



MATERIAL FLOW ANALYSES

RECYCLING UNPACKED

Assessing the Circular Potential of Beverage Containers in the United States

Introduction: Material Flow Analyses

Following are two Material Flow Analyses (MFA) from the report *Recycling Unpacked: Assessing the Circular Potential of Beverage Containers in the United States*. These MFAs depict the material recovery rates for three packaging types: the aluminum can, glass bottles and plastic PET bottles. The analyses are based on publicly available data. These MFAs should be used to understand which beverage containers have the highest circular performance in today's U.S. recycling system and where there are opportunities to capture non-recycled containers.

The first MFA (Figure 10) shows the results scaled to 100 percent for each packaging type, which allows a comparison between material recovery rates across the different material types. The second MFA (Figure 11) shows the same data scaled to the market mass for each packaging type, which allows for a comparison between the actual amount of material being collected and processed in the system. The MFA is read from left to right to track each beverage container as it progresses through the system, from collection and sorting through processing materials for recovery.

[Click HERE to access the full report](#)

[Full Report](#)

2017 Material Flow Analysis of Beverage Container Materials Collected

Scaled by percentage to compare percentage losses and recovery rates for each material type.

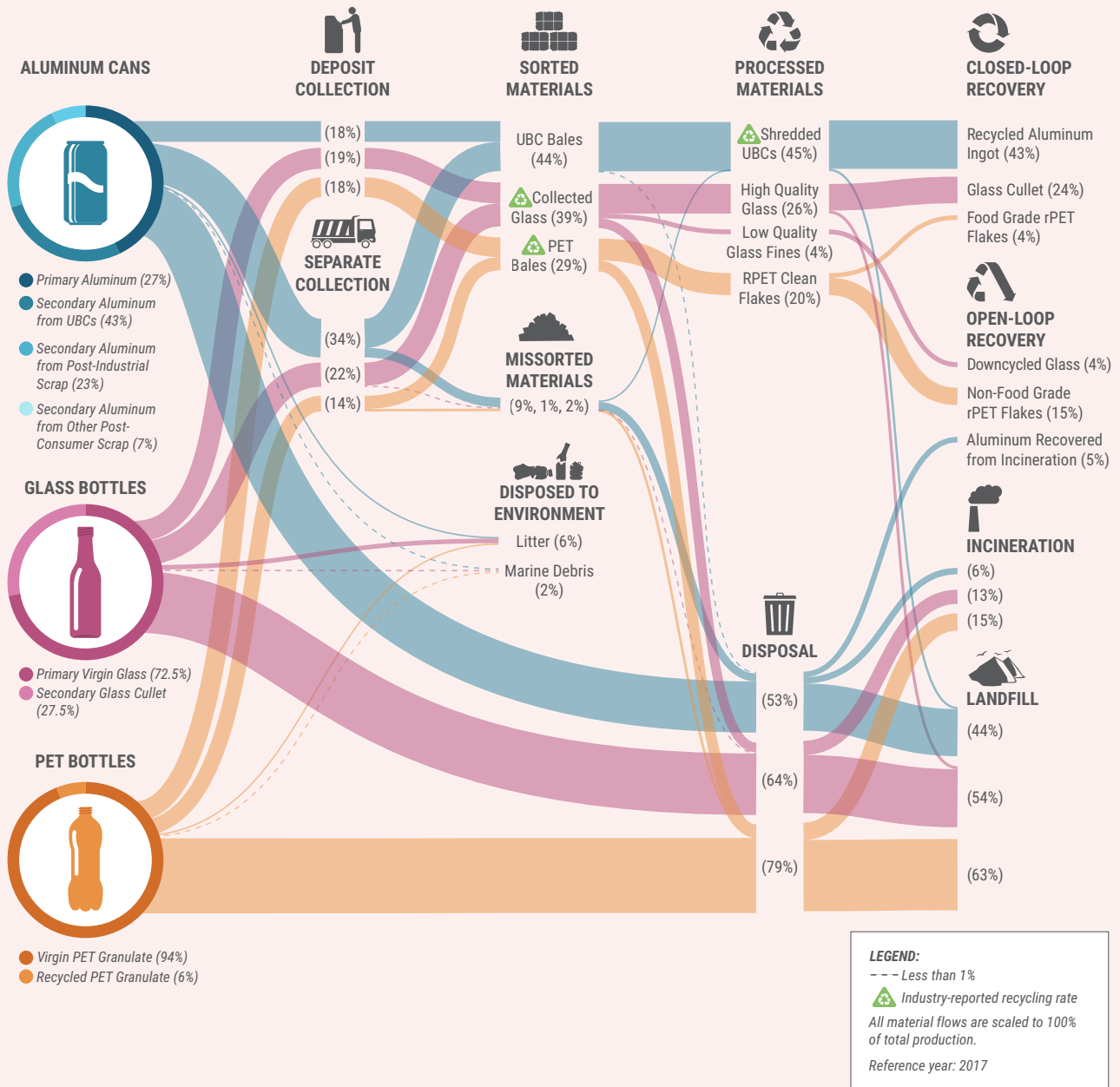


Fig. 10

2017 material flow analysis of beverage container materials collected, sorted, processed, and recovered in the U.S. recycling system, scaled by percentage to compare percentage losses and recovery rates for each material type.

2017 Material Flow Analysis of Beverage Container Materials Collected

Scaled to the market mass for each material type. Unit: million pounds of material.

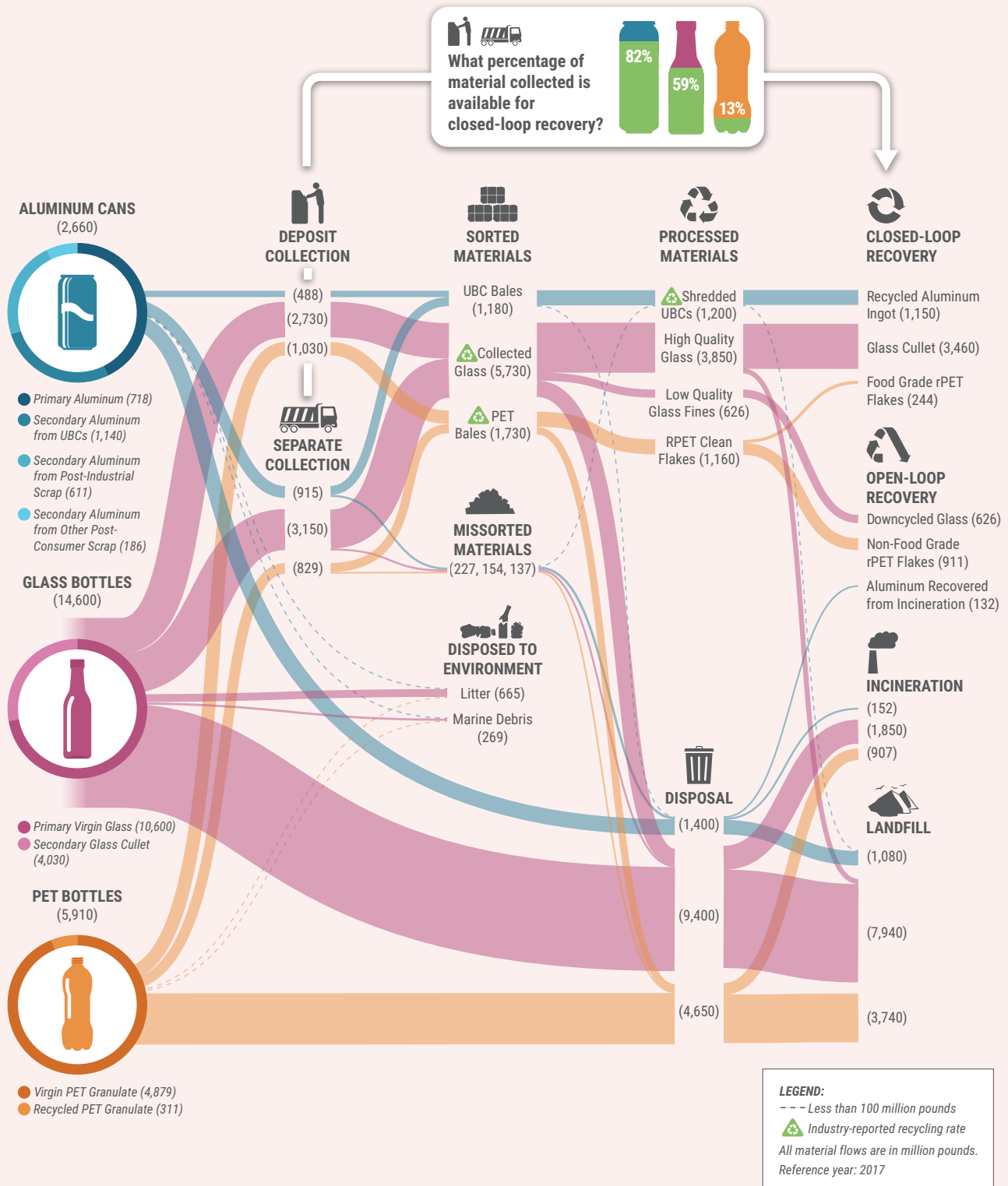


Fig. 11 2017 material flow analysis of beverage container materials collected, sorted, processed, and recovered in the U.S. recycling system, scaled to the market mass for each material type. Unit: million pounds of material.