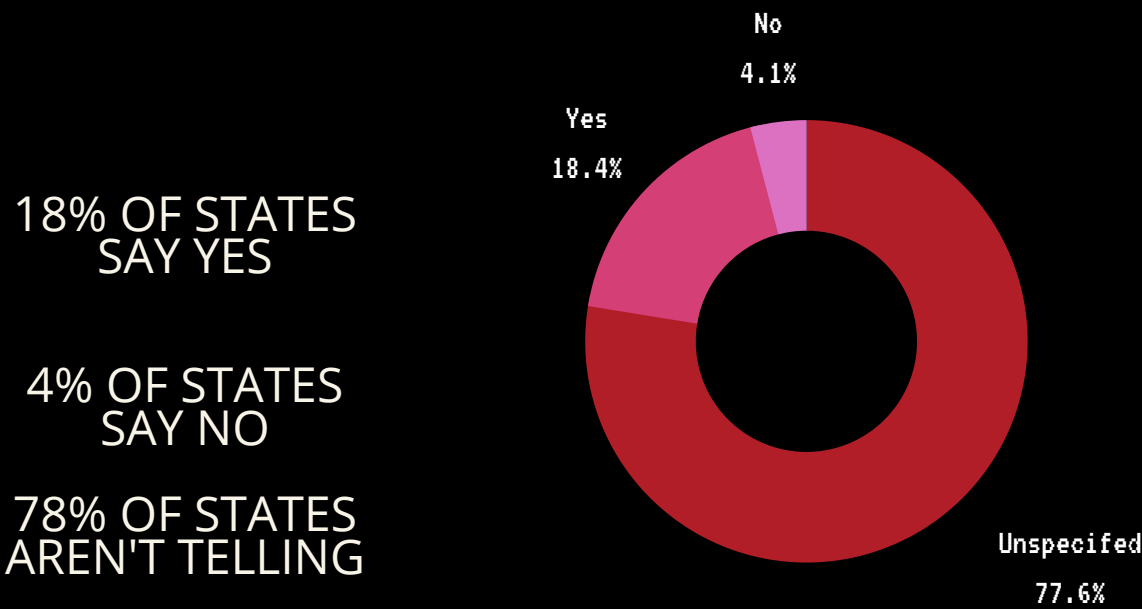


DEFINITION DILEMMA

A look at the varying recycling definitions in the U.S.

Of the 49 states that have recycling definitions, EREF identified **18 DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS!** States use these when creating their waste reduction goals and measuring to see if they met their goals.

PREVALENT POINT OF CONFUSION IN STATE DEFINITIONS: DOES RECYCLING INCLUDE COMPOSTING?



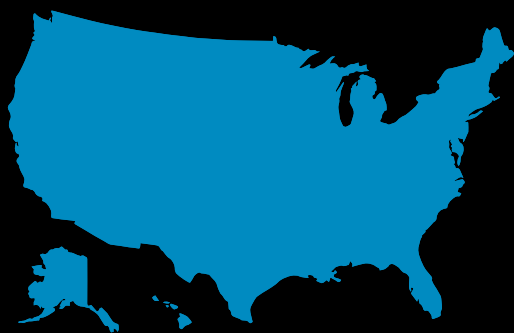
SOME STATES INCLUDE ENERGY PRODUCTION & REUSE IN THEIR RECYCLING DEFINITIONS



2 STATES



29 STATES



WHILE 49 STATES HAVE RECYCLING DEFINITIONS, 43 STATES HAVE SET RECYCLING, DIVERSION OR WASTE REDUCTION GOALS



NEARLY HALF OF THESE ARE DEFINED AS RECYCLING GOALS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Without a standardized definition, measuring state goals is like comparing apples and oranges. Different definitions mean inconsistent measurement, as well as confused consumers. EREF is working with other organizations, like the US EPA, to standardize this definition.

FOR MORE ON RECYCLING DEFINITIONS, [CLICK HERE!](#)