

Looking up: 1/30/2009

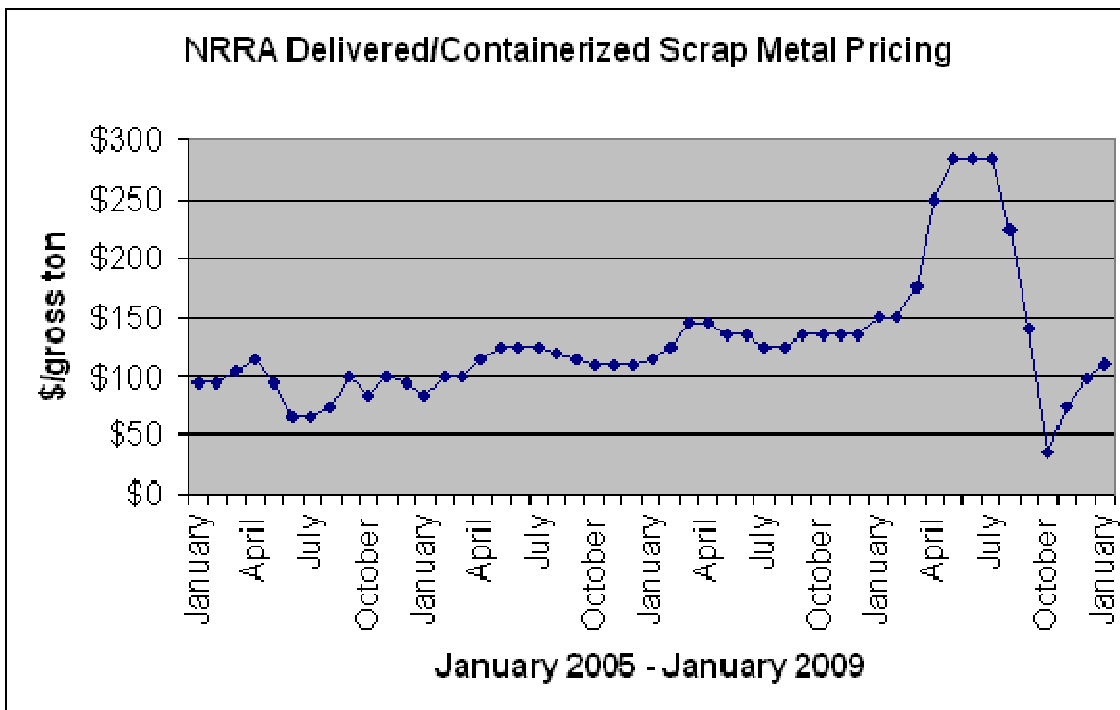
Weekly Market Comments from the Northeast Resource Recovery Association

Good Morning Folks

I must say that I was very encouraged by the feedback I received on the last (our first) weekly email. It seems this weekly update may satisfy a desire to have more open communication about recycling markets in the Northeast and I am happy to help provide that. As I continue with this please feel free to provide me with feedback, suggestions or ideas. I did also want to explain my sign off last week. I wrote %banks for the last three years+and more than a couple of you thought this meant that I was on my way out. That is not the case. I was just commenting on the fact that I celebrated my third anniversary working for this organization and I thank all you, the members and the board, for the opportunity to serve you.

Things continue to shape up with regards to the **fibers markets** as overseas demand picks up in the Chinese New Year. While at this point the Yellow Sheet is not out for February yet, actual prices are beginning to rise. We are seeing our vendors show signs of cautious optimism about stabilizing prices and recovering markets. Hopefully the bleeding is over as well as the negative numbers for mixed paper. Time to clear out.

Scrap metal pricing remains the brightest spot of all. As I mentioned in the last update, I was going to look at the current scrap prices and compare that with the scrap prices since my arrival here at the NRRA. Well, it was as I expected. While current pricing for delivered/containerized scrap metal will be at \$125/gross ton starting on Monday, the average price over my tenure has been \$128/gross ton. Not that far off. I mention this just to remind everyone that while we are no longer seeing the nearly \$300/gt prices that we saw in the summer of 2008, pricing for scrap is back in the range of normalcy believe it or not. Again though, as I said last week there is speculation this may be near the ceiling for some time. See the graph below for a visual



Slight increases in **plastics** are being seen this month and I hope it is a sign of more to come. Baled HDPE mixed color and natural are up a couple cents per pound to the high single digits for color and low teens for Natural. As of this writing, I still have no word on PETE but don't expect dramatic changes. In time, this will translate into the recovery of pricing for **commingled containers** which we eagerly await.

For any of you that missed itō A while back the New York Times had an article on the recycling markets that I thought well explained what was going on. Interesting read if you get a secondō http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/business/08recycle.html?_r=1&hp.

Stayed tuned for more information on our upcoming **Conference and Expo** to be held June 8th and 9th, 2009. This will be our 28th event and as you may have heard, we will be holding it in Manchester, NH this year. Please visit our website, www.nrra.net, for more information. See you there.

Sincerely..and here's to another three years..Adam

Adam Clark
Operations
Northeast Resource Recovery Association
2101 Dover Road
Epsom, NH 03234
Office: 603-736-4401
Cell: 603-988-7459
Fax: 603-736-4402
aclark@nrra.net
www.nrra.net