



GLASS BOTTLE & FIBERGLASS MANUFACTURERS’ USE OF CULLET

October 2019

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) developed a Glass Committee to better understand the recycled glass value chain and gaps in the Northeast region, and to promote greater diversion of glass containers to the highest-value end uses. NERC’s 18-member Glass Committee includes some of NERC’s Board of Directors and Advisory Members—a mixture of government and industry.

In August 2019, NERC’s Glass Committee completed a survey of glass bottle and fiberglass manufacturers serving the Northeast region. Of those contacted, five facilities responded to the survey. Following is a compilation of their responses.

From how far away are you receiving cullet?	
Responses Received	Distance Reported (Miles)
2	85 - 230
1	Up to 200
1	Up to 300
1	Up to 500

How much more cullet than you currently receive can your company use?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential. • Limited by plant infrastructure. • Minimal increase possible, running near max capacity on cullet. • Up to 45,000 tons with the right quality and economics. • Would like to use more, but are concerned about emissions from transporting cullet.

What % of post-consumer cullet is in your product(s)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 - 26% • 20%, but would like to use more • 35 - 45% • Up to 65% • >80%



How do market fluctuations affect the need for cullet?

- Cullet availability is seasonal. Operations prefer constant use of cullet.
- Market downturns may slow production, and depending on the price and availability, may use more (or less) cullet.
- Minimal impact.
- No impact.
- When high demand, cullet sells out.

Are you accepting cullet from a facility in an abutting community?

Response	# of Responses
Yes	3
No*	2

*Additional Comments Received:

- Local supply is not a fine enough product.
- Open to discussions with communities to set up collection schemes.

If so, what type of glass collection system is being implemented in the community(ies)?

Responses Received	# of Responses
Bottle Bill, single stream, curbside, and dual stream - as long as it's clean	1
Drop-offs run by a processor	2

Would you be willing to discuss partnering with a regional MRF to obtain cullet?

Responses Received	# of Responses
Yes	3
Yes, maybe	2