

RECYCLING AS PART OF INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

SWANA defines recycling as follows:

The collection, sorting, marketing, processing, and transforming or remanufacturing of Recyclable Materials into Recycled Materials and Recycled Products, including marketing thereof; and the purchase and use of Recycled Products.

Policy

SWANA supports

- Solid waste recycling programs which are a part of an integrated solid waste management system that includes the diversion, recovery and recycling of materials from the solid waste stream.
- Recycling programs that lead to the maximum recovery and utilization of materials from solid waste into new products.
- Recycling programs that are subject to provincial, state and local government permits, licenses, rules and regulations.
- Recycling programs that are consistent with good economic practices.
- The efforts of industry, business, government and individuals to recycle.
- Recycling programs that protect worker safety, human health and the environment.
- Product stewardship policies (see SWANA Policy T-2.1) that promote cooperation between manufacturers and all stakeholders involved in product recycling.
- Conversion Technologies (see SWANA Policy T-11) that are compatible with recycling and source reduction efforts as part of a community's integrated solid waste management system.
- Organics Management practices (see SWANA Policy T-7) that are compatible with recycling and source reductions efforts as part of a community's integrated solid waste management system.
- Waste-to-Energy technologies (see SWANA Policy T-8) that recover energy from wastes in a manner compatible with recycling and source reduction efforts as part of a community's integrated solid waste management system.

SWANA encourages institutions, governments [provinces, states, local, nations], and individuals to promote initiatives that establish recycling as a part of an integrated solid waste management system. Such initiatives should be consistent with an integrated solid waste management system, as follows:

Industry, Business and Institutional Recycling Initiatives

Industries, businesses and institutions should implement solid waste recycling initiatives which:

- Establish recycling programs consistent with, and in conformance with, local government integrated solid waste management plans
- Use purchasing power to purchase products that contain recycled materials,
- Adopt business practices which promote the diversion of materials from the solid waste stream,
- Address, through design and production, the utilization of secondary materials in the manufacture of products and materials.
- Establish diversion programs consistent with economic analyses, to maximize the diversion and recovery of materials from their solid waste streams for recycling.

- Establish intermediate processing facilities, or secure the services of intermediate processing facilities, to process and prepare diverted materials.
- Provide opportunities to divert recyclable materials produced as a result of its operations, processes, or employees.
- Establish protocol to regularly monitor its practices to identify new materials for diversion and recycling.
- Encourage the adoption of policies that promote recycling in purchasing, contracting, and other business practices.
- Establish programs to take back products for producer recycling.
- Establish or support alternative technologies for processing of materials.
- Support local, state or federal initiatives to restrict or ban products from disposal, consistent with SWANA Policy T-3.6 Solid Waste Disposal Bans.

Federal Government Recycling Initiatives

SWANA supports the following actions by national governments to stimulate increased diversion and recycling of materials diverted from solid waste:

- Identify funding sources for mandated programs.
- Assure uniformity in specifications for secondary materials and products made from secondary materials.
- Assure interstate and international consistency in the movement of primary and secondary materials.
- Foster materials use practices that stimulate markets for recyclables.
- Foster the development of markets for new materials diverted and recovered from the various solid waste streams through economic and regulatory incentives and disincentives.
- Implement policies for the purchase of recycled material content products.
- Require federal agencies to meet the same waste reduction goals required of state and local jurisdictions.
- Establish national recycling goals.
- Promote public education to stimulate industry, business, institutions, government and individual support of recycling.
- Adopt product stewardship policies for products and packaging consistent with SWANA Policy T-2.1, and that provide incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.
- Consider adopting extended producer policies for products that are difficult to recycle and/or for which there is no existing infrastructure for collection and/or processing.
- Promote recycling as a means to stimulate development of green industry and green jobs.
- Monitor and report on the progress of recycling initiatives and mandates, and periodically evaluate the need for enhancements and/or modifications.
- Promote research and development of alternative technologies for processing of materials,
- Establish reuse initiatives.
- Adopt legislation to ban products that, when used or disposed of improperly, can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Provincial and State Government Recycling Initiatives

Provincial and state governments should implement programs for the diversion and recycling of materials from solid waste with initiatives which:

- Establish uniformity in specifications for secondary materials and products made from secondary materials.
- Foster materials use practices that stimulate new markets for recyclables.
- Foster the development of markets for new materials diverted and recovered from solid waste through economic and regulatory incentives and disincentives.
- Establish provincial/state diversion goals, either voluntary or mandatory diversion rates, for recycling from public and private generators, systems and solid waste facilities.
- Require provincial/state agencies to meet the same diversion goals established for local jurisdictions.
- Assist businesses and industries in the assessment and development of recycling programs.
- Provide technical assistance programs for industry, businesses, institutions, local governments and individuals to assist them in planning and implementing solid waste recycling programs.
- Sponsor pilot projects to demonstrate the efficacy of new recycling programs and to generate increased support for recycling programs.
- Provide information through clearinghouses about solid waste recycling programs, methods and initiatives.
- Provide grants and loans to stimulate new solid waste recycling programs, where practical.
- Identify funding sources for mandated programs.
- Implement policies for the purchase of products containing recycled materials.
- Support public education to stimulate industry, business, institutions, government, and individual support of recycling.
- Establish rules, regulations and permits for the siting, design and operation of recycling facilities.
- Adopt product stewardship policies for products and packaging that are consistent with SWANA Policy T-2.1, and that provide incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.
- Consider adopting extended producer policies for products that are difficult to recycle or for which there is no existing infrastructure for collection and/or processing.
- Promote research and development of alternative technologies for processing of materials.
- Establish reuse initiatives.
- Adopt legislation to ban products that, when used or disposed of improperly, can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Local Government Recycling Initiatives

Local governments should implement economically feasible solid waste recycling initiatives which:

- Assist businesses and industries to establish diversion and recycling programs.
- Establish short- and long-term diversion goals for recycling, consistent with economic, technological and market analyses, and within an integrated solid waste management plan.
- Establish, or foster the establishment of solid waste recycling programs that implement the diversion goals of integrated solid waste management plans.
- Establish regulations and ordinances that require developers to incorporate recycling design considerations into new developments.
- Establish regulations and ordinances that require developers to incorporate practices that help achieve mandatory diversion rates for recycling of construction debris.
- Require solid waste management private sector service providers to prescribe to the diversion goals established in integrated solid waste management plans.
- Establish programs for the diversion and utilization of yard trimmings and food scraps from all generators.

- Promote the recycling of textiles and other durable goods.
- Provide public education programs to support volunteer participation in local government sponsored recycling programs.
- Establish, or foster, the establishment of, collection and drop-off programs for recyclable materials.
- Establish, or foster the establishment of, or secure the services of, intermediate processing facilities to process the materials diverted from solid waste within their jurisdiction.
- Establish public education programs to promote and advance the ethic of recycling.
- Adopt a procurement policy for recycled content materials.
- Require recycling in all vendor contracts for products and services.
- Monitor progress in meeting recycling goals and publish the results.
- Periodically evaluate recycling programs for modifications and enhancements.

Educational Initiatives to Promote Individual Recycling/Reduction Programs

Educational programs targeting individuals should contain the following solid waste recycling/reduction concepts:

- Leaving grass cuttings on the lawn.
- Participating fully in local government sponsored recycling programs.
- Purchasing habits that result in the generation of less solid wastes.
- Educating children to instill the solid waste recycling ethic.
- Purchasing products that are recyclable and that are made with recycled content materials.
- Incorporating recycled content building materials into development or renovation projects.,
- Supporting extended producer policies for hard to recycle materials or for products for which there is no existing infrastructure for collection and/or processing.
- Looking for opportunities to establish markets to recycle or reuse materials that are typically difficult to recycle or have limited recycling infrastructure or reuse potential.
- Supporting and participating in research and development of alternative technologies for processing of materials.

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Richard Allen
International Secretary

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