

# TENNESSEE

5% RECYCLING RATE

WITHOUT FIBER AND FLEXIBLE PLASTICS (FFP)

## RANKING

RECYCLING RANK **2021** #48  
 RECYCLING RANK **2018** #47 -1

POPULATION  
6,968,351

CENSUS SUB REGION  
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL

RECYCLING REFUND STATE  
NO

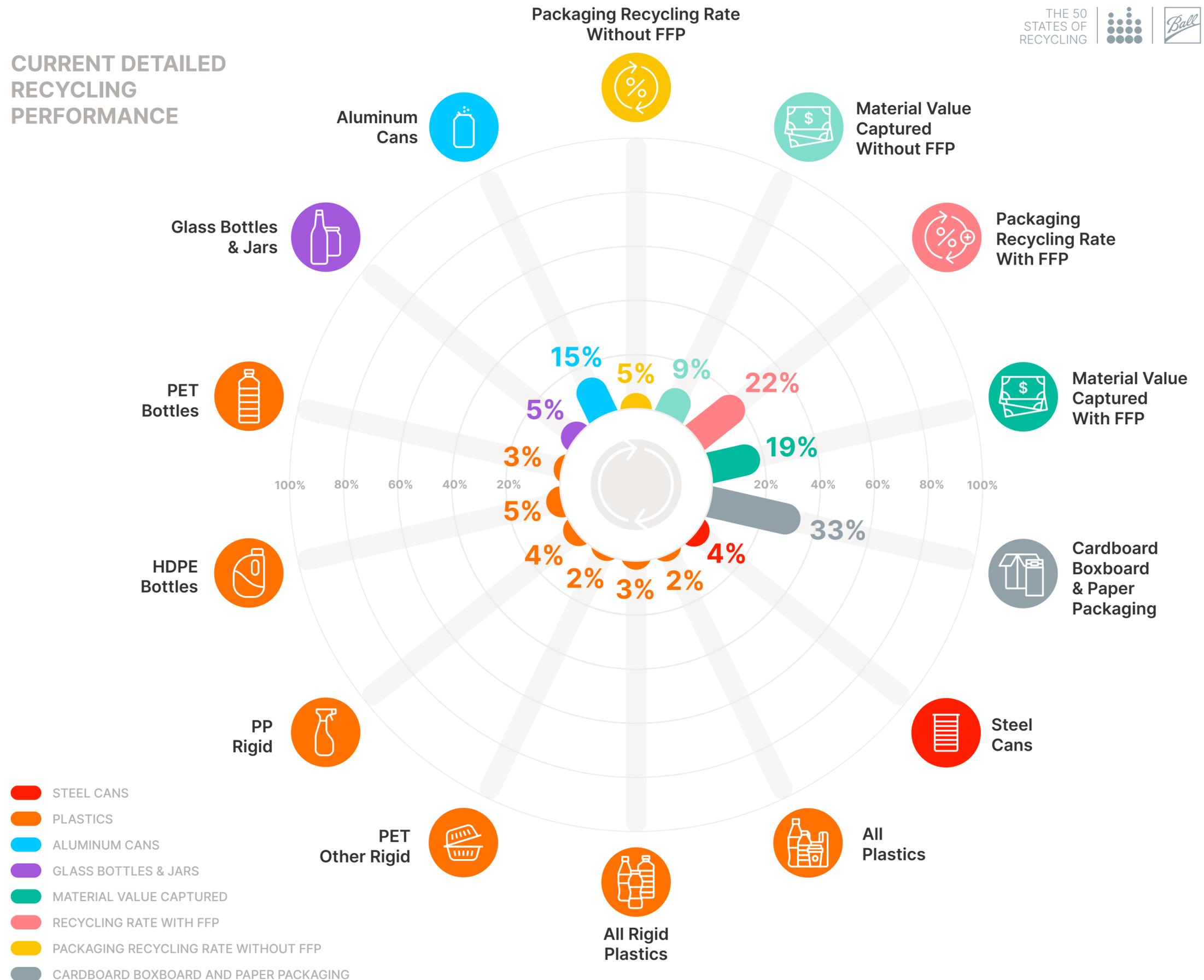
## DATA QUALITY



## OVERVIEW

Tennessee's Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) has oversight of waste management activities in Tennessee. The Solid Waste Program, operating under the authority of the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991, ensures safe and sanitary processing and disposal of solid waste in the state. DSWM's objectives, described in the 2021-2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan, include establishing more robust waste management goals and improving the accuracy of measurement while increasing access to and participation in recycling.

## CURRENT DETAILED RECYCLING PERFORMANCE



- STEEL CANS
- PLASTICS
- ALUMINUM CANS
- GLASS BOTTLES & JARS
- MATERIAL VALUE CAPTURED
- RECYCLING RATE WITH FFP
- PACKAGING RECYCLING RATE WITHOUT FFP
- CARDBOARD BOXBOARD AND PAPER PACKAGING

# TENNESSEE

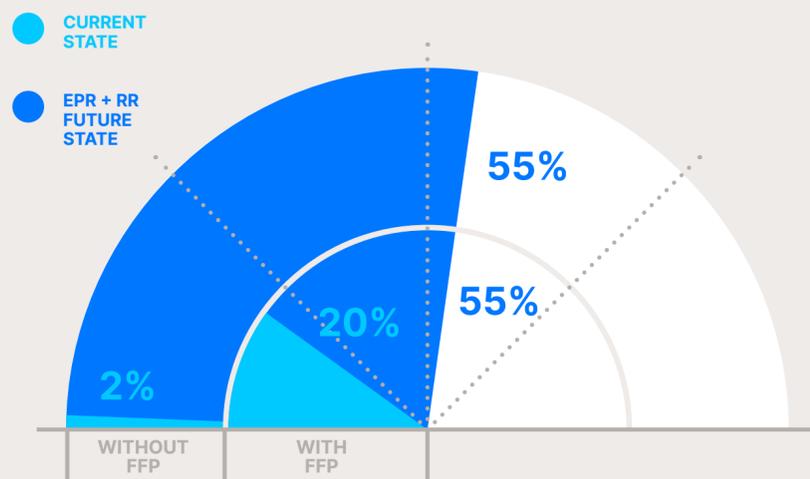
## CURRENT STATE OF RECYCLING

- In 2021, Tennessee recycled approximately 5% of packaging materials without FFP. This recycling performance increases to 22% when considering materials with FFP.
- The value of the material captured for recycling was \$38 million, just 19% of the total value of material that could be captured for recycling.
- Recycling in the state avoided GHG emissions of 1.1 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## OUTCOMES EPR+RR

- Extended Producer Responsibility and Recycling Refund policy together could:
- Increase recycling related jobs from 1,700 to 9,400.
  - Place \$171 million of recycled material back in the market to support a circular economy and reduce the need for virgin material.
  - Avoid emissions of 2.5 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.

## CLOSED-LOOP IMPACTS



## THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES OF WELL-DESIGNED EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) + RECYCLING REFUND (RR) PROGRAMS

EPR assumes an overall recycling rate of 65% for residential packaging and RR assumes a 90% recycling rate for beverage containers

