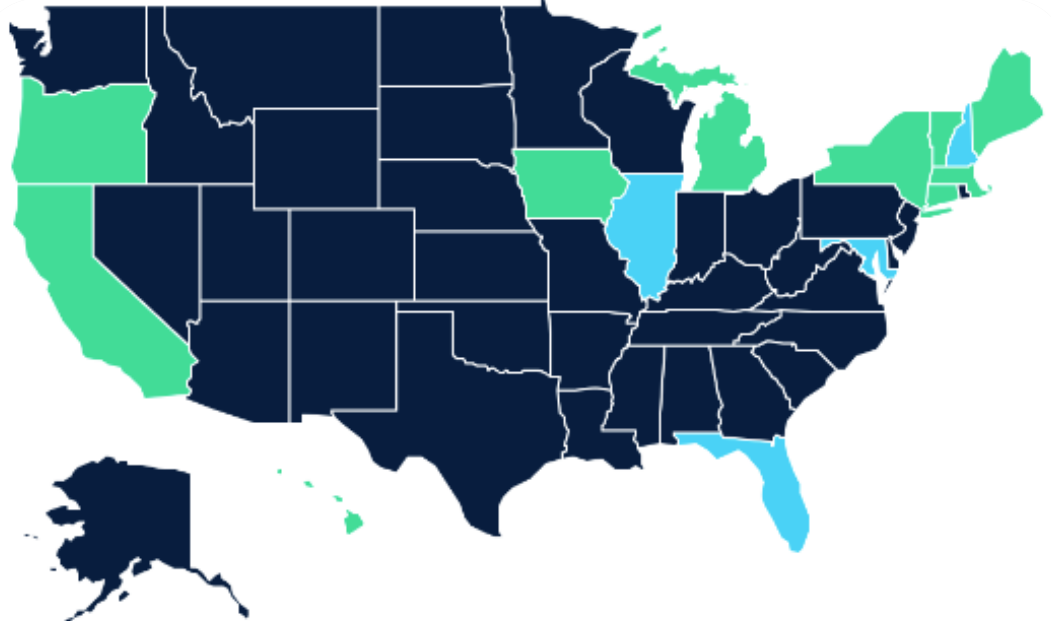
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



● None ● Passed ● Proposed
● None ● Passed ● Proposed

4 states passed

Bottle Bills (Deposit Return Scheme/DRS)

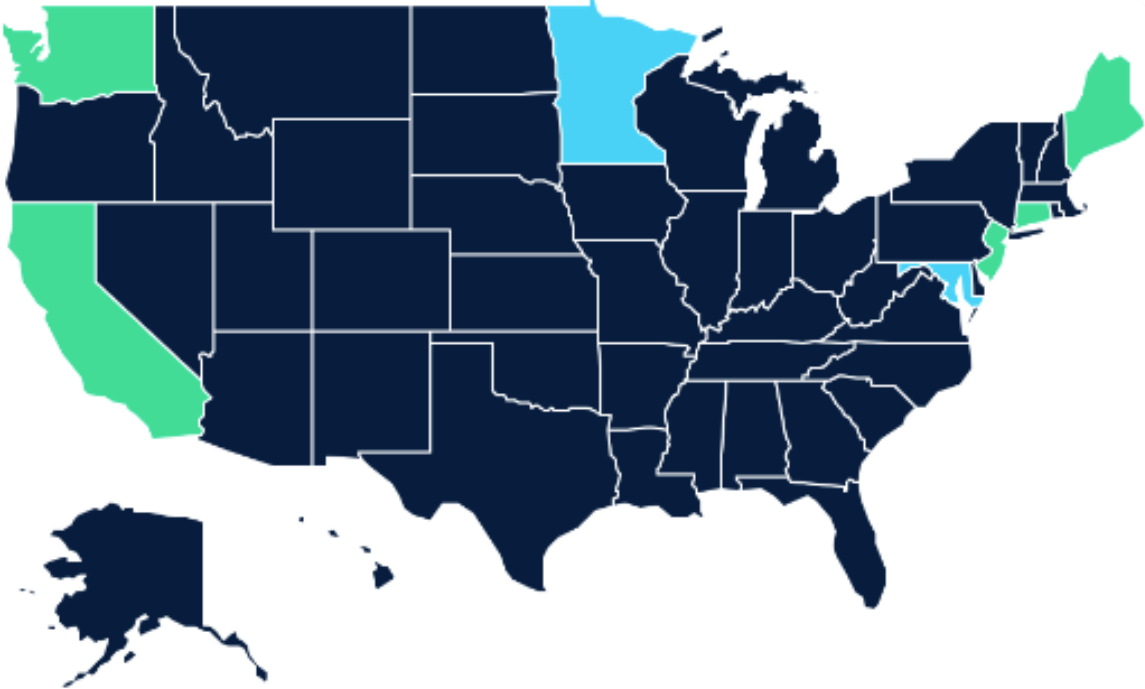


● None ● Passed ● Proposed
● None ● Passed ● Proposed

10 states passed

Plastic packaging PCR requirements driving demand

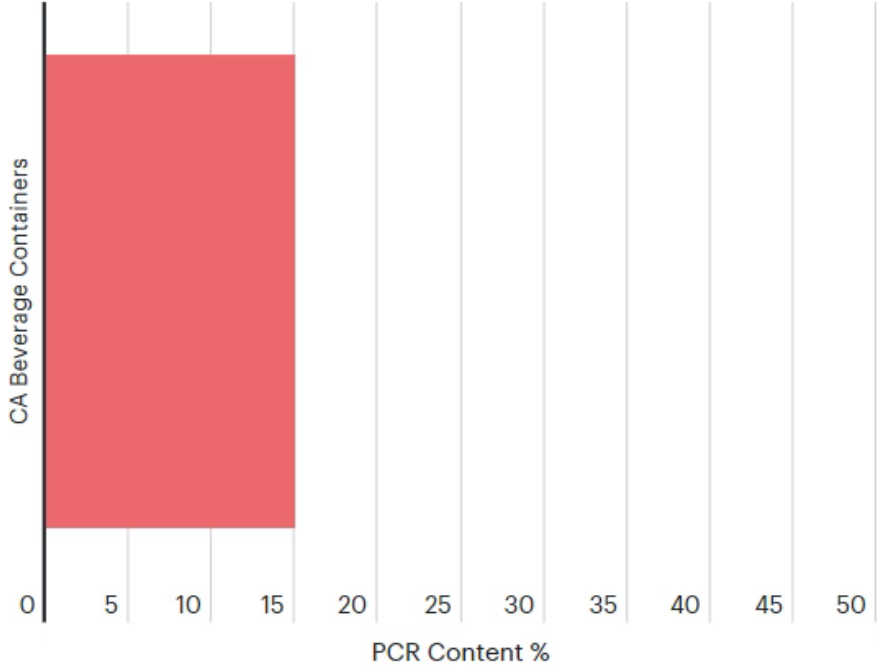
Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) content mandates



● None ● Passed ● Proposed
● None ● Passed ● Proposed

5 states passed

Plastic PCR Content Targets



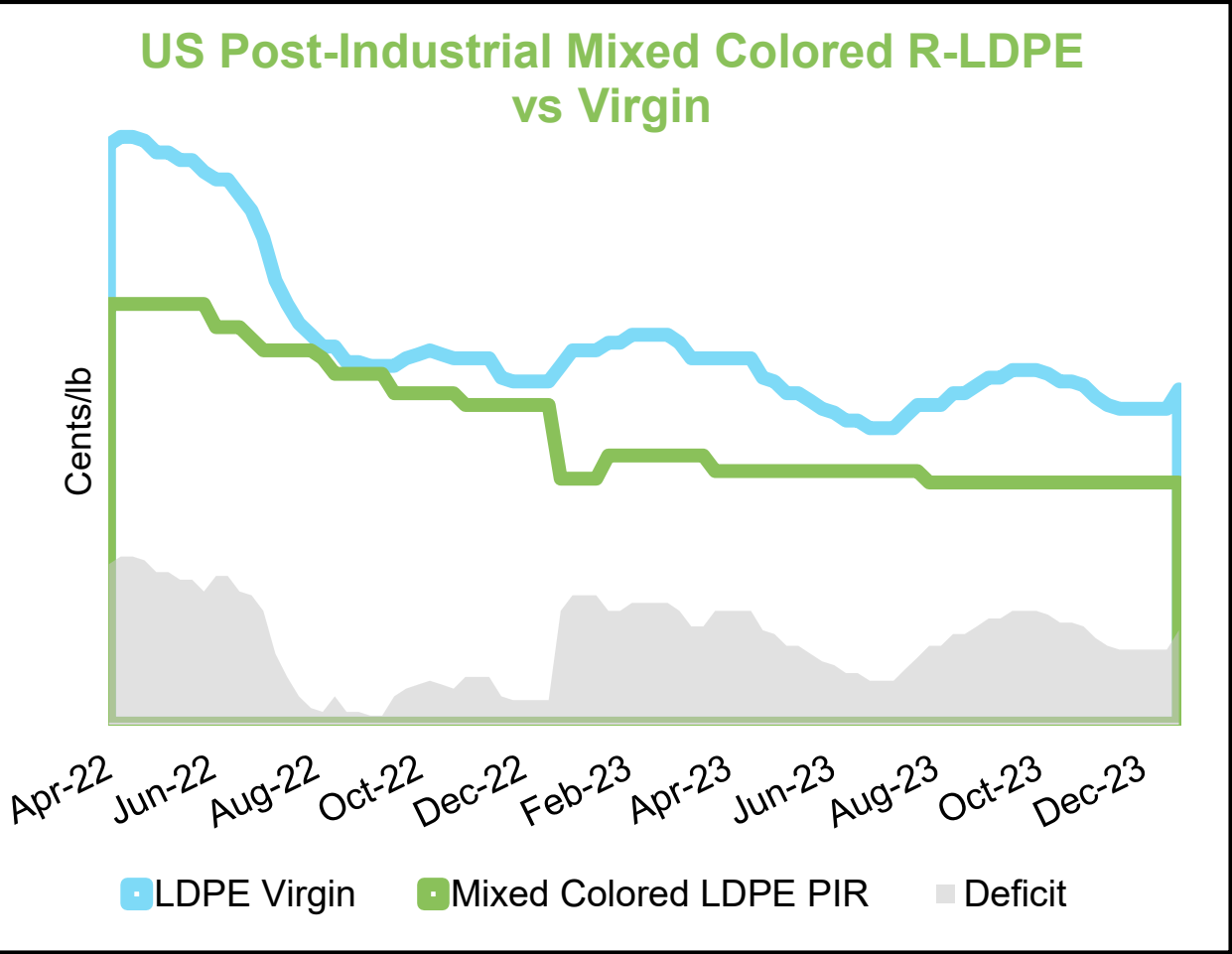
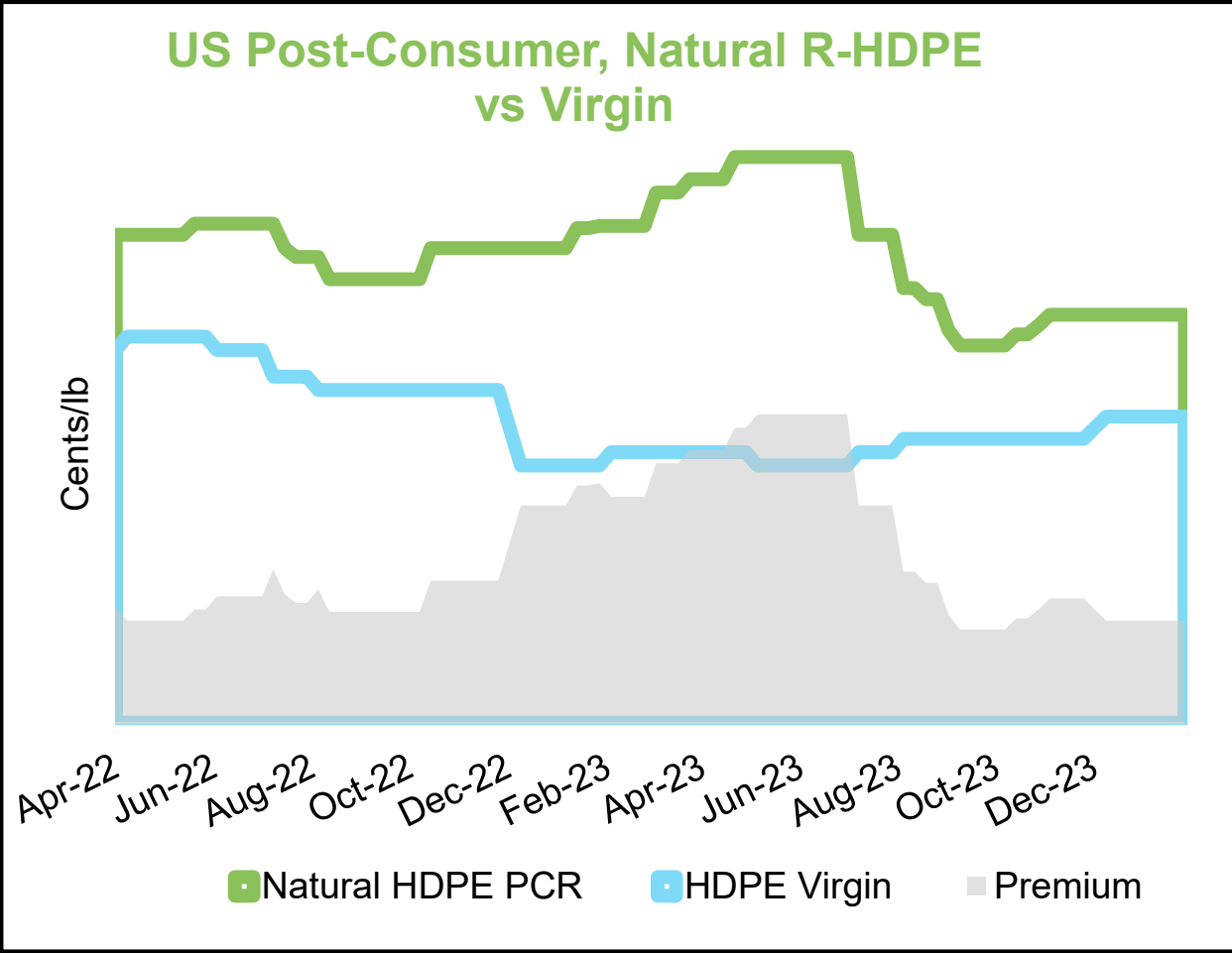
- NJ active as of January 2024
- CA increases to 25% in 2025
- ME begins 2026

Mixed progress of brand company voluntary targets

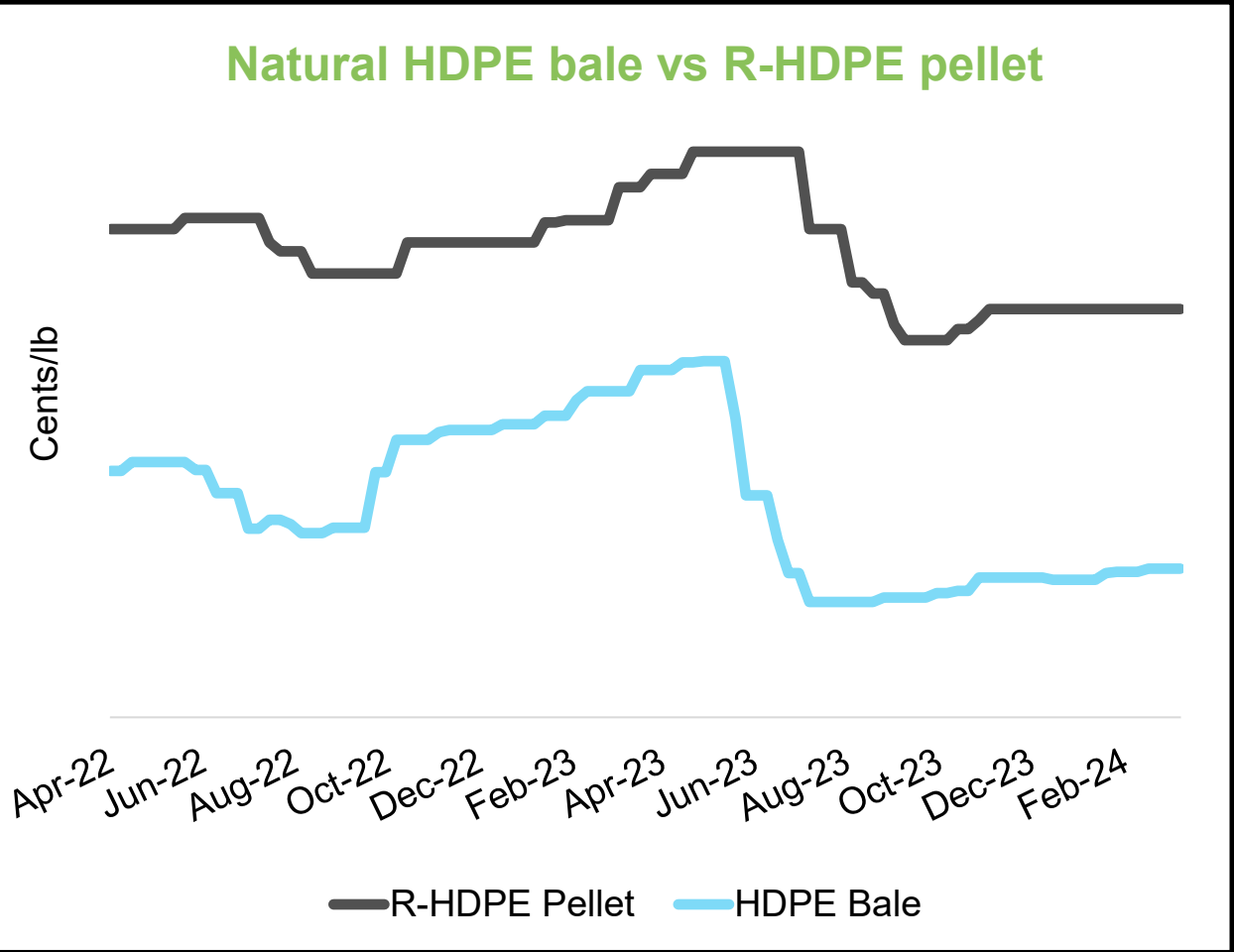
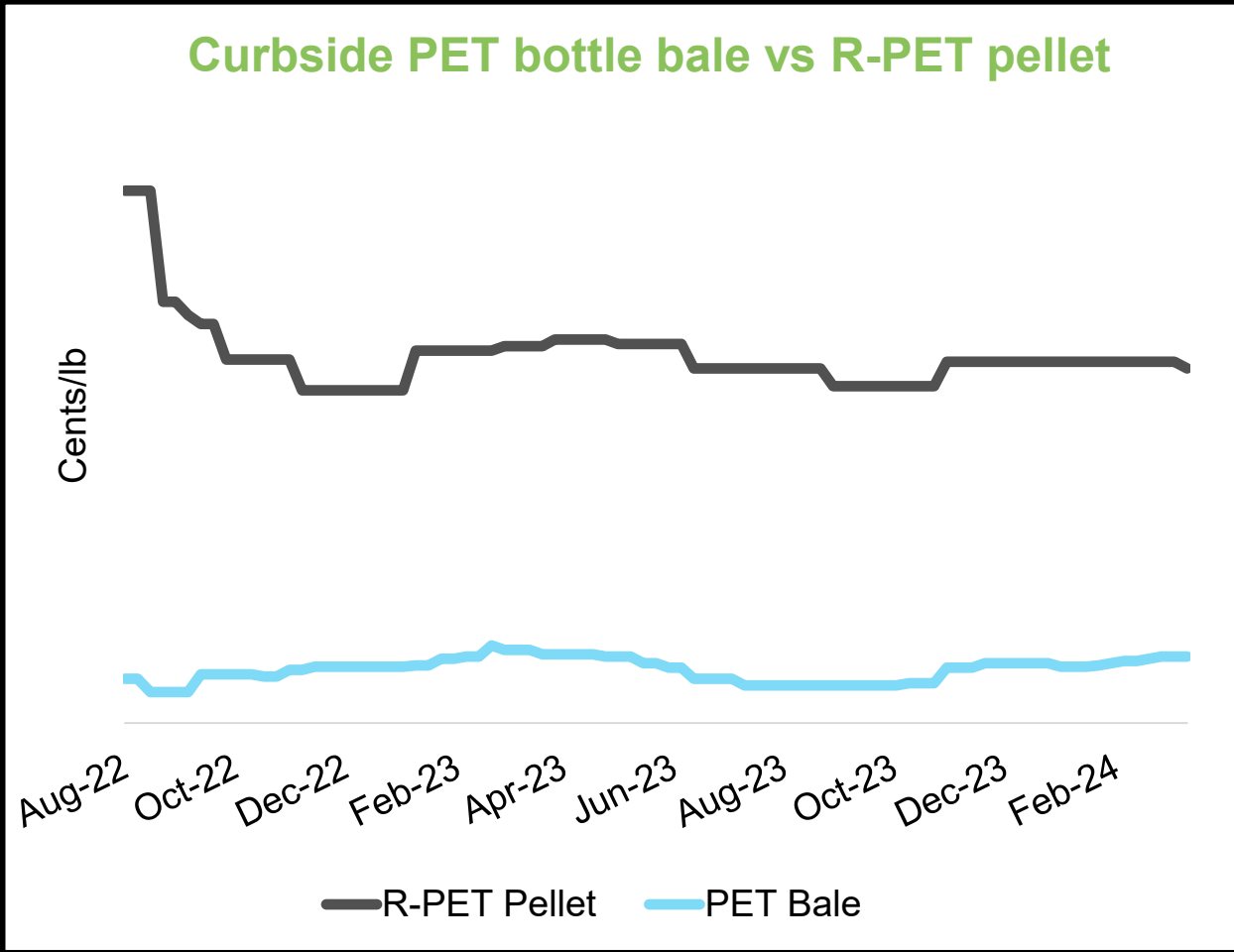
Global recycled content goals may have varied local impact



Recycled resins face direct, indirect pressure from virgin

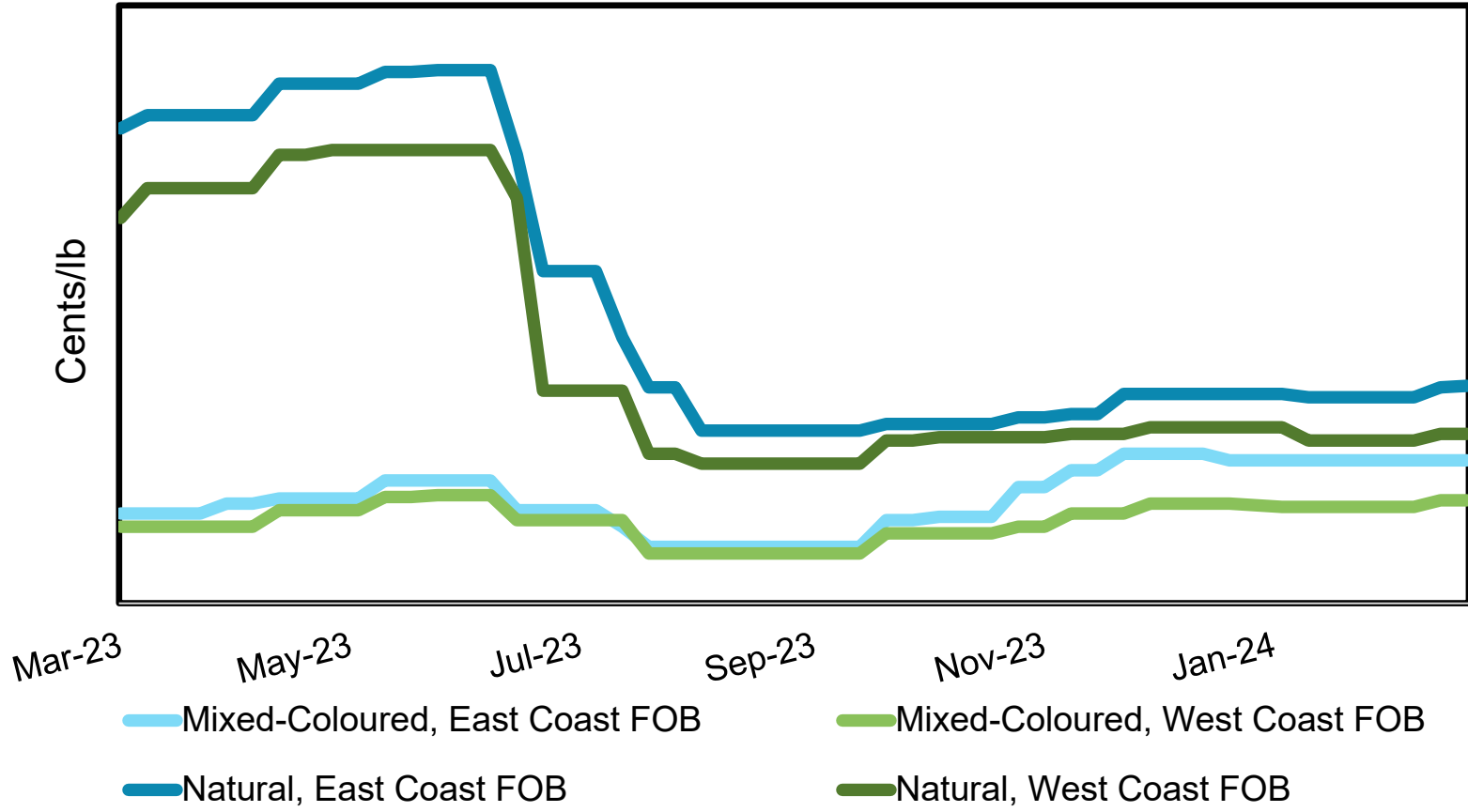


Pricing mechanism via bale feedstock formula

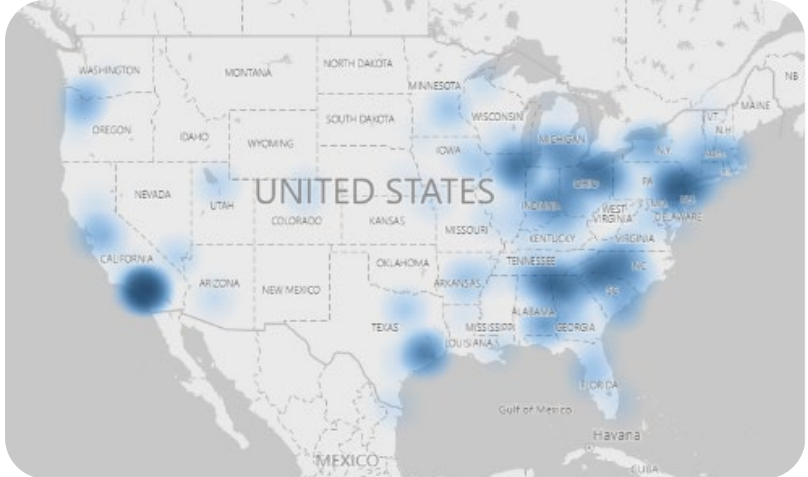


Strong regional influence on pricing

US HDPE Bale Prices



West Coast vs East Coast



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Meet the ICIS Recycled Plastics Team



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information

