

TAKE A LOOK AT EPS RECYCLING



2019 U.S. EPS RECYCLING REPORT

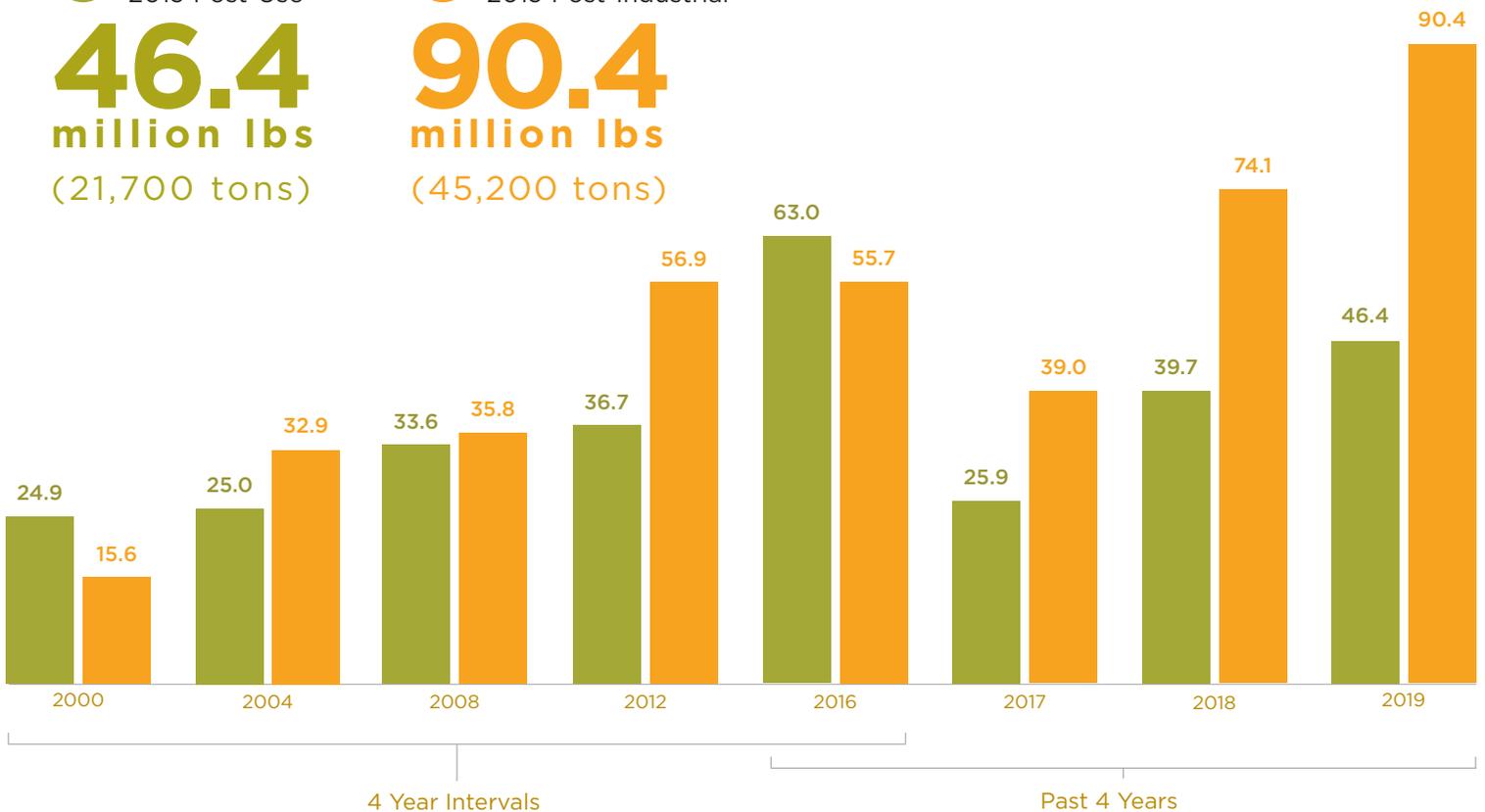


COLLECTION OPTIONS & RESOURCES

Not everything can be recycled all the time. In order for materials to be recycled, you need stable markets and a demand for end products. Each community has its own guidelines for which plastics are accepted, and these can vary widely. To find out if EPS recycling is available in your area, visit www.epsindustry.org. For consumers that do not have access to a local drop-off center, the EPS-IA sponsors a National Mail-Back Program intended for smaller quantities of EPS which can be mailed via USPS or UPS to more than 30 locations nationwide. Full instructions and a list of Mail-Back locations are available on the EPS-IA website.

 2019 Post-Use
46.4
million lbs
(21,700 tons)

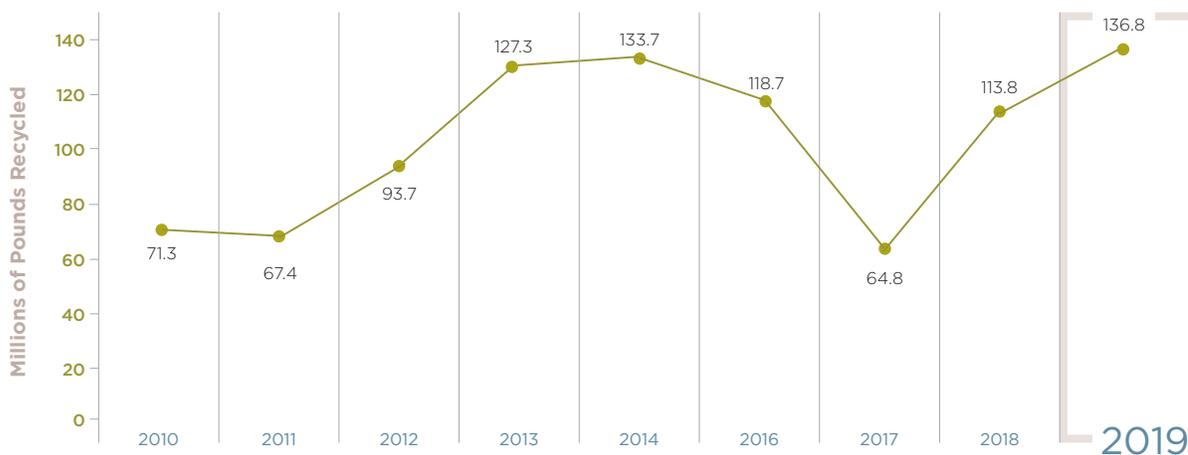
 2019 Post-Industrial
90.4
million lbs
(45,200 tons)



EPS-IA has been committed to expanded polystyrene foam recycling advancements for over three decades. In 2019, EPS recycling trended upward as a result of expanded collection programs and major advancements in reprocessing technologies. This includes pyrolysis, a recycling process that can convert EPS waste into new polystyrene applications via reverse engineering to meet existing market demands. Another is radio frequency fusion technology, a new manufacturing process that can produce a variety of EPS applications with a minimum of 70% recycled content.



U.S. EPS Recycling 2010-2019*



136.8
millions of
pounds recycled

63
Survey
Participants

2019

*Data not collected in 2015 due to lack of respondents

DATA

Post-use and post-industrial totals increased in 2019, with more than 136 million pounds of EPS recycled - 23 million pounds more than 2018. The 2019 results are based on data received from 63 EPS manufacturers and independent recyclers in the U.S. This figure includes 46.4 million pounds of post-use material and 90.4 million pounds of post-industrial recovery. Post-use is defined as any material that is recycled after its intended end-use while post-industrial recovery includes EPS manufacturing scrap that is recycled but never served its intended purpose as a packaging material or other end-use application.

METHODOLOGY

The 2019 Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Study was conducted by the EPS Industry Alliance to gather data to reflect both post-use and post-industrial recycling activity. Participation in the EPS recycling survey is voluntary and the reported data is based on the responses received. Many companies have limited resources to put towards participation in the survey, and some companies may choose not to respond due to their confidentiality policies. Therefore, because there is not 100 percent participation, the presented totals represent the minimum amount of EPS recovered for recycling.



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