



EPA National Recycling Strategy and Infrastructure Law Funding Overview:

Recycling Infrastructure Education and Outreach

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Sustainable Materials Management

Why Are We Here Today?

- Share information about the transition to a Circular Economy and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the National Recycling Strategy, and grant opportunities related to recycling infrastructure and education
- Share highlights from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program
 - Model Recycling Program Toolkit
 - Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program
 - Battery Collection Best Practices
 - Battery Labeling Guidelines



Background on EPA's Circular Economy Efforts

Drivers and Strategies

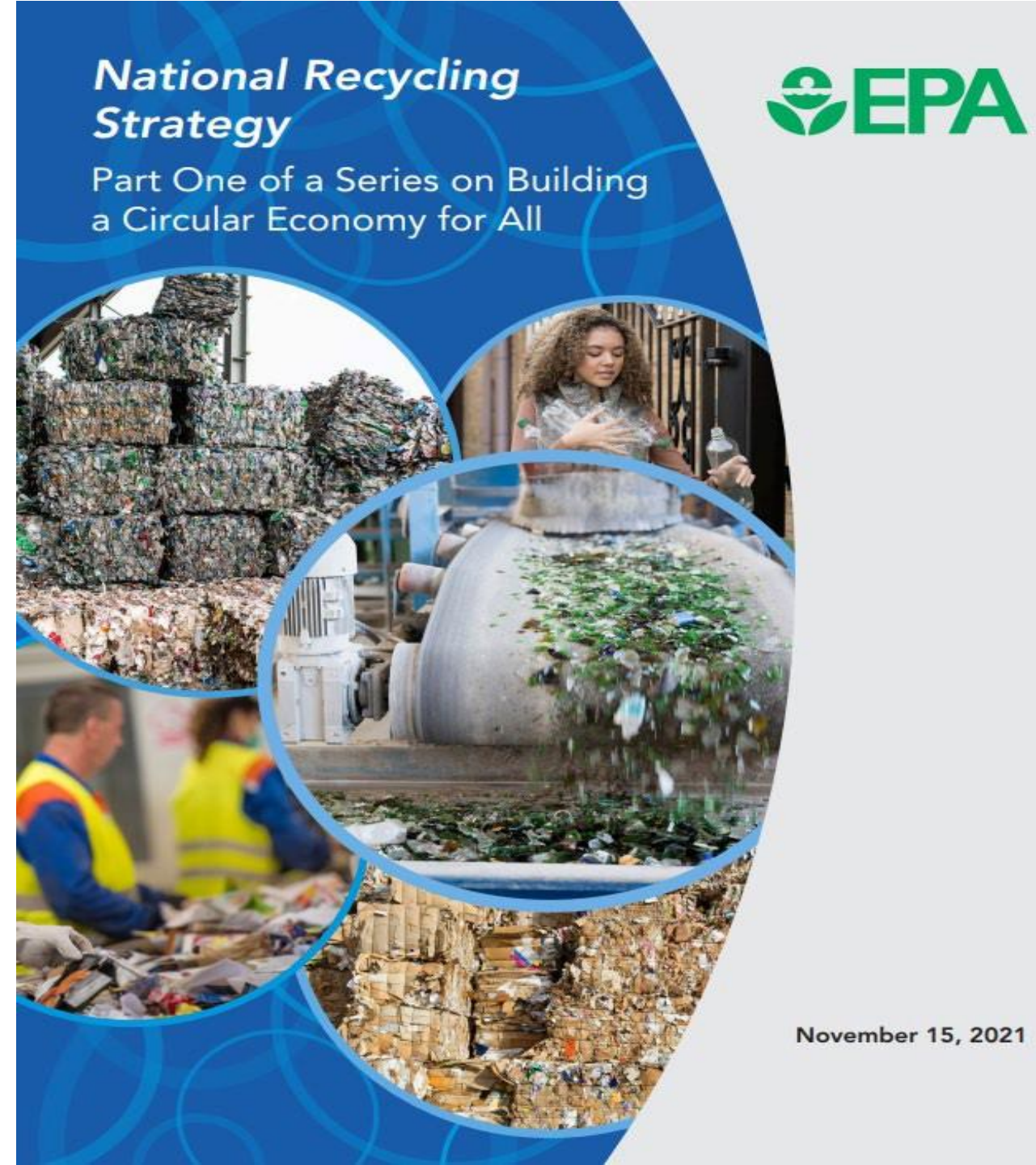
Key Drivers Shaping EPA's Material Management Work

- 25 national legislative proposals related to recycling and food waste reduction
- EPA directed to:
 - Develop recycling strategy (2020)
 - Develop plastics strategy and several reports on plastics (Save our Seas Act - 2020)
 - Collect data on recycling and single-use plastics (2021)
 - Issue grants and undertake other efforts to support recycling in communities (Infrastructure Bill - 2021)



National Recycling Strategy Released on America Recycles Day

November 15, 2021



November 15, 2021

Scope of National Recycling Strategy

- Focuses on enhancing the national municipal solid waste (MSW) or “household” recycling system
- Identifies stakeholder-led actions to create a stronger, more resilient, more equitable and more cost-effective MSW recycling system
- Acknowledges recycling is only one part of what is needed to achieve a circular economy
- Commits EPA to developing additional strategies (plastics, food waste/organics, electronics)



Circular Economy Strategy Series



What is the Infrastructure Grant Program?

Total Funding: \$275M

\$55 million per year from FY22-FY26

Grant Program Goals:

Support improvements to recycling programs, post-consumer materials management, and waste management infrastructure

What is the Purpose of the Infrastructure Grant Program?

Implement	the Strategy under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act section 301(a)
Support	improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs
Assist	local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems

Who is Eligible for Infrastructure Grant Funding?

- U.S. States and political subdivisions of states
- Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- District of Columbia
- Federally recognized tribal governments
- Former tribal reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior)
- Alaskan Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203
- Intertribal Consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a)

What Infrastructure Activities are Eligible for Funding?

- The Save our Seas 2.0 Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law broadly define projects that are eligible for recycling infrastructure funding.
- The EPA Administrator may provide grants to:
 - Implement the strategy developed under section 301(a)
 - Support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs; and
 - Assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

What is the Education and Outreach Grant Program?

**Total Funding:
\$75M**

- \$15 million per year from FY22-FY26

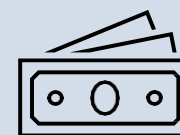
**Grant Program
Goals:**

- Support education and outreach on consumer recycling and waste prevention
 - Inform public on what is accepted in community recycling program
 - Increase collection rates and decrease contamination in recycling

What is the Purpose of the Education and Outreach Grant Program?

Fund

Grants awarded through competitive annual allocations



Implement

Public education and outreach activities



Improve

Residential and community recycling programs



Who is Eligible for Education and Outreach Grant Funding?

States

**Units of local
government**

Tribes

**Native
Hawaiian
Organizations**

**Department
of Hawaiian
Home Lands**

**Office of
Hawaiian
Affairs**

**Nonprofit
Organizations**

**Public-Private
Partnerships**

What Outreach and Education Activities are Eligible for Funding?

- Public service announcements
- Door-to-Door education and outreach campaigns
- Advertising campaigns
- Toolkits for municipal and/or commercial recycling programs
- Labeling/signs
- Information on the benefits of recycling
- Business recycling outreach
- What happens after the recycling bin
- Information on the importance of quality in the recycling stream
- Other activities determined appropriate

Model Recycling Program Toolkit

- A standardized set of terms and examples to describe materials that are accepted by a residential recycling program
- Information that can be widely applied across residential recycling programs
- Best practices for the collection and processing of recycled materials
- A community self-assessment guide to identify gaps in existing recycling program
- Training modules that enable States and nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to units of local government
- Access to consumer educational materials that states, tribes, and units of local government can adapt and use in recycling programs
- A guide to measure the effectiveness of a grant received under the Education and Outreach grant program



Battery Collection & Labeling Guidelines



What Is The Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Initiative?

Best practices will focus on:

- Identifying and increasing accessibility to battery collection locations
- Promoting consumer education
- Reducing hazards from improper disposal (fires)

Best practices will be:

- Technically and economically feasible
- Environmentally sound and safe for workers
- Beneficial to increasing the recovery of critical minerals

Battery labeling guidelines will focus on:

- Creating labeling guidelines for end-of-life batteries
- Providing communication materials to battery producers, consumers, and other stakeholders about the reuse and recycling of critical materials from batteries



EPA Next Steps

Recycling Grants

- Issue Notices for Funding Opportunities in Fall 2022

Circular Economy Strategy Series

- Release Draft Food Loss & Waste and Organics Strategy for Public Comment in Fall 2022
- Release Draft Plastics Strategy for Public Comment in Fall 2022
- Continue to Develop Draft Electronics and Critical Minerals Strategy

Resources

- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>
 - **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling:** <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program>
 - **Recycling Education and Outreach:** <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program>
- **Prepare for Grant Applications:** <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/prepare-grant-application>
- **Questions? Email**
 - RecyclingEd@epa.gov (Recycling Education and Outreach)
 - SWIFR@epa.gov (Solid Waste Infrastructure and Recycling)
 - Batteries@epa.gov (Batteries)



Discussion

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