



## ***America Recycles Day Recycling Summit***

**“Building a More Resilient System Together”**

**Event Date:** November 15, 2018

**Time:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**Location:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 20460  
William Jefferson Clinton (WJC) South Room 3000

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### **Background**

The recycling system in the U.S. is facing several significant challenges: many American consumers see recycling as the best way to help the environment, and with the best intentions place recyclable items in the trash and non-recyclable items in the bin; recent international policy changes have reduced available markets; and the infrastructure has not kept pace with the evolution of materials. Outreach and education strategies for consumers, local and state governments as well as other applicable stakeholders on how to properly manage materials at end-of-use will improve the quality of materials entering the system for processing. Enhancing infrastructure and innovative processes that can recover materials in parallel with developing markets that can utilize these recovered materials will create jobs, reduce littering and other environmental impacts, and improve overall quality of life.

### **America Recycles Day Summit Overview**

On November 15, 2018, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm, at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC, Acting Administrator Wheeler will host a group of senior level executives in a dialogue to discuss the current challenges and opportunities with the recycling system in the United States. The invitees will include representatives from local and state governments, the recycling industry, and manufacturers and brands that rely on recycled feedstocks in the U.S. The Summit also will provide EPA the opportunity to hear how they envision we can work together to address these issues. The Summit will culminate with an agreement by the participating executives and EPA to work together moving forward. In preparation for this event, EPA will host a planning meeting at the Resource Recycling conference in St. Louis, MO, on October 22, as well as two informational webinars in late October and early November. More information on each planning event is provided below.

### **Resource Recycling Planning Meeting**

Since many participating organizations will be in attendance, the Resource Recycling conference is an opportunity to continue our discussions on how we will work together moving forward. The meeting will take place on **Monday, October 22, from 2:00pm – 5:00pm Central Time, in Mills Studio 3, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch.** Our goal for the meeting is to finalize the path forward in advance of the November 15th signing event. Brandon Bray of EPA ([Bray.Brandon@epa.gov](mailto:Bray.Brandon@epa.gov); 703-308-7253) will be sending out a meeting invitation will be your EPA point of contact for the Resource Recycling meeting. We will send out more information about the meeting, including a draft agenda, the week of October 15th. **Please accept or decline the meeting to RSVP by Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Informational Webinars**

EPA will hold two informational webinars for participants in the November 15th event. Suzanne Boxman of EPA ([Boxman.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Boxman.Suzanne@epa.gov); 703-347-8169) will be sending out calendar invitations for the webinars and will be your EPA point of contact for the webinars.

- **Friday, October 19, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm ET:** The first informational webinar will take place in advance of Resource Recycling. We will provide additional background information, introduce you to representatives from other organizations participating in the event, and share additional details about the Resource Recycling meeting and 11/15 event. Click here to join on the scheduled date and time: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/rqylevr1bu9t/>
- **Friday, November 2, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm ET:** This webinar is for those who are unable to participate in the Resource Recycling meeting in St. Louis. During this webinar, we will provide updates and share final 11/15 event details. Click here to join on the scheduled date and time: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/rqylevr1bu9t/>

## **Stakeholder Outreach and Draft Commitment Development**

Over the last several months, EPA has met with stakeholders, including recyclers, brands, industry associations, and state and local government associations, through one-on-one conversations and small roundtable conversations at recent conferences. These dialogues helped us identify key issues and ways EPA can support our stakeholders' efforts. We heard your suggestions for actions needed and have developed a draft joint commitment statement as well as potential commitments stakeholders, including EPA, can make within four draft action areas. We will be discussing these action areas and draft commitments during the Resource Recycling meeting on October 22 and the informational webinars on October 19 and November 2.

### **DRAFT JOINT COMMITMENT STATEMENT**

On this America Recycles Day, November 15, 2018, We, the undersigned, commit to working together to identify solutions to address the critical issues facing our recycling system in the U.S.

#### **ACTION AREA 1: Education & Outreach**

*Recycling is strong. A national conversation is needed on how to best educate the public how to recycle right. Outreach and education strategies for consumers, local and state governments as well as other applicable stakeholders on how to properly manage materials at end-of-use will improve the quality of materials entering the system for processing.*

*Commitments may include:*

- Working together (such as through task forces or working groups).
- Supporting a national PR campaign with agreed-upon common messages.

#### **ACTION AREA 2: Enhancing Materials Management Infrastructure**

*Rapidly evolving materials streams and aging materials management infrastructure are leading to inefficient use of domestic resources. New investments in infrastructure will help meet the nation's materials management needs and foster a more resilient solid waste system capable of withstanding pressures from disruptions. Commitments may include:*

- Facilitating communication between different stakeholders across the system.
- Stimulating investment to improve, enhance, and expand solid waste management infrastructure.

#### **ACTION AREA 3: Strengthening Secondary Materials Markets**

*The rise of import bans on recycled materials has stressed the need to improve domestic markets for recycled materials, as well as to better integrate recycled materials and end-of-life management into product and packaging designs. The goal is to help produce products that are of high-quality and are free of contaminants. Commitments may include:*

- Using end markets and established materials recovery facility capabilities to identify recyclables that can be included in recycling programs.
- Increasing the dialogue with materials recovery facilities (MRFs) to inform the design and production of new products, including packaging.

#### **ACTION AREA 4: Enhancing Measurement**

*Stakeholders across industries agree that more consistent measurement methodologies are needed for waste issues. There is also a common recognized need for agreed upon definitions for important terms that can then be communicated consistently within industry and to the public. Commitments in this area may include:*

- When publishing information on recycling, promoting transparency by including definitions and methodologies.
- Fostering common measurement approaches and definitions of recycling and recovery across the country.

## **Recycling Summit Draft Invitee List**

Below is the list of organizations invited to the November 15<sup>th</sup> Recycling Summit. We expect approximately 25-30 organizations to attend. Please note that the Summit will be one of a series of events over the next year. There will be additional opportunities for organizations to participate in future events. Not participating in the November event does not preclude an organization from joining the effort and committing to be a part of the solution.

### **Environmental Non-Profit Organizations**

- National Recycling Coalition
- Northeast Recycling Council
- Southeast Recycling Development Council
- California Resource Recycling Association
- Keep America Beautiful

### **Industry Non-Profits/Trade Associations**

- Solid Waste Association of North America
- Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- Steel Recycling Institute
- Aluminum Association
- Glass Recycling Coalition
- American Forestry and Paper Association
- Association of Plastic Recyclers
- American Chemistry Council
- Plastics Industry Association
- World Resources Institute

### **Foundations/Funders**

- Recycling Partnership
- Closed Loop Fund Partners
- US Chamber of Commerce Foundation

### **Recycling and Waste Management Companies**

- Waste Management, Inc.
- Republic Services
- GreenBlue

### **Corporations/Brands**

- Proctor & Gamble
- McDonalds
- Coca-Cola
- PepsiCo
- Nestle Waters of North America
- Target
- Walmart
- Unilever
- Mars
- Amazon
- UPS
- Keurig Dr. Pepper
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Starbucks
- FedEx
- Ameripen
- DOW Chemical Company

### **Federal Government**

- Council for Environmental Quality
- Department of Energy's REMADE Institute
- Federal Trade Commission
- Food and Drug Administration

### **State Governments/Associations**

- Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials
- Environmental Council of States
- National Governors Association

### **Local Governments/Associations**

- National Association of Counties
- US Conference of Mayors
- National League of Cities
- Washington, D.C., Department of Energy and Environment
- New York City, Department of Sanitation