



MICRO-CREDENTIAL

CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

6.- Recycling and Material Recovery

Secondary raw materials markets

CELWS-W06-V04

The Future is Recycled: Navigating the Secondary Raw Materials Market

From landfill to lifeline — discover how secondary raw materials are reshaping global trade, driving innovation, and powering the circular economy of tomorrow.



The Dawn of a Circular Economy

How humanity's relationship with resources evolved from extraction to regeneration — and why it matters now more than ever.



The Old Paradigm

Early industrialization was built on an insatiable appetite for virgin resources — coal, timber, iron ore — extracted at enormous environmental and social cost. The linear "take-make-dispose" model treated the Earth as both an infinite supplier and an unlimited dumping ground.

The Turning Point

As resource scarcity and pollution grew impossible to ignore, the concept of "waste" began a profound transformation. What had been discarded as worthless started to be recognized as a reservoir of recoverable value. Early recycling efforts — though localized and informal — planted the seeds of what would become a global industry.

The Environmental Imperative

The urgency behind secondary raw materials markets is not simply economic — it is existential. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion are converging pressures that demand a fundamental rethink of how we produce, consume, and recover materials.

70%

Projected Waste Increase

Global waste generation is projected to surge by 70% by 2050 if current trends continue, according to the World Bank.

2.01B

Tonnes Generated Today

The world already generates over 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste annually — a staggering baseline that demands action.

33%

Of all waste generated

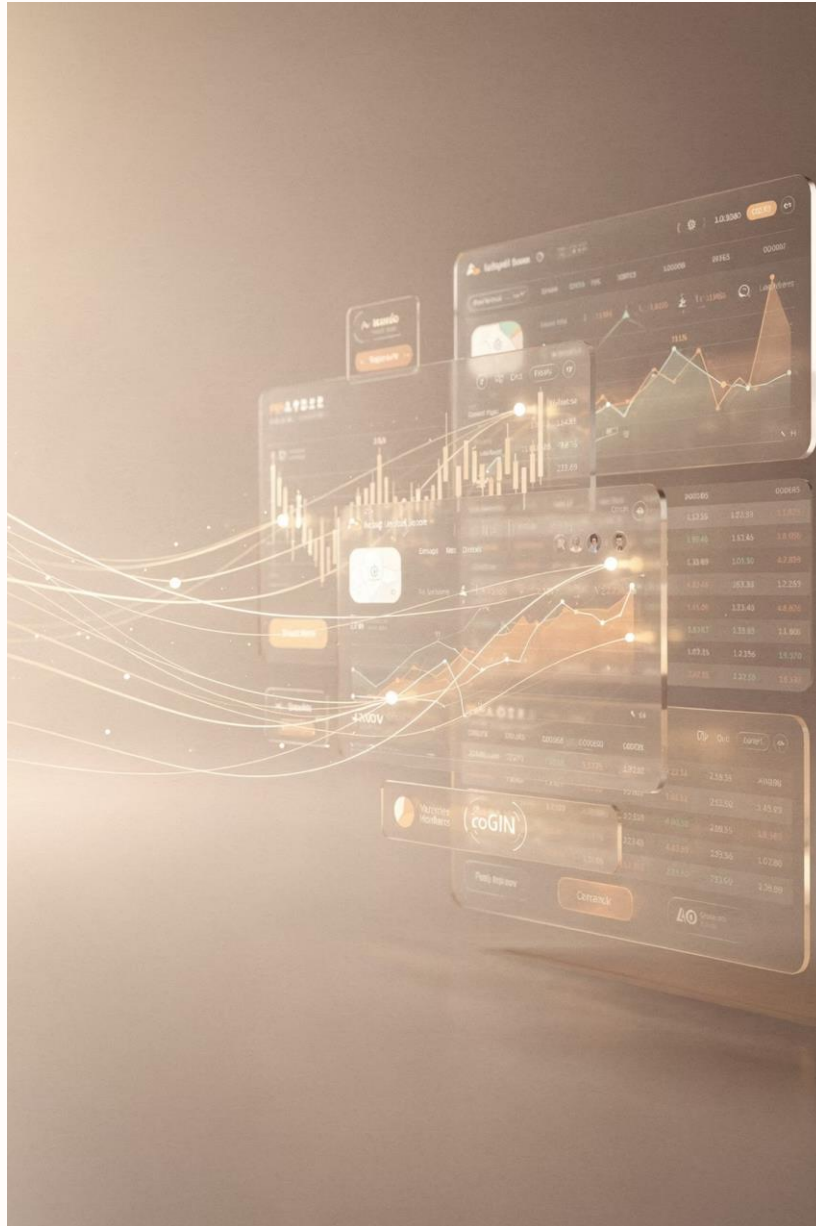
At least one-third of global waste is not managed in an environmentally safe manner, accelerating pollution and resource loss.



Every material discarded is a resource squandered. Every material recovered is a step toward a livable future. The secondary raw materials market transforms that choice into action — at scale, every day, across every continent.

Marketplaces

Technology is revolutionizing how secondary raw materials are bought, sold, and valued — creating transparent, efficient, and borderless markets for the circular economy.



What is SECONTRADE?

SECONTRADE is a pan-European digital marketplace purpose-built for buyers and sellers of secondary raw materials. It bridges the gap between those with surplus recoverable materials and manufacturers seeking cost-effective, sustainable inputs — all through a streamlined online platform.

Core Mission

To make an active, measurable contribution to climate and environmental protection through innovative online trading — turning recycling from a local necessity into a continental market opportunity.

ÉÖPÖÖÖPÖ İNÖMÖ

Premium secondary material with strong demand across sectors.

Materials Traded

Shredded Iron Scrap

High-volume industrial feedstock for steelmakers.

Steel Scrap (Dismantling)

Sourced from decommissioned structures and vehicles.

SECONTRADE's platform design reflects three core commitments that make secondary materials trading accessible and trustworthy for businesses of all sizes across Europe.



Trade Simply

Quick registration and intuitive partner-finding tools eliminate the friction of traditional sourcing. Buyers and sellers connect faster, with less overhead and fewer intermediaries standing between supply and demand.



Handle Securely

Rigorous processing protocols and complete transaction documentation ensure every deal is traceable and compliant. Participants can trade with confidence, knowing due diligence is built into the platform.

Scale Across Europe

The platform's continental reach gives participants access to a deep pool of buyers and sellers, enabling optimal pricing and reducing reliance on purely local markets with limited competition.



Across Europe, millions of tonnes of recoverable materials sit idle or are inefficiently traded. Digital marketplaces like SECONTRADE are the connective tissue that transforms fragmented, regional surplus into a coherent, continent-wide resource network — delivering both economic value and environmental benefit.

The Data Revolution in Recycling



Reliable, real-time pricing intelligence is the backbone of a functional secondary materials market. Data platforms are transforming how industry participants make decisions — bringing transparency and confidence to historically opaque markets.

What is the SMP Index?

The Scrap Metal Prices (SMP) Index is RecyclingMarkets.net's flagship Online Commodity Pricing Index for Post-consumer Recovered Materials. It is the most comprehensive benchmarking tool available for municipal and industrial recycling programs, covering a wide spectrum of common material categories.

Recognized Authority

The SMP Index has earned recognition from government agencies and industry associations for its accuracy, consistency, and methodological rigor — making it a trusted reference in regulatory and commercial contexts alike.

What It Covers

- Real-time pricing data updated on a weekly basis
- Common material categories for municipal recycling programs
- Industrial recycling feedstock categories
- Regional price breakdowns across 8 zones in the USA and Canada
- Historical pricing databases available to members

The Power of Pricing Data

In a market characterized by volatility and regional variation, access to timely, unbiased pricing data is not a luxury — it is a competitive necessity. The difference between a profitable trade and a loss can hinge on having the right numbers at the right moment.

Timely Information

Weekly updates sourced directly from qualified purchasing officials across 8 regions in the USA and Canada ensure data reflects current market realities — not last month's conditions. Speed matters in commodity markets.

Historical Access

Unlimited membership access to historical pricing databases enables trend analysis, contract benchmarking, and long-term strategic planning. Understanding how prices have moved is essential for forecasting where they will go.

| **ONOMENŃ HOCŃORCE**

Independent, methodologically consistent data removes the information asymmetry that has historically disadvantaged smaller players. Unbiased insights level the playing field and support fairer price discovery across the value chain.

EUWID Recycling and Waste Management is one of Europe's most respected sources of market intelligence for secondary raw materials and waste management services. Its value lies not in speed alone, but in depth and analytical rigor.

Extensive Contact Network

EUWID collects pricing and trend data through a carefully cultivated network of contacts embedded in relevant markets — traders, processors, brokers, and buyers — ensuring ground-level accuracy.

Price Watches & Reports

Regularly published price watches cover dozens of secondary material categories, providing sector-specific insights that help professionals navigate complex, multi-commodity portfolios.

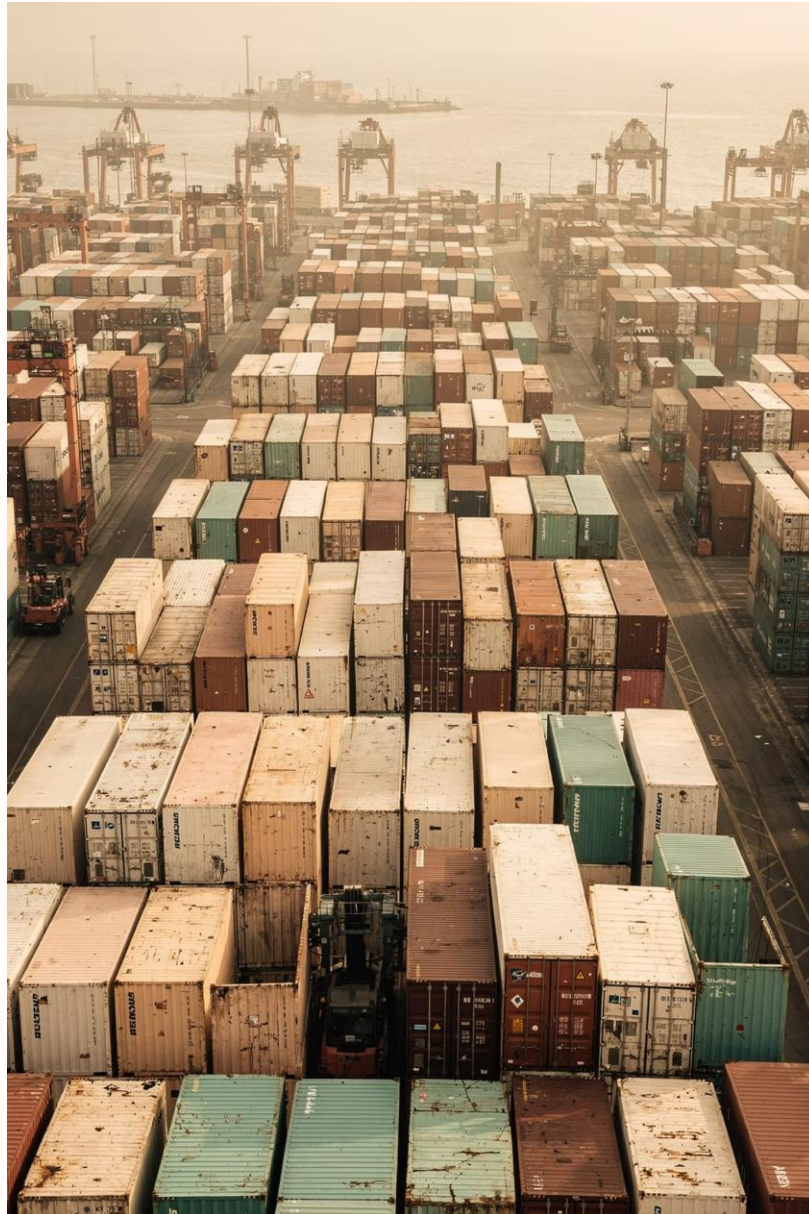
Integrated Online Portal

An integrated online portal allows subscribers to track price movements over time, filter by material type, and access archived reports — putting comprehensive market history at their fingertips.



"Navigating Market Volatility."

Secondary raw materials markets are inherently dynamic — influenced by energy prices, geopolitical shifts, manufacturing demand, and policy changes. Data platforms like RecyclingMarkets.net and EUWID give market participants the intelligence to navigate these fluctuations with confidence, turning uncertainty into strategic advantage.



Secondary raw materials are not just a domestic resource — they are a global commodity. Understanding the trade flows, regulatory frameworks, and advocacy structures that shape this market is essential for every participant.

The Core Argument

ReMA makes a compelling, data-driven case: U.S. recyclers consistently process more material than domestic manufacturers can absorb. Without robust international trade, vast quantities of valuable secondary materials would lose their market entirely — depressing prices, reducing recycling rates, and undermining the economic case for collection infrastructure.

❏ Restricting these trade flows does not protect domestic industry — it destabilizes the entire recycling supply chain.

Global Reach of U.S. Recycled Materials

Recycled materials exported from the United States serve as critical raw material inputs for manufacturing operations in **over 100 countries**. These are not marginal volumes — they represent the foundational feedstock for steel mills, paper manufacturers, plastic processors, and more across Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

ReMA actively monitors and responds to the policy environment that governs how recycled materials cross borders — from tariffs and export restrictions to bilateral trade agreements and sustainability mandates.

Recycled Metals Trade Intelligence

Continuous tracking of trade volumes, destination markets, and industry trends for ferrous and non-ferrous recycled metals — providing members with actionable competitive intelligence.

Timely Public Statements

Timely public statements on trade actions, proposed tariffs, and export restriction proposals — ensuring the recycled materials industry has a visible, credible voice in policy debates.

Formal Position Statements

Comprehensive advocacy documents that articulate the industry's position on free and fair trade, export policies, and the economic consequences of protectionist measures for recycling infrastructure.



Secondary raw materials transcend borders by necessity. A ton of aluminum scrap recovered in Ohio may be processed into new product in South Korea. A bale of recovered paper from Germany may end up in an Indian paper mill. The global nature of this trade is not a vulnerability — it is a strength that makes recycling economically viable worldwide.

A Global Exchange Network

Recycler's World operates as a sustainable marketplace for recycled commodities, embedded within a worldwide network of online exchanges. Its design reflects the inherently global nature of secondary materials trade — connecting buyers and sellers across time zones and regulatory environments with consistent, reliable market infrastructure.

Current Spot Prices

Live market pricing for active commodity categories.

Composite Price Indices

Aggregated benchmarks across material types for portfolio-level analysis.

GOVERNANCE

Long-term price archives supporting trend analysis and contract negotiation.

The secondary raw materials market is entering its most dynamic era — driven by technological innovation, tightening environmental regulation, and a global economy increasingly hungry for sustainable inputs.



SECONTRADE's success illustrates a broader truth: digital infrastructure is the critical enabler of a functioning circular economy. By bringing transparency, efficiency, and reach to secondary materials trading, platforms like SECONTRADE demonstrate what the future of resource management looks like.



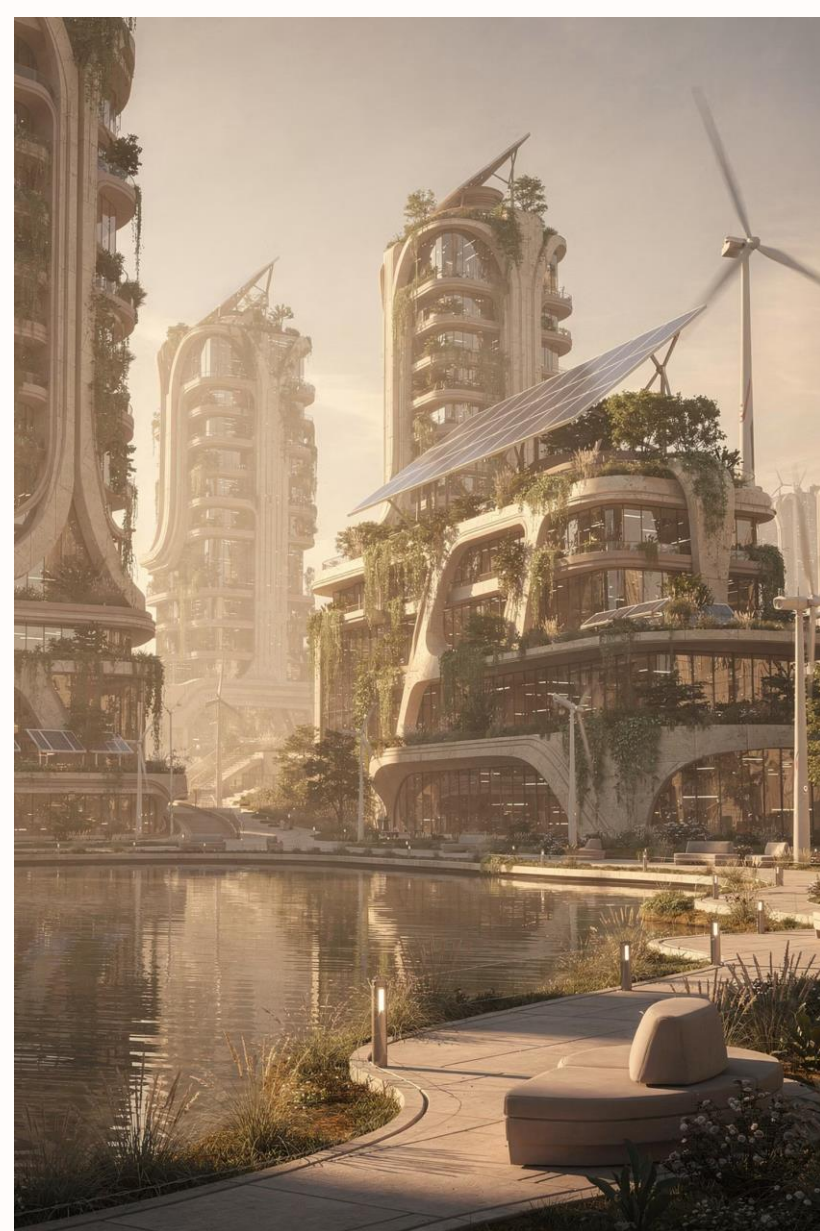
Value Preservation

Secondary raw materials retain strong market value due to persistent demand from manufacturers seeking cost-effective, lower-carbon inputs. Digital platforms ensure that value is captured — not lost to inefficiency.



Closing the Cycle

By connecting buyers and sellers efficiently across borders, digital marketplaces complete the circular economy loop — ensuring that recovered materials re-enter production rather than ending up in landfill.



"Building Tomorrow, Today."

The cities, products, and economies of the future will be built — in part — from the recovered materials of today. Secondary raw materials are not a workaround or a compromise; they are a cornerstone of intelligent, resilient, sustainable industrial civilization. The infrastructure we build now determines the world we inhabit tomorrow.

The Secondary Raw Materials Market: Market: A Vital Engine for a Sustainable Future

This market has moved decisively from the margins to the mainstream — it is now a critical component of both the global economy and humanity's environmental response.

From Niche to Essential

Secondary raw materials are no longer an afterthought. They are a foundational input for manufacturing, a key lever for decarbonization, and a driver of economic resilience in an era of resource constraint.

Data & Digital: The Transformation Engines

Digital platforms and real-time analytics are rewriting the rules of how materials are traded, valued, and managed — bringing efficiency, transparency, and global reach to what was once a fragmented, opaque marketplace.

HOQÑCEPÒO POÑ Ì MÓÔÑPÆHÖQÑCEPÒO POÑ ÌÖMÖÑP

Supporting secondary raw materials markets — through policy, capital, technology, and participation — is one of the most direct investments any actor can make in a healthier planet and a more resilient, circular global economy.