National Recycling Strategy and Goals

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Recycling Challenges

Confusion About What can be Recycled

Outdated Recycling Infrastructure

Reduced Markets for Secondary Materials

Varied Measurement Methodologies

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America Recycles Network

- Over 270 U.S.-based organizations have signed the EPA's America Recycles Pledge

- *"My organization pledges to work together with EPA and the other America Recycles Pledge signatories to build on our existing efforts to address the challenges facing our nation's recycling system and to identify solutions that create a more resilient materials economy and protect the environment"*

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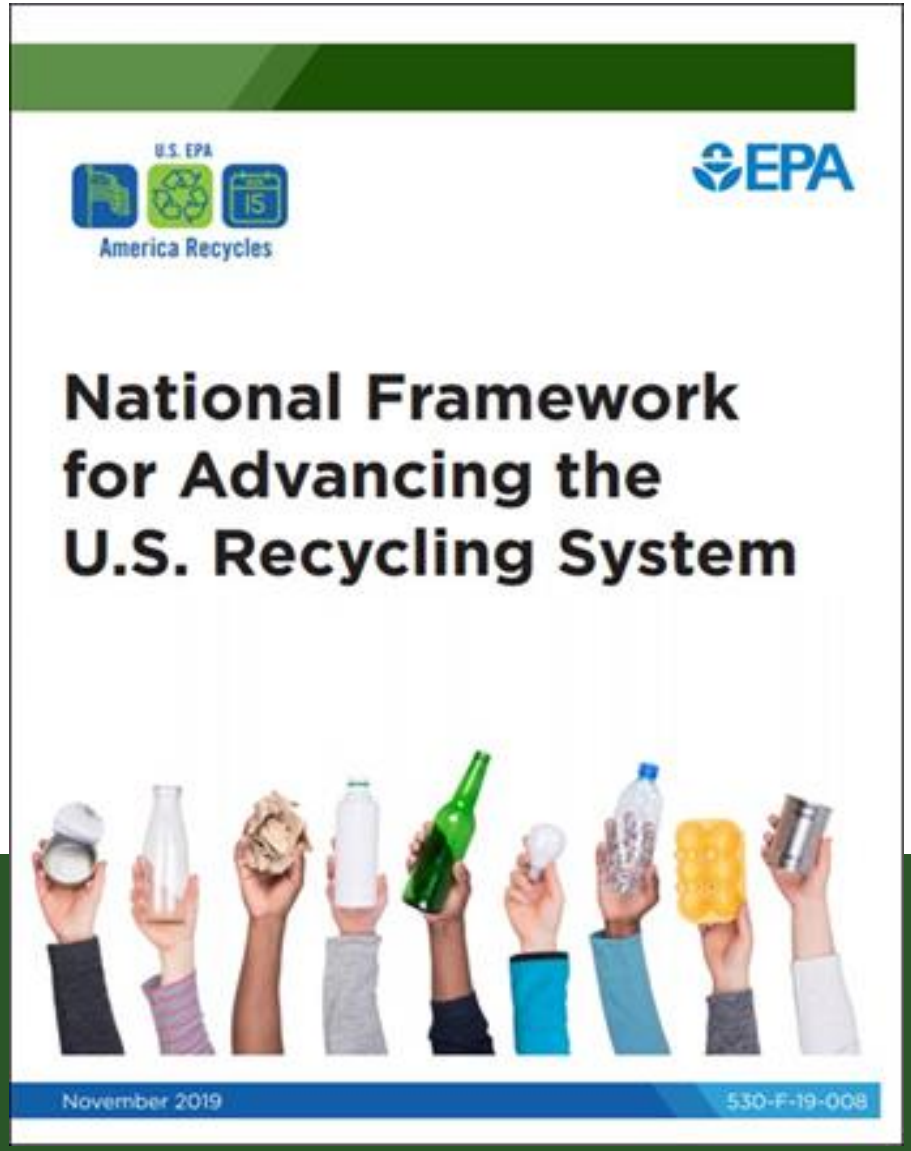
Developing the Draft National Recycling Strategy

- SMM Strategic Plan for 2017-2022
- National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System
- National Recycling Strategy
- National Recycling Goals
- Roadmap



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National Recycling Strategy Objectives

Objective 1: Reduce Contamination

Objective 2: Increase Processing Efficiency

Objective 3: Improve Markets

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Objective 1: Reduce Contamination in the Recycling Stream

1.1 Enhance education and outreach to consumers on the value of recycling and how to recycle properly.

1.2. Increase coordination, distribution and accessibility of information on recycling programs and policies at the federal, state, tribal and local levels.

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Objective 2: Increase Processing Efficiency

2.1. Improve understanding of available recycling infrastructure and needs.

2.2. Increase awareness of available public and private funding

2.3. Continue to fund research and development of new technologies and processes

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Objective 2: Increase Processing Efficiency

2.4. Increase consideration of the sorting process in the design of new products.

2.5. Develop and implement national recycling system definitions, measures, targets, and performance indicators.

Objective 3: Improve Markets

3.1. Conduct market development workshops and dialogues to spur market development

3.2. Produce an analysis of different types of end markets

3.3. Increase data availability and transparency about recyclable materials generated and the materials manufacturers need.

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Objective 3: Improve Markets

3.4. Increase manufacturing use of feedstocks in the regions where they are generated.

3.5. Increase demand for recycled materials through policies, programs, initiatives, and incentives, focusing on materials with less mature markets.

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Opportunity for Comment

- **Which actions are the most important?**
  - **In general?**
  - **For the federal government?**
- **What are the key steps to successfully implement these actions?**
- **Are we missing any actions?**
- **Are you willing to lead and collaborate with others to implement the actions?**
  - **What factors are important in making that decision?**
- **Additional information or recommendations?**

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Deadline for comments is December 4th!

Find the Strategy at:

epa.gov/AmericaRecycles

Next Steps

- 60-day public comment period closes December 4th
- Highlight Strategy during America Recycles Week 2020
- Finalize Strategy in Spring 2021
- Develop roadmap

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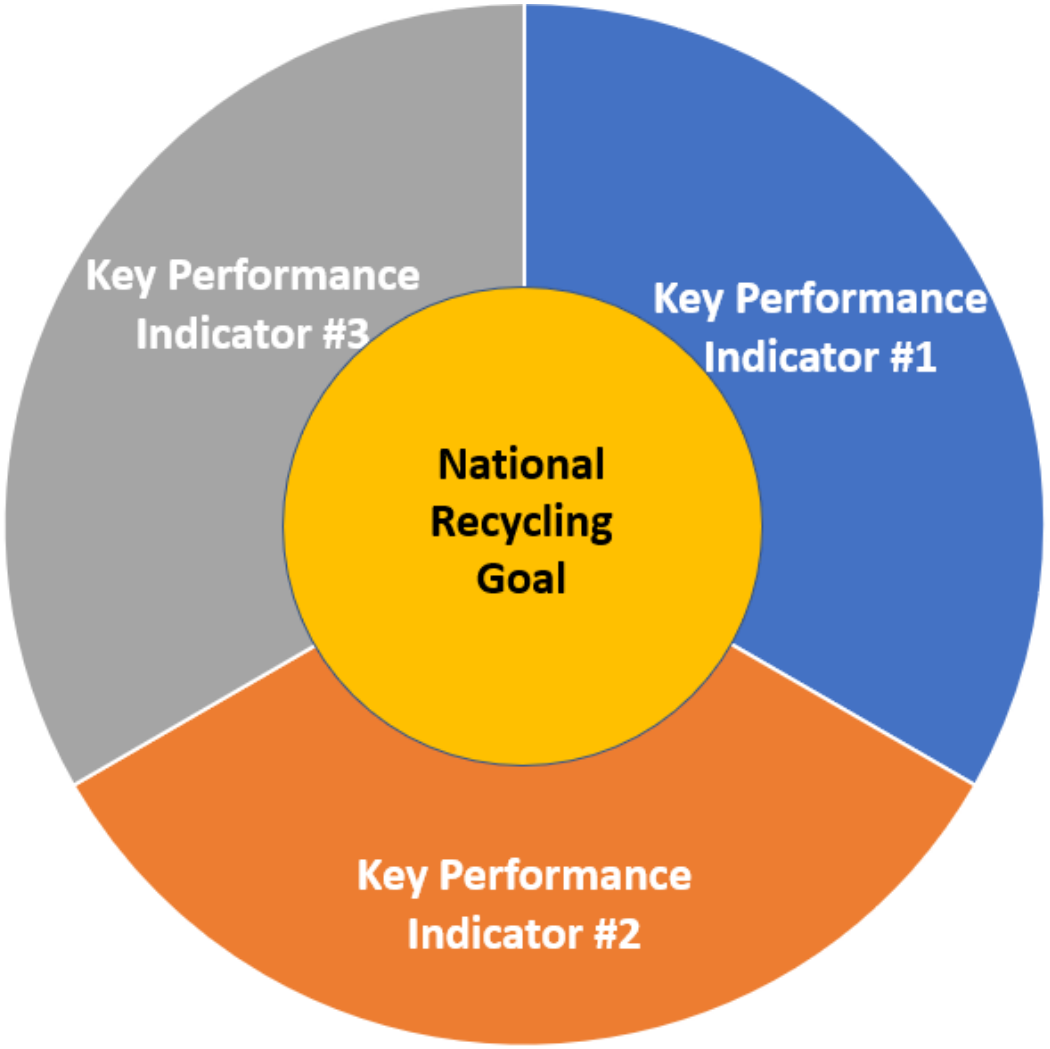
Developing National Recycling Goals

Recycling Strategy Objectives

Measurement Approach



National Recycling Goals

Potential System-wide Performance Measures

- **Recycling Rate**: The percentage of the total amount of discarded or used materials generated that are utilized as feedstock for the manufacture of new products.
- **Recycling Access Rate:** The percentage of households that have access to recycling on par with trash collection services.
- **Participation Rate:** The percentage of eligible users regularly using a recycling service.
- **Recycling Jobs:** The number of jobs supported directly and indirectly by the recycling industry, including upstream supply chain economic activities.
- **Capture Rate:** The percentage of recyclable material generated that are recycled.
- **Recyclables Landfilled:** The tonnage of recyclable materials landfilled.

Potential Indicators

- Reducing Contamination in the Recycling Stream
- Increasing Processing Efficiency
- Strengthening Markets

National Recycling Goals
Next Steps- Fiscal Year 2021

- **November 17, 2020**
  - Announce national recycling goals
- **November 2020 – April 2021**
  - Develop standards for calculating national goals
  - Establish baselines for national goals
- **April 2021 – November 2021**
  - Develop roadmap to quantify how actions in the final strategy help reach national goal

SAVE THE DATE

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EPA's 2020 America Recycles Events

America Recycles: Innovation Fair - Monday, November 16
America Recycles: Summit - Tuesday, November 17

These events are free, online, and open to the public.
Register at www.epa.gov/americarecycles

EPA at 50

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Questions?

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