

New Study on Availability of Recycled Aluminum and Copper in U.S. Market

BIR World Recycling Convention and Exposition

International Trade Council

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 | Bangkok, THAILAND

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Recycled Materials
Association

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Purpose of the Al/Cu Availability Study

- Address concerns by domestic consuming industries (aluminum, copper) about potential shortages of end-of-life recycled material in the U.S. market.
 - These claims have driven policy and political discussions on export restrictions for these recycled commodities.
- Provide insight and data analysis into dynamics of the U.S. copper and aluminum markets to enhance ReMA's advocacy efforts on trade and manufacturing policy.

Timeline of Recent Activities

- **October 2024** – ReMA Board approves the commissioning of a study to evaluate availability of recycled aluminum and copper in U.S. market.
- **January 2025** – MM Markets selected as research firm; President Trump reenters White House.
- **February/March 2025** – Initiation of Section 232 investigation of copper imports, including potential for export restrictions on recycled copper.
- **July 2025** – President Trump refrains from imposing export restrictions on recycled copper.
- **September/October 2025** – Study finalized and released; U.S.-based Aluminum Association released proposal for export restrictions on UBCs and other high-value recycled aluminum.

Key Findings from Study

- Through 2040 in the U.S., there is **no shortage** of:
 - Available EOL copper left in place/abandoned
 - Available EOL aluminum left in place/abandoned
- Available U.S. EOL recycled copper is **significantly larger** than annual U.S. recycled copper consumption.
- Available U.S. EOL recycled aluminum is **larger** than annual U.S. recycled aluminum consumption.

Advocacy Messaging on Export Restrictions for Recycled Materials

- Even though study was not finalized before conclusion of Section 232 investigation into copper imports, the findings backed up our analysis that there is no shortage.
- Continued push by domestic aluminum consumers for export restrictions, particularly on UBCs and other high-value recycled aluminum.
- Next steps include analyzing the availability of other recycled commodities.

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Thank You

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