

# Five Requirements of an Effective Recycling System

For the U.S. residential recycling system to function effectively, five requirements must be met:



1

## **100% of packaging needs to be recyclable.\***

The packaging that enters the system must be recyclable; and we need clear, harmonized, and transparent standards as to what makes a package recyclable.

2

## **100% of households need access to recycling from their home.**

Everyone can dispose of trash, but not every household has access to recycling. For those with access, some locations do not collect all packaging types thus limiting the amount of recyclable material collected.

3

## **Residents need to fully engage in recycling.**

Recyclable material is lost because some households with access do not receive sufficient communication to help them use their recycling service and recycle all their recyclables. In an effective system at least 90% of households should participate.

4

## **Recycling facilities need to effectively process 95% of the material.**

Once collected from households, recycling facilities need adequate technology and infrastructure to sort and process different material types.

5

## **Recycling facilities need sufficient end markets.**

After recycling facilities sort the various material types, they must be able to sell these recycled commodities. Sufficient end markets for these materials are key to an efficient recycling system.