



## Recycling as a Driver for Regional Economic Development



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RECYCLING IS DEAD.  
NOW WHAT?

*The US Recycling System  
Is Garbage*

U.S. Recycling Industry Is Struggling To Figure Out A Future Without  
*China*  
**Your Recycling Gets Recycled, Right?  
Maybe, or Maybe Not ...**

Americans' plastic recycling is dumped in landfills

**As Costs Skyrocket, More U.S. Cities  
Stop Recycling**

*Recycling isn't about the planet.  
It's about profit*

RECYCLING IS DEAD.  
NOW WHAT?

*The US Recycling System  
Is Garbage*

**Fake News**

U.S. Recycling Industry Is Struggling To Figure Out A Future Without  
China  
Your Recycling Costs More Than It Saves, Risking  
Maybe, or Maybe Not ...  
Americans' plastic waste dumped in landfills

**As Costs Skyrocket, More U.S. Cities  
Stop Recycling**

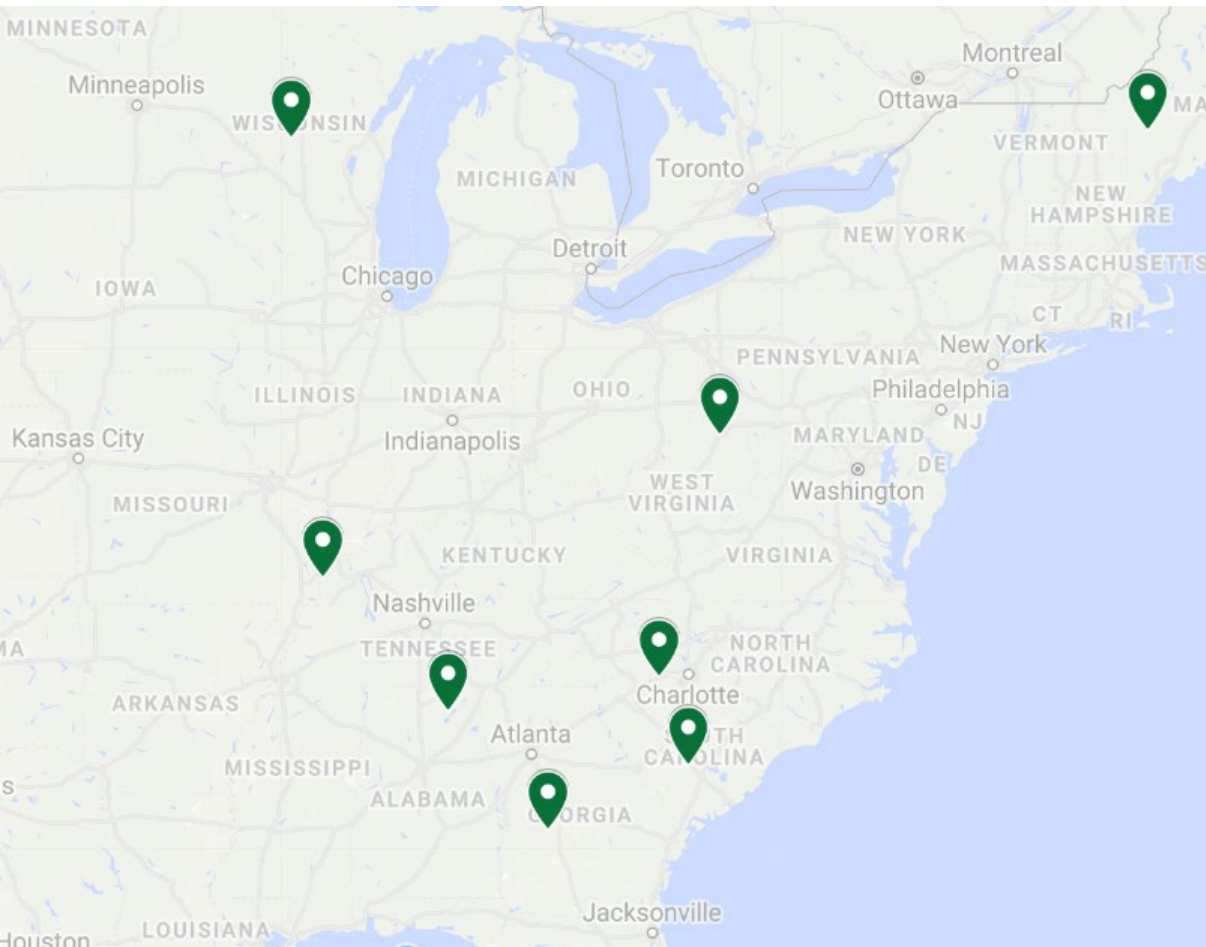
*Recycling isn't about the planet.  
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## Continuing Demand

### Southeast

- 360  
Manufacturers
- 98,000  
Employees
- \$40,000,000,000  
Annual Sales





## Chinese Investments

Ecomelida: Orangeburg, S.C.

Green Tech Solution: Blacksburg, S.C.

Nine Dragons: Biron, Wis.

Nine Dragons: Fairmont, W.Va.

Nine Dragons: Rumford, Maine

Roy Tech Environ: Grant, Ala.

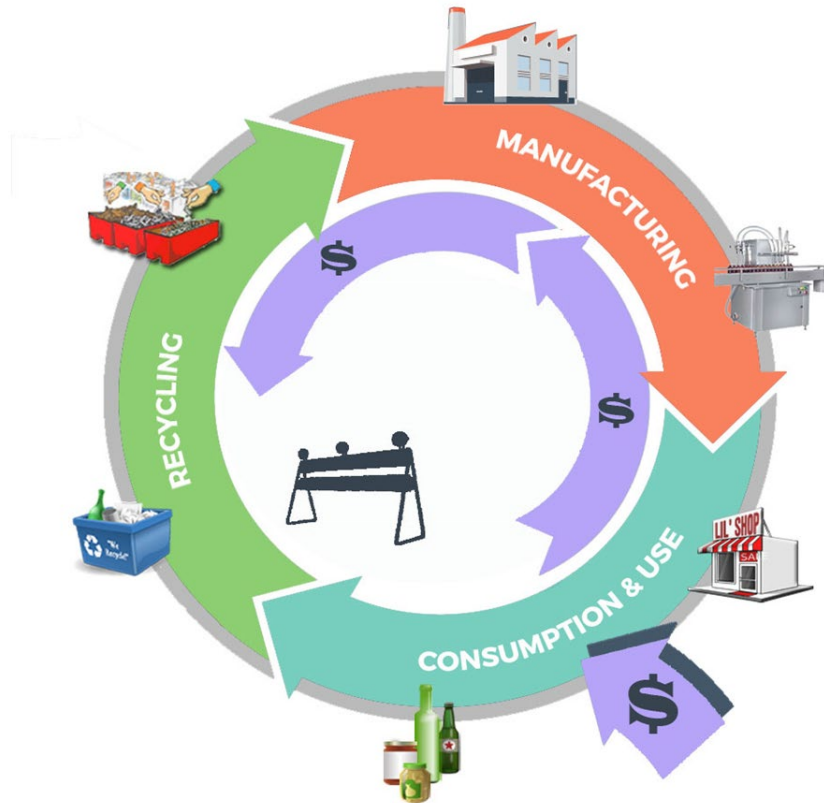
Subsidiary of Shanying International:  
Wickliffe, Ky.

Yunnan Xintongji Plastic Engineering:  
Montezuma, Ga.



# Recycling Material Flow





# Recycling Value Chain



“That recycling is beneficial for the environment is probably an uncontested proposition. What is becoming increasingly more obvious is that **recycling contributes to the economic health of a state's economy.**”



**Frank Hefner & Calvin Blackwell**

Department of Economics and Finance  
College of Charleston

*The Economic Impact of the Recycling  
Industry in South Carolina*

# Alabama

## Manufacturing

- 42 Factories
- 17,350 Jobs
- \$7,838,028,050 Annual Sales

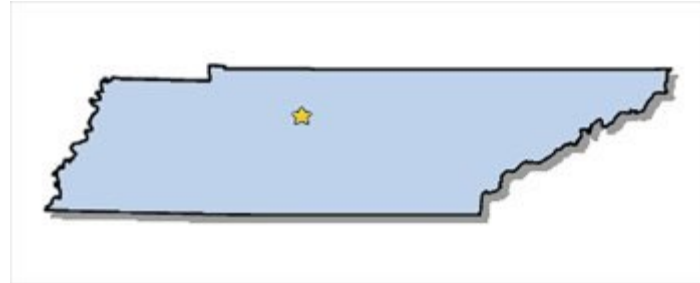
## Collection and Processing

- 10,477 Jobs
- \$540,000,000 Impact

**Paid Tip Fees of \$31 to bury  
\$85 of recyclable material.**



# Tennessee



## Manufacturing

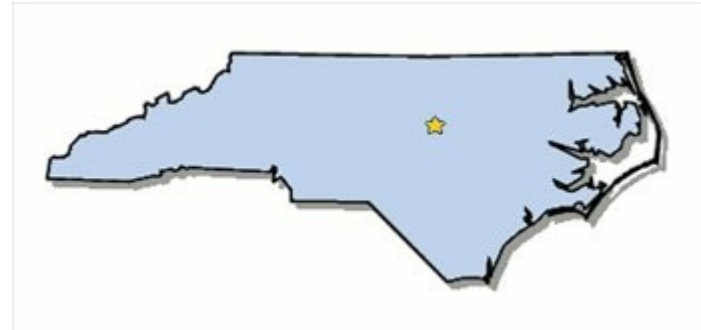
- 40 Factories
- 7,730 Jobs
- \$4,412,814,900 Annual Sales

## Collection and Processing

- 12,521 Jobs
- \$2,629,220,900 Economic Impact

Paid Tip Fees of \$115 to bury  
\$180 of recyclable material.

# North Carolina



## Manufacturing

- 60 Factories
- 14,142 Jobs
- \$4,077,868,590 Annual Sales

## Collection and Processing

- 15,909 Jobs
- \$3,135,614,600 Economic Impact



# Market Development

- Measurement
  - What material demand exists
- Policy
  - Present recycling as an economic driver
- Efficiency
  - Hub and spoke
  - Reduce process costs

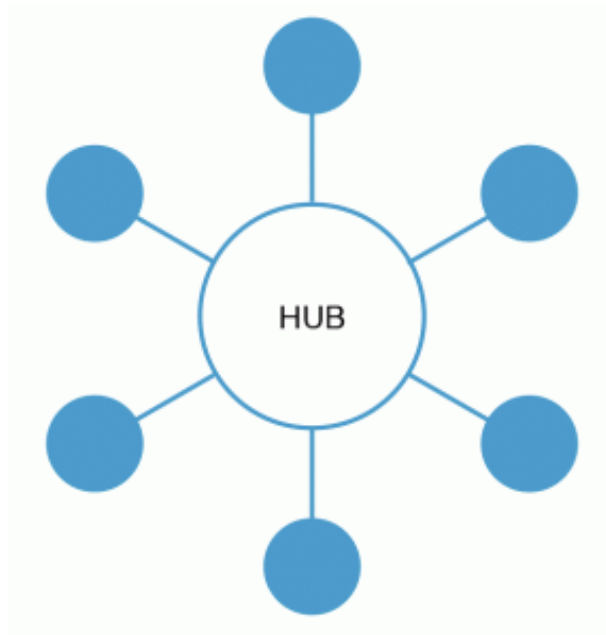
# Why Measurement Matters



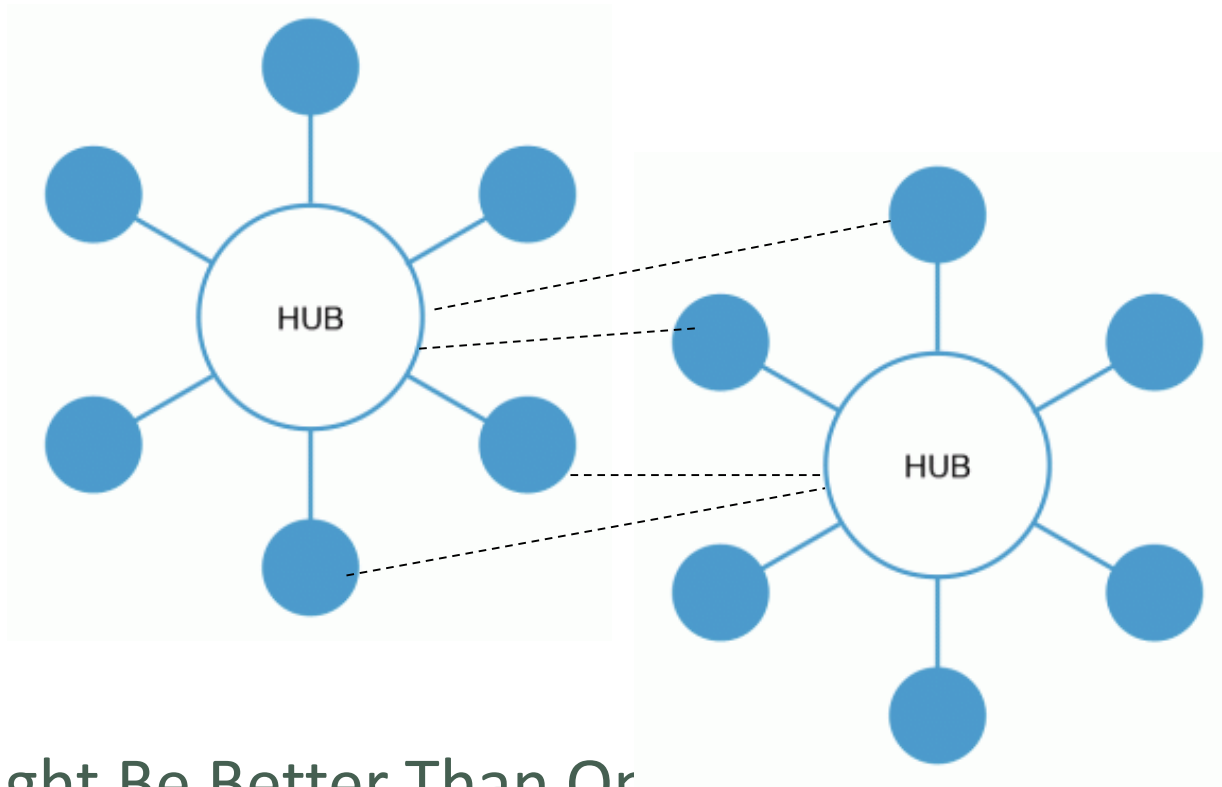
# Policy

- Low interest loans
- Sales tax exemptions
- Property tax exemptions
- Disposal fee surcharges
- Disposal bans
  - NC: Plastic bottles and aluminum cans
- Engage economic development staff
- Hold Recycling Day in the Legislature

# Efficiency

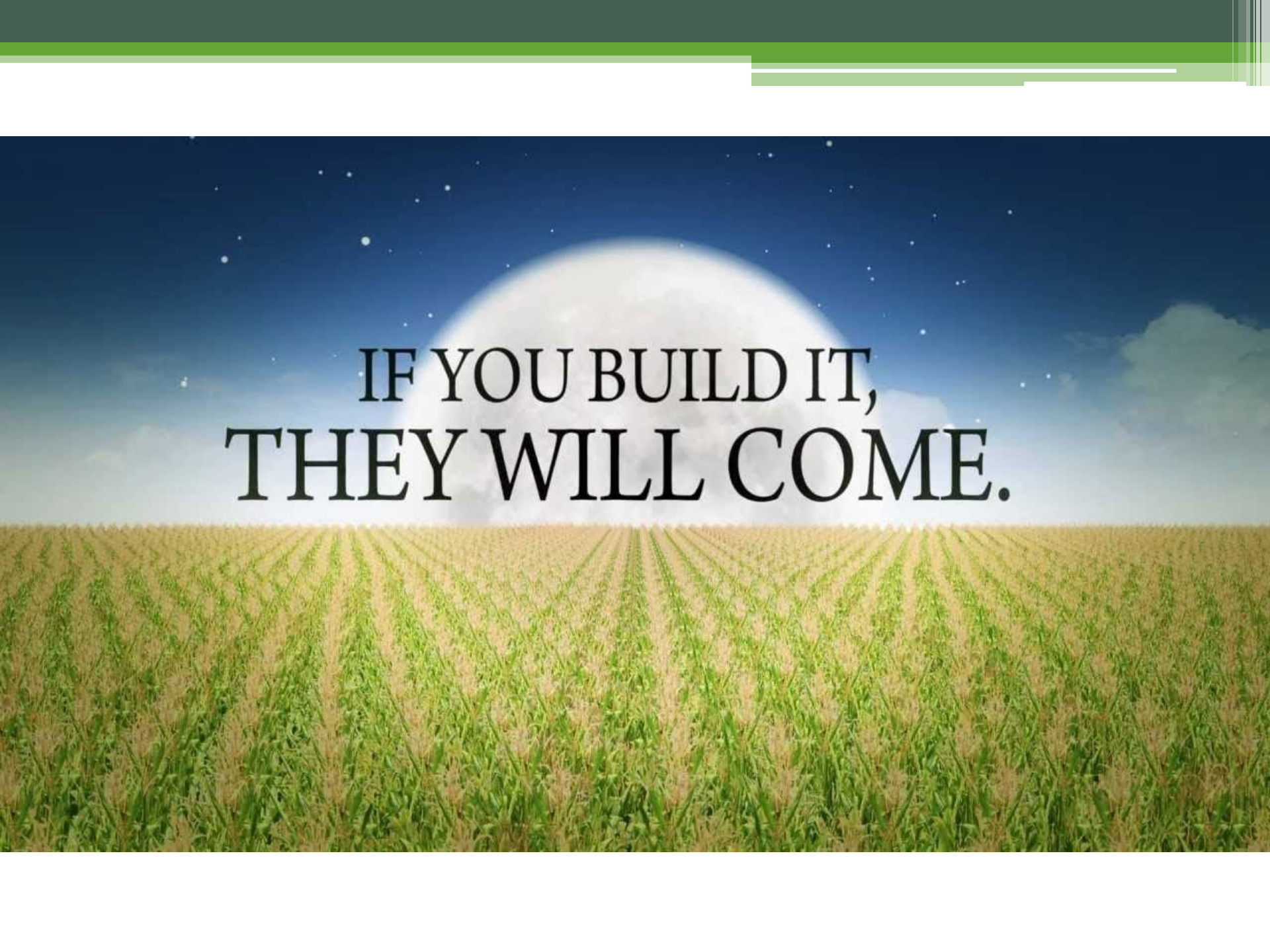


Hub and Spoke Processing



Two Might Be Better Than One





IF YOU BUILD IT,  
THEY WILL COME.

Thank you

**Will Sagar**

Executive Director

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