NORTH CAROLINA

RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

Making a Difference

a policy guide book of the

North Carolina Recycling Association

prepared by the

NCRA Policy Committee

March 1994

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We have had a tremendous group involved with the policy committee this year. They have poured themselves into the commitment to make a difference in charting the course of recycling in North Carolina. Committee members who have contributed to the discussion that made this guide book possible are:

Tom Allen, GDS
John Bonitz, UNC-Greensboro
Randy Bowen, Law Companies
Phil Carter, Wake County Solid Waste
Katherine Foote, NC DEHNR, Office of Waste Reduction
Michael Green, Cohen & Green Salvage Co.
Rob Mellinger, NCRA
Robert McIntyre, Davidson County Solid Waste
John Payne, Lee County Solid Waste
Julian Railey, Ball-InCon Glass Packaging Corp.
Cary Saul, Mecklenburg Co. Engineering
Michael Shore, UNC
Bobbi Tousey, NCRA

Randy, Katherine, Rob, and Bobbi deserve special recognition for the long hours spent on the special drafting subcommittee trying to come up with real and meaningful policy statements and addressing their ramifications. Also, the Composting Council, the Market Development Council, the Education and Outreach Committee, and the Policy Subcommittee for Minimum Content and Procurement Issues provided review of sections V, IX, X, and XI; respectively, to assure that these policies are consistent with those of other groups within the NCRA.

It is very important to recognize the National Recycling Coalition for their contribution to this work. This guide book was based on the *NRC Policy Positions* document which was the result of years of consensus building.

I am indebted to my staff: Christy Kroeger, who took the NRC document and "North Carolina-ized" it to serve as a starting point; Jill Wright for her editorial work on early drafts; and Amelia Randolph for her tireless editing and proofing of draft after draft.

Finally, I would like to thank the NCRA Board of Directors, outgoing president Bob Stebbins, and executive director Bobbi Tousey for the tremendous confidence and support they have given me and the policy committee in undertaking this and other projects this year. You have made a difference!

Philip Prete, Chair
Policy Committee

Printed double-sided on recycled paper, naturally.

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PREFACE

This NCRA policy guide book is the outcome of efforts of the NCRA policy committee over the past year to facilitate on-going and future policy discussions on issues related to recycling. The work represented here is a direct response to a charge by the NCRA Board of Directors to develop positions on issues facing the recycling industry, and is a first step toward presenting the backdrop for the NCRA Board and membership to promote policies to enhance recycling in North Carolina. The policy committee presents this discussion as a snapshot of current understanding of the issues.

Making a Difference is conditional: it only will make a difference if read and discussed. The targeted audiences are tri-fold:

First, the document is intended to provide a basis for the NCRA staff, Board of Directors, and NCRA members to present a unified voice when discussing issues with co-workers, neighbors, peers, and policy makers. Many issues such as flow control are not included here due to divergent opinions amongst various sectors of the membership. Other issues that are just emerging have been set aside for future discussions to capture a consensus that can be folded into this format. Even polices we have put forward are likely to stimulate debate and disagreement that will lead to new statements that retract or strengthen those presented here. Starting to get the idea?

Secondly, we hope to reach an audience that is most critical if we are to transform talk into action - policy makers and opinion leaders at the state and local level. These are the folks that are currently reacting to pressures from their various constituents, often with less than adequate information. NCRA has been asked for our opinion on various issues in the past, but due to the structure of the organization, answers often came long after the critical time period or not at all. This guide book will be widely distributed to those who are charting the policy course to answer some of their questions and increase the likelihood that our views are part of an informed decision-making process.

Finally, we realize the value of this document as a model for other state recycling organizations (SROs) across the country. Apart from the California Resource Recovery Association, our committee is not aware of any other SRO that has produced a tool of this nature. The NCRA policy guide book will be made available to other SROs for use in fraiming policies befitting their state.

Keep in mind that this guide book is only a starting point. It is intended to be a "fluid" document that will evolve as the issues and our understanding of them change. The label "guide book" was intentionally chosen to emphasize its role in guiding discussions and education on the issues.

The policy committee provided relevant committees, councils, and the entire board with several opportunities to review these written materials. The guide book has been through numerous revisions to incorporate comments that were received by all who reviewed it. The guide book has been formally endorsed in its entirety by the NCRA Board of Directors as consistent with the policies and mission of the organization.

NCRA members are invited to provide feedback on these issues through the policy committee. The committee is always ready to receive newcomers. The diversity of the issues addressed assures that discussions of interest to all will take place in the coming year and beyond. In addition, the policy committee welcomes written comments regarding the position taken on any of these issues.

As an NCRA member and/or opinion leader of the state, please give this material your careful consideration, as it will become the basis for policy recommendations brought forth by the NCRA and the foundation for future discussions as these and other issues unfold.

The next step is to put it to work. ***If*** we carry this guide book into the decision-making process; use it to educate folks on the issues; and set it as a foundation on which to build future policy discussions, it will make a difference.

I. BASIC RECYCLING PRACTICES

Rationale:
A goal of the NCRA should be to reduce waste production and then maximize recycling as an integral part of waste and resource management. This reduction-recycling approach will achieve the benefits of resource and energy conservation, while setting a good example.

Policy

➢ **NCRA should adopt the following as standard business practices for all office staff, committees, and councils as feasible.**

1. Purchase reusable products.
2. Make two-sided copies.
3. Set standards and protocol for purchasing paper with recycled content and use paper containing the highest recycled content available within those guidelines.
4. Use only inks free of toxic components.
5. Use materials that can be readily reused or recycled.
6. Use only non-toxic cleaning products.
7. Purchase "window-less" envelopes and labels with only water soluble glues.
8. Route single memos rather than printing multiple copies.
9. Use electronic modes of communication whenever possible.
10. Invest funds only in environmentally responsible endeavors.
11. Use durable and/or recyclable tableware at all NCRA functions (meetings, conventions).
12. Provide recyclables collection for items used in the office and at NCRA functions.
13. Include a statement in Requests for Proposals that the NCRA prefers doing business with companies with similar waste reduction principles.
14. Also include a statement that proposals submitted should be printed on two-sided recycled / recyclable paper with removable, reusable bindings or staples.
15. Require that contractors use recycled paper (standard to be determined) for reports submitted to NCRA.

- **In addition to incorporating these practices into daily business, the NCRA should disseminate these standards as a model for other organizations through the R Word and through other media channels.**

- **State and local governments should make every reasonable effort to incorporate the following into routine business:**

1. Reduce, and reuse as much as possible.
2. Replace currently used products with recyclable or less toxic ones.
3. Summarize (quantitatively) purchasing patterns for reusable/recyclable items - identify potential suppliers to purchasing department.
4. Prepare a guide to purchasing recyclable/reusable products for all departments.
5. Make specifications requiring government construction projects that a minimum percentage of recycled materials are used.
6. Require in Municipal grants, contracts, etc. that all printed materials be on recycled paper and that reusable/recyclable items be used whenever practical.
7. Give special consideration to vendors who adopt a recycled products procurement policy applied throughout their company.

WASTE REDUCTION GOALS

Rationale:
Source reduction, recycling, and recovered material utilization can be encouraged at the local and state level through establishing goals. The goals will emphasize the importance of waste prevention and recycling to public and private sectors.

Policy

- **State agencies, local governments, and private industry should establish, track, and regularly update aggressive, achievable goals for source reduction, recycling, and recovered material utilization.**

II. MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

HIERARCHY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Rationale:
Source reduction, reuse, and recycling can conserve energy and natural resources, create employment opportunities, and conserve landfill space. Methods of managing discards that maximize the conservation of materials are preferable to techniques that do not recover materials, such as waste-to-energy facilities and sanitary landfilling.

Policy

- **The NCRA promotes placing high priority on conserving energy, natural resources, and landfill space through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting in preference to disposal.**

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS FOR WASTE REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

Rationale:
The National Recycling Coalition's (NRC) National Recycling Measurement Standards and Guidelines were created as an essential first step toward measuring local, state, and federal recycling rates.

Policy

- **North Carolina should adopt and promote the use of standardized solid waste definitions as developed by the NRC.**

- **All businesses and local governments in North Carolina should adopt standardized measurement techniques to facilitate statewide waste generation and reduction rates (NRC standards as basis).**

OPPORTUNITY TO RECYCLE LEGISLATION

Rationale:
Continued emphasis on recycling - not only residential waste, but also waste generated from commercial and industrial sources - is a significant part of prudent waste management. Increasing the recycling rate of such materials from the municipal solid waste stream will require additional opportunities for all citizens, businesses, and industries to recycle. The opportunity to recycle can be provided by private, public, and non-profit organizations or partnerships.

Policy

- **NCRA advocates legislation requiring municipalities to provide an opportunity to recycle for all residents, businesses, industries, and institutions within the service area.**

III. INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

STATEWIDE DATABASE ON RECYCLING CAPACITY

Rationale:
The North Carolina Recycling Association realizes the need to share information. Publicly accessible, computerized recycling data is needed to provide the tools for program planning, market development, and recycling industrial development. A significant amount of information exists in the state, but it is neither consolidated nor accessible.

Policy

- **NCRA should identify and catalogue statewide recycling data collection and dissemination activities.**
- **NCRA supports the establishment of a statewide database on existing and proposed recycling capacity, markets, specifications for recovered materials by grade, and projected supplies of materials.**

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Rationale:
Research, development, and transfer of technology is needed within industry, commerce and all levels of government for uses of recycled, recyclable, secondary and waste materials as the feed stock of industry. These technologies will result in less dependency on limited and virgin resources by promoting the use of renewable, reusable, and recyclable materials, as well as developing substitute feed stocks of secondary materials.

Policy

- **Technology and information transfer programs should make possible the transfer of information about existing/emerging recycling technologies, markets, and other allied resources and should include standardized definitions and specifications for application of materials and information on the value of materials.**
- **Uniform guidelines and specifications should be developed in conjunction with research and development work for all secondary commodities.**

IV. DESIGN FOR RECYCLING

CONSTRUCTION

Rationale:
Recycling is increasingly becoming an integral component of the nation's waste management system. The construction industry has a large role in reducing the waste stream, facilitating recovery and stimulating market development for recycled content building materials.

Policy

- **Local building codes and zoning ordinances should require new buildings, major renovations, and developments to provide for recycling, including incorporating appropriate space into the design phase.**
- **A waste management and reduction plan should be required for construction and demolition projects.**
- **Specifications for construction projects should specify recycled materials wherever practical.**
- **Building codes and specifications that inhibit "low-waste construction" should be identified and those barriers removed.**

V. COMPOSTING

Rationale:
Clean, source-separated compostables, such as leaves, grass clippings, brush, food scraps, and non-recyclable paper, represent a significant portion of the municipal solid waste stream. Composting is a viable strategy for reducing this portion of the waste stream.

Policy

- **NCRA Promotes the composting of the following materials as a preferred waste management strategy:**

  1. Leaves,
  2. Grass clippings,
  3. Brush,
  4. Food scraps,
  5. Non-recyclable paper,
  6. Agricultural waste,
  7. Sewage sludge, and
  8. Compostable industrial organisms.

- **NCRA supports the following program elements to promote composting in North Carolina:**

  1. Recognize backyard composting as a source reduction method,
  2. Support production and purchase of compost products,
  3. Recommend research into new applications for compost products, and
  4. Support development of standards for compost.

VI. CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Rationale:
In the past, manufacturers have had little or no incentive to consider the fate of a product after its useful life has ended, whether it is disposed, reused, or recycled. In addition, they have not typically designed products for recyclability, causing technical difficulties in materials collection and processing. On the other hand, consumers have purchased products or materials without regard to the costs of disposal that are paid after the intended use of the product.

Disposal costs should be borne, at least in part, at the production level, where design decisions are made. In this way, industries will be able to fully account for the effects of their products on the environment, and design their products and reduce packaging to minimize such effects. Consumers should be provided clear choices and educated as to the impact of their purchasing decisions. Only then will they be able to choose to purchase products with a full understanding of the costs of proper disposal.

Neither industry nor consumers alone can be expected to foot the entire bill for product and packaging disposal. However, there is a strong case for placing the emphasis on industry as a primary generator of solid waste. By encouraging industry to play a part in creating effective recycling solutions, manufacturing and distribution systems will become inseparable from disposal and recovery systems and make obsolete the current "extract and dump" strategy.

There is a growing movement among states to impose responsibility for the disposal of products on those who made the product initially. However, as each state imposes different standards for industrial responsibility, the resulting patchwork of regulations will create barriers to industrial compliance. National leadership, whether at the federal level or through coordinated state activities, is needed to set standards that will avoid these barriers.

Industrial and consumer responsibility must be linked to other market development strategies to create a comprehensive approach to the entire materials-consumption cycle. Whatever approach is chosen must be flexible with a realistic time frame so that industry will be able to make these significant changes without undue burden.

Policy:

- **The NCRA supports industrial responsibility for source reduction, recycling, and waste management and will promote a national dialog on the following policy options:**

  1. Utilization rates: should be established for those materials that can be readily incorporated into specific products.

  2. Shared Responsibility - a voluntary system under which industry accepts a significant financial and organizational role in waste reduction and recycling.

3. Manufacturer Responsibility: imposes the costs of waste management on manufacturers relative to their individual contributions to the waste stream.

4. Level the Playing Field: removing current subsidies on virgin materials would make recovered secondary materials more cost-competitive. Realistically this approach can only be implemented nationally.

5. National Minimum-Content Standards: establishes a recommended minimum amount of recovered materials in certain products - increasing over time.

6. National Materials Trust Fund: would place a fee on packaging, based on the external cost of its disposal; funds would be used as an incentive to use more recycled, recyclable, and reusable packaging.

- **Encourage meetings with industrial representatives to assess the feasibility of these strategies and develop a realistic, aggressive implementation schedule.**

- **Encourage the education of businesses on the intricacies of full cost accounting and total environmental quality management.**

- **The NCRA supports the concept that all costs of goods should reflect the true cost of their production. The NCRA will join in national efforts to achieve this goal through such mechanisms as:**

1. Repeal of tax and other policies favoring virgin material usage

2. Regulatory review of new products

3. Clarifying the liability of manufacturers for environmental costs associated with use or misuse of their products

4. Environmental labeling

5. Technical assessment of product impacts

6. Assessment of environmental and economic costs of waste management

7. Advance disposal fees (ADF) on specific hard-to-manage materials

- **In the long run, all costs of a product, including its true resource costs, costs of disposal alternatives, costs for public education, and product redesign incentives should be reflected in its price.**

VII. FINANCING RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION

AVOIDED COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS

Rationale:
As source reduction, recycling, and composting programs are instituted, costs of garbage collection and disposal are avoided by local governments. One of the most challenging aspects of changing local systems to foster source reduction and recycling is to allocate the avoided collection and disposal costs to fund these programs. Source reduction often has substantial benefits in product purchase and use patterns that occur outside the waste disposal system and are rarely accounted for.

Policy

- **The NRCA recommends that avoided collection and disposal costs be used to provide incentives for source reduction and for waste generators (including residents), collectors, landfill operators, processors, and end-users to reduce waste through recycling and/or composting.**

INVESTMENT

Rationale:
A substantial combination of public and private investments will be required to expand the recycling infrastructure to meet established and proposed waste reduction goals.

Policy

- **NCRA promotes the following to improve investment in waste reduction:**

  1. Financial institutions and other private Investors should be educated about demand for solid waste reduction investments.

  2. State programs should encourage investment by the private sector.

FULL COST AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FINANCING

Rationale:
Trash disposal has traditionally been priced at a fraction of its true cost. Furthermore, it is generally paid for through a flat fee that fails to account for the amount of waste generated or additional costs of disposal of certain materials such as white goods. Additionally, landfill tipping fees often do not reflect the true cost of disposal.

If established properly, fees for solid waste collection and disposal services can increase recycling and source reduction participation rates, cost effectiveness, public support, and project administration efficiency. Because effective economic incentives are not in place, materials that would be more cost effective to handle through source reduction, recycling or composting continue to be landfilled.

Policy

- **The NCRA promotes cost accountability in integrated solid waste management programs.**

  1. Costs of local source reduction, recycling and composting programs should be included as part of the cost of the overall solid waste system.

  2. Local programs should be operated on a cost recovery basis and should establish "enterprise funds" where appropriate.

  3. City or county ordinances that require general fund financing of solid waste should be revised to allow replacement or supplement by user fees.

  4. All local governments should report the full cost of their services to citizens, and should develop an educational program to inform citizens of the basis for solid waste management costs and what can be expected in the future.

- **NCRA promotes the equitable use of landfill tipping fees as a tool:**

  1. Landfill tipping fees should be set at or above replacement costs, based on the next generation of disposal technology, to encourage waste reduction and to assure that adequate resources are available for future disposal needs.

  2. Fees should be structured to provide incentives for "clean" loads; i.e., those that can be easily separated for recycling.

  3. Expenses for public education, research and development, and regulatory costs should be included when determining the full cost of solid waste services.

  4. Local solid waste management plans should foster rate restructuring and full disclosure to address these issues.

- **Variable rate user fees for refuse collection should be considered as an incentive to encourage residents and businesses to reduce the amount of material disposed.**

VIII. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - SUPPLY SIDE

Rationale:
Source-separated, recovered materials diverted from municipal solid waste (MSW) for which recycling markets exist should not be considered solid waste but rather as a source of supply for industrial raw materials. Recycling operations and facilities are more like other industrial operations than they are like solid waste disposal facilities.

Policy

- **Recycling operations and facilities should be regulated to protect public health and the environment.**

- **Regulations should be appropriate to specific types of operations or facilities.**

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Rationale:
Fiscal policies for solid waste management that discriminate against source reduction and recycling distort the role of market forces in determining the mix of waste management strategies employed by local governments and businesses. To supply materials to end users in sufficient quantities and at consistently high quality requires full funding of innovative, large-scale recycling programs. Improved financing mechanisms for recycling, such as contractually guaranteed delivery of materials and tipping fees at intermediate processing centers, can leverage greater private financing.

Policy

- **Establishing access to investment tools for recycling projects.**

1. Solid waste management investment decisions should include full, fair comparisons, including the assessed benefits of all options.

2. Investors should be provided with relevant information about supply and demand for the recyclable commodity when they are evaluating operations to make financing decisions.

3. Tax codes should be revised to make tax-exempt financing available for recycling endeavors.

4. Before issuing Requests for Proposals for capital facilities, local governments should have in place a comprehensive plan for managing all elements of the waste stream with appropriate recycling and waste reduction strategies reflecting the state waste management hierarchy, as well as local environmental and market considerations.

5. Local governments should offer to all waste management and recycling service providers the same financing mechanisms and risk protection measures.

6. In generating revenue for recycling systems, emphasis should be placed on revenue sources that are dedicated and secure.

COST-EFFECTIVE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Rationale:
As cities and businesses expand their recycling efforts, the existing network of recycling collectors, processors and markets is affected. All too often, materials are collected with consideration given only to landfill diversion, failing to take into account requirements of the end-use market. This tendency, and a reluctance to provide adequate budget for processing, result in inferior quality materials. These impacts need to be considered by program planners and policy makers.

Policy

➢ **NCRA promotes the following measures to develop a cost effective recycling infrastructure:**

1. Recycling collection systems should be designed to ensure their cost-effectiveness. Collection, processing, and end-use systems would be developed in parallel.

2. Incentives should be structured to benefit those who increase recycling in a service area.

3. Community-based, non-profit and for-profit recyclers should be supported and encouraged to expand and adapt to the evolving industry.

4. Feedback should be provided to encourage manufacturing processes and products that reduce levels of contaminants interfering with recycling process.

5. Technical information should be developed and disseminated to generators, collectors, and intermediate processors on methods to minimize contaminants.

MARKETING COOPERATIVES

Rationale:
Marketing cooperatives - collectives of small programs pooling resources to tackle market barriers - can supply the quantity and quality of materials necessary for marketing leverage and can encourage local and/or regional development of new industries to use recovered materials.

Policy

➢ **Marketing cooperatives should be established among interested cities, counties, regions, and companies.**

IX. MARKET / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEMAND SIDE

Rationale:
Solid waste managers and industries that use secondary materials hold common interests in maintaining market reliability, high quality standards for recovered materials, and regional cooperation among public and private development entities. The success of recycling depends on the use of recovered materials for the manufacture of useful products that re-enter the economy. Rapidly increasing collection of recyclable materials poses potential opportunities, including the creation of new jobs and economically competitive industries. The major goal of market development is to close the gap between the supply of and demand for recyclables.

Policy

- **Economic development, waste management and environmental protection authorities must work with private firms to advance, fund, and implement market development plans to strengthen markets for recovered materials.**

BUILDING A RECYCLED MATERIALS MANUFACTURING BASE

Rationale:
The viability of local recycling programs rests on the availability of markets for materials. Building a recycling manufacturing base will not only strengthen the demand for recycled materials, but it will also reinvest resources that contribute jobs and taxes to local economies.

Focusing on new, expanding industries will offer long-term growth potential for North Carolina. According to the National Development Council small- to medium-sized businesses are responsible for approximately 80% of all new job creation. Unfortunately, businesses of this size generlly face disadvantages in obtaining capital. Providing a source of capital for these small-to medium-sized businesses will encourage expansion and create jobs.

Recycling-based manufacturing is one of the few sectors of the economy that has been expanding in the past several years, despite a relatively deep recession. Recent trends in individual, corporate, and government purchasing show an increasing demand for recycled-content products, indicating that these industries are a future growth sector. Enhancing industries that use recovered materials will increase the demand for those materials, and spur the creation of new jobs on the supply side to meet those demands.

A traditional goal of economic development is to strengthen industries that will maintain a strategic advantage for North Carolina. Recycling-based manufacturing is such an industry. The recycling industry provides cost-effective investment of economic development dollars by creating quality manufacturing jobs at relatively low investment levels.

Policy

- **Financing tools and other incentives should be structured creatively to foster market development. These mechanism may include:**

  1. State-facilitated creation, expansion, and retention of innovative industries that utilize recyclable materials;

  2. Providing low interest, long-term loans to entrepreneurs and existing businesses for recycling-based ventures; and

  3. Public and private research and development funds.

- **The state should develop incentives (tax credits, grants, etc.) for manufacturers to produce goods with maximum feasible levels of recycled content.**

DEVELOPMENT OF STATE PORTS.

Rationale:
Recycled paper and scrap metals are two of the largest export commodities in the United States. Such export markets have helped to ensure the economic viability of recycling programs in proximity to major participating ports when others in the nation have struggled to find markets.

Policy:

- **The North Carolina State Ports Authority should examine opportunities for port development in shipping secondary materials to enhance potential for material recovery.**

X. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Rationale:
Education and outreach are required to foster rational decisions that increase waste reduction and recycling. Education and outreach information should be continually updated and easily accessible to private and public sectors, the media, and the general public.

Policy

- **NCRA should provide information to members and opinion leaders in industry and government. Vehicles for dissemination could include:**
  - Technical reports
  - Directories and reference manuals
  - Newsletters
  - Workshops, conferences, and training courses
  - Electronic networks
  - Displays at conferences and meetings
  - Presentations by NCRA Board members
  - Roundtables
  - Networking sessions
  - Committee and task force meetings
- **NCRA encourages state and local agencies and service providers to provide consistent, comprehensive, and coordinated promotion of waste reduction and recycling.**
- **NCRA should periodically review information and dissemination methods to evaluate effectiveness and adjust as needed.**
- **NCRA supports the development of a coordinated clearinghouse for waste reduction and recycling information.**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Rationale:
The public's cooperation and participation is critical to the success of recycling.

Policy

- **The NCRA supports involving the public in long-term solid waste management planning and decision-making. The NCRA will promote citizen action through press releases, PSAs, and educational materials as appropriate.**

K-12 RECYCLING CURRICULA

Rationale:
Source reduction and recycling curricula necessary for providing the foundation for action in future generations, are not adequately represented in the framework of environmental education in K-12 schools.

Policy

- **NCRA supports the development of integrated K-12 waste reduction / recycling curricula.**

  1. Coordinated statewide programs are needed to provide information to children at all levels on source reduction, recycling, and composting programs.

  2. Encourage schools to provide students with hands-on recycling opportunities.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY CURRICULA

Rationale:
Solid waste management suffers from a lack of qualified personnel to carry out the broad mandates of waste reduction and recycling. In business and industry, professionals are needed to maximize product durability, to accommodate recycling in building design, and procure recycled and low-waste materials. In government, professionals are needed to implement needed programs in source reduction, recycling, procurement and market development and shifting the traditional solid waste disposal system to an integrated waste management system.

Policy

- **NCRA supports the establishment of comprehensive university curricula related to integrated waste management and recycling.**

XI. PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT POLICIES IN STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

Rationale:
Recycled products generally are, or can become, competitive with virgin products in price and quality. They are becoming increasingly available as more manufacturers and vendors enter the marketplace and as the supply of secondary materials increases. The development of markets for recycled products is essential to the success of recycling and is a key element of a comprehensive approach to solid waste management and resource and energy conservation.

Government procurement represents more than ten percent (10%) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and therefore can have a significant effect on the demand for secondary materials by purchasing and using recycled products. State and local agencies also can influence private purchase of recycled products by setting an example through their purchases, testing products, establishing standards, and requiring similar standards of government contractors.

Recycled product procurement policies already exist in many places. State and local governments representing more than 88 percent of the U.S. population have established laws favoring purchase of recycled products. In addition, the federal government, whose purchases represent 6 to 8 percent of the GDP, is implementing Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, requiring agencies using federal funds to favor recycled products.

Policy

- **NCRA recommends that all state and local government agencies engage in practices and purchasing patterns that result in source reduction.**

- **NCRA recommends that all state and local government agencies establish programs to increase purchases of recycled products including:**

  1. Legislative, executive, and administrative commitment to buy recycled products.

  2. Using standardized specifications, definitions, and minimum content requirements allowing manufacturers to make a standard product and reduce unit costs.

  3. Eliminating barriers to recycled products in specifications.

  4. Requiring the highest percentage of recycled content feasible in products.

  5. Requiring purchasing agents to become educated recycled materials and products.

6. Encouraging cooperative purchasing programs among local governments and private organizations.

7. Providing incentives for buying recycled products.

8. Establishing annually increasing goals for state government agencies for the purchase of products having recycled content and for reducing product consumption, where feasible.

9. Requiring government contractors to include specifications for products having recycled content when bidding contracts.

10. Strengthening reporting requirements to assure that all government procurement agencies report total annual recycled product purchases.

11. Fostering cooperation between vendors and users to ensure that vendors can sell recycled products and that users are aware of recycled products on the market.

12. Publicizing results of these efforts and sharing information with others users.

NORTH CAROLINA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

The North Carolina Recycling Association was founded in 1988 and is comprised of over 500 members including local governments, businesses, nonprofits and private citizens working together to conserve our nation's resources through recycling and waste reduction. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, the NCRA is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors and currently employs five staff. It has become the leading voice for waste reduction and recycling in the state.

With the active involvement of its Board of Directors, standing committees , councils and volunteers, the NCRA is an organization with many significant accomplishments. Some of these include conducting an annual three day conference, development of a three day NC Training Program for County and Municipal Recycling Coordinators, developing a variety of educational workshops and seminars, quarterly publication of *The R-Word*, our nationally acclaimed newsletter, and coordination of a statewide campaign to increase the quality of recovered materials.

During 1992, four new NCRA councils were formed focusing on areas of special interest. The councils include The North Carolina Composting and Organics Recycling Council, The Rural Recycling Council, The Collegiate Recycling Council, The Household Hazardous Waste Council, and The Recyclables Market Development Council. These join the already formed Recycling Planners Coalition comprised primarily of local government recycling coordinators. In the upcoming year, a major emphasis will be to develop programs and policies which improve the economic sustainability of recycling by increasing the use of recovered materials, increasing the purchase of products with recycled content and spurring economic development related to recyclables.

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