



# The Need for Action

In recent years, **recycling system conditions have eroded significantly**. Falling oil prices, the near-total ban of plastic exports to China, and the Covid-19 pandemic have all contributed to crumbling market conditions. Municipal recycling programs that generated revenue from their mixed recyclables now must pay more per ton for material processing than to landfill or incinerate the commodities.

Corporate producers are making public commitments to use more recycling materials in their processes with mixed results,<sup>18</sup> in part because of a lack of quality recycled material. Their shareholders and customers, meanwhile, are beginning to demand that they follow through with these promises.

**These conditions, combined with increasing generation of single-use containers and packaging materials<sup>19</sup> and mounting pressure to address plastic and other packaging-related environmental problems, have created a full-blown environmental crisis.**