

**RECYCLING AS PART OF INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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**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.

Approved by the International Board  
On December 27, 2013



Richard Allen  
International Secretary

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