



Appendix B: Summary of Public and Federal Comments and EPA's Response

Comment Statistics

EPA received 156 comment letters from the public. Commenters included private citizens, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies (e.g., local, county, tribal and state agencies), Congress, recycling service providers and consultants, recycling and waste management trade associations, academia, and other industry trade associations and groups (including those for raw material and packaging manufacturers). EPA also received comments from six other federal agencies and the United States Government Accountability Office.

During the public comment period, 47 America Recycles Network members submitted comments, which represented 30 percent of total commenters. Key America Recycles Network members that submitted comments include The Recycling Partnership, National Waste and Recycling Association, Solid Waste Association of North America, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, GreenBlue Institute, The Sustainable Packaging Coalition, Environmental Research and Education Foundation, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Waste Management. Senator Thomas R. Carper also submitted comments.

Support for the *National Recycling Strategy*

Overall, commenters were supportive of a *National Recycling Strategy* to create a stronger, more resilient and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system. All commenters mentioned that they supported the development of a *National Recycling Strategy*, and many highlighted that it was an important part of sustainable materials management and a circular economy.

Responses to the Key Questions

EPA asked six key questions that it hoped commenters would respond to during the comment period. Summaries of these responses are provided here.

Of the proposed actions, which are the most important and would have the greatest positive impact at the local, regional and national level?

Commenters expressed support for the three overarching objectives – 1) Reducing Contamination, 2) Increasing MRF Processing Efficiency, and 3) Improving Markets for Recyclables – with a slight prioritization of Objective 3 over the other two. In addition, one commenter stated that the most important objective should be to

increase collection of recyclables, which was not one of the three objectives identified in the draft strategy. Some commenters identified actions they thought were the most important; the most frequent actions identified were:

- Action 2.3: Continue to fund research and development of new technologies and processes that result in environmental gains from improvements in manufacturing and processing efficiencies.
- Action 2.1: Improve understanding of available recycling infrastructure and needs.
- Action 2.4: Increase consideration of the sorting process in the design of new products.
- Action 3.5: Increase demand for recycled materials through policies, programs, initiatives and incentives, focusing on materials with less-mature markets.
- Action 1.1: Enhance education and outreach to consumers on the value of recycling and how to recycle properly.
- Action 1.2: Increase coordination, availability and accessibility of information on recycling programs and policies at the federal, state, tribal and local levels.
- Action 2.2: Increase awareness of available public and private funding and incentives and effective strategies to access the funding.
- Action 2.5: Develop and implement national recycling system definitions, measures, targets and performance indicators.

What are the key implementation steps and milestones necessary to successfully implement these actions?

Commenters expressed the need to implement strong policy actions, establish metrics for measuring success and identifying gaps, increase education and outreach to consumers, increase access to funding, increase collection, provide additional funding opportunities, and establish federal incentives.

Is your organization willing to lead an action or collaborate with others to implement the actions? What factors would your organization take into account when considering whether to lead an action?

Many organizations noted that they were willing to work with EPA or others on actions in the *National Recycling Strategy*. 17 commenters indicated a willingness to lead an action. Most of these commenters did not specify an action that they would like to lead but indicated a general willingness to take on a leadership role.

What are the most important roles and/or actions for federal agencies to lead?

Commenters identified the following as the most important roles and/or actions for federal agencies to lead:

- Establish national policies and programs, including educational programs and guidelines for consistent recycling across the U.S.
- Coordinate with stakeholders and other federal agencies.
- Take regulatory action.
- Ensure consistent access to recycling programs across the nation.
- Provide funding to local and regional programs.
- Maintain nationwide data to track progress on the *National Recycling Strategy*.
- Provide a database of recycling resources.
- Establish roles for various stakeholders in the *National Recycling Strategy*.
- Support the development of recycling markets.

Are there other actions that should be included in the National Recycling Strategy?

Commenters suggested additional objectives or actions that they felt were important to include in the *2021 Strategy*. Many of them were very specific and aimed at refining/defining actions. Other suggestions were much broader and would have a pronounced effect on the *National Recycling Strategy* if incorporated. A sample of these themes includes:

- Expanding the scope of the *National Recycling Strategy* to reflect a circular economy approach and/or include waste reduction, reuse and/or waste-to-energy.
- Explicitly incorporating environmental justice and equity into the *National Recycling Strategy*.
- Expanding the scope of the *National Recycling Strategy* beyond municipal solid waste to include construction and demolition materials, coal combustion residuals, non-hazardous secondary materials, textiles, solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, propane tanks, electronics, and organics (food and yard waste).
- Expanding the scope of the *National Recycling Strategy* beyond mechanical recycling to include advanced/chemical recycling.
- Incorporating extended producer responsibility into the *National Recycling Strategy*.
- Adding an objective/actions to increase the access to and collection of recyclable materials.
- Elevating measurement, data collection and analysis from actions to an objective.
- Striving to create a uniform national recycling system.
- Developing a dedicated funding system for recycling.

Other Comments

In addition, commenters had many specific recommendations on the proposed actions within the draft strategy. Many offered expansions to the scope of existing actions, and others suggested completely new actions. In other instances, commenters provided information or considerations that could be useful in the implementation of the proposed actions.

How EPA Addressed the Comments

Based on input received during the public comment period, EPA modified the scope of the *2021 Strategy* to better reflect how improving recycling is a key component of a circular economy and emphasized that while this strategy focuses on traditional MSW recycling, future strategies will more fully address other key issues critical to achieving a circular economy. For example, EPA anticipates issuing subsequent strategies to include additional activities geared toward source reduction and materials reuse and waste streams, such as organics, electronic waste and industrial materials (e.g., construction and demolition debris).

To address comments on specific actions, when possible, EPA incorporated the new ideas into existing actions or created new actions. Many commenters requested that policies, programs or topics be incorporated into actions. In these cases, EPA tried to provide additional examples of the work that could fall underneath each action, but it was not always practical to list every possibility. Similarly, some comments focused on providing information that could be used to implement an action, and EPA will ensure those suggestions are carried forward as the Agency moves into the development of the implementation plan for the *National Recycling Strategy*. EPA has compiled the additional information and suggestions and categorized them by their action numbers. Moving forward, EPA will ensure that the entities engaged in implementing each action are provided with those comments.

EPA has also strived to better integrate equity and environmental justice into the *2021 Strategy*, based on comments received. The *2021 Strategy* indicates that all objectives and actions should be implemented with an environmental justice lens that ensures equity in the strategy outcomes. In addition, EPA enhanced language on increasing access to recycling facilities, which is often lacking in under-resourced and rural communities. The *2021 Strategy* now reflects that various educational messages are needed to be responsive to and inclusive of diverse communities. Lastly, the *2021 Strategy* now reflects that when recovery facility and collection equipment is upgraded, considerations should be taken so that it is also made safer and healthier for recovery facility and collection workers.

Appendix C: Federal Partner Recycling Profiles

EPA collaborates across the federal government on recycling. Various federal agencies play a role in supporting the recycling system. The following information reflects some actions several agencies are taking to support recycling.

Agency name: Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's mission: To prevent business practices that are anticompetitive or deceptive or unfair to consumers; to enhance informed consumer choice and public understanding of the competitive process; and to accomplish this without unduly burdening legitimate business activity.

Context and applicability to recycling: The FTC addresses recycling issues through the agency's *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* (16 C.F.R. Part 260). The guides help marketers avoid making environmental marketing claims that are unfair or deceptive under Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 45. The FTC has authority to take enforcement action if a marketer makes any deceptive or unfair environmental claims. In any such enforcement action, the Commission cannot rely on its Environmental Marketing Guides, and, therefore, must prove that the challenged act or practice is unfair or deceptive in violation of the FTC Act.

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: The FTC has no specific, statutorily directed role in advancing or promoting recycling. Rather, the FTC's efforts focus on helping consumers by combating deceptive or unfair claims in the marketplace.



Agency name: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Physical location: Alexandria, VA

Agency's mission: Established by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-507), NSF is an independent federal agency charged with the mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." NSF is unique in carrying out its mission by supporting research across all fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as all levels of STEM education. NSF investments contribute significantly to the economic and national security interests of the nation and development of a future-focused science and engineering workforce that draws on the talents of all Americans and creates new businesses, new jobs, and more exports.

Context and applicability to recycling: NSF fulfills its mission chiefly by issuing limited-term grants to fund specific research proposals that have been deemed the most promising by a rigorous and objective merit-review system. Innovative and meritorious research proposals related to recycling and alternative materials may be supported through a variety of defined [funding opportunities](#).

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: NSF supports basic research that develops fundamental knowledge and engineering advances pertaining to recycling; polymer chemistry and physics; alternative materials; sustainable and circular processes; the fate and impact of plastic materials lost to the environment; and pollution mitigation, control systems, and remediation. NSF's Engineering Directorate is home to several programs and solicited opportunities that support research in these areas, including programs offered by the Divisions of [Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems](#) and [Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation](#) and the Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation program's solicitation on Engineering the Elimination of End-of-Life Plastics ([NSF 19-599](#) and [NSF 20-614](#)). Similarly, the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate offers relevant programming through the Divisions of [Chemistry](#) and [Materials Research](#). An agency-wide initiative, Critical Aspects of Sustainability ([PD 19-9102](#)), also supports recycling-related research. Searchable abstracts of past and current projects can be found using the [NSF award search](#) engine.

Examples of partners and stakeholders: NSF funds research and education through grants and cooperative agreements to approximately 2,000 institutions of higher education, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the United States. NSF also partners with other federal agencies to fund research of mutual interest.

Agency name: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's mission: USTR is responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade, commodity and direct investment policy, as well as overseeing negotiations with other countries. USTR seeks to ensure that our international trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive. Our bilateral and international trade agreements and initiatives are valuable tools to protect the environment and level the playing field for the American worker and for U.S. industry abroad, and we are using these agreements and initiatives to tackle pressing environmental challenges.

Context and applicability to recycling: USTR seeks to advance a trade-facilitative approach to supporting resource efficiency. This includes enabling environmentally sound trade and management of plastic waste and scrap so that materials can be recovered, recycled and returned to commerce. USTR engages bilaterally and in international trade agreements, as well as in international forums like the World Trade

Organization and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to advocate for mutually supportive trade and environmental policies.

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: Not applicable.

Examples of partners and stakeholders: Congress, non-governmental, and industry stakeholders.



Agency name: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's mission: USAID is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results. USAID's work advances U.S. national security and economic prosperity, demonstrates American generosity, and promotes a path to recipient resilience.

Context and applicability to recycling: Over the past 20 years, two major trends have contributed to an ocean plastic crisis. The first is the rapid growth of plastic production and plastic packaging use across the world, in rich and poor countries alike. The second is increasing incomes and urbanization in low- and middle-income countries in the developing world, leading to more waste generation per person. Plastic waste is increasing at the fastest rate in the developing world, where waste management systems, infrastructure and governments struggle to keep pace and are not primed for private sector investment. As the leading development agency for the U.S. government, USAID is responding to the ocean plastic crisis by helping developing countries, and particularly cities along rivers and in coastal areas, to develop the enabling conditions for the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle).

Per the 2020 Save our Seas 2.0 Act, USAID is partnering with developing countries to build the foundations for a circular economy by:

- First, incentivizing recycling of plastic waste through policies and partnerships with the private sector, including working closely with vulnerable populations involved in the waste value chain to ensure they are involved and protected.
- Second, strengthening local and national governments' capacity to manage their solid waste and build a circular economy – including through better planning, financial sustainability and enforcement of regulations.
- Third, building on a long history of promoting innovation, investing in right-sized technology and infrastructure, as well as in the development and scaling up of new business models.
- Finally, encouraging behaviors that reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic waste.

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: USAID has several ongoing programs and initiatives that seek to address ocean plastic pollution internationally and improve solid waste management systems:

- USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) is the agency's flagship program on ocean plastic pollution. The five-year, global program (2019 to 2024) is working in rapidly urbanizing focal countries across Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean to target the sources of ocean plastic pollution. CCBO works to improve solid waste management systems in areas that are at the heart of the global plastic pollution crisis, build capacity and commitment for the three R's, and promote sustainable social and behavioral change. In support of these objectives, CCBO partners with local and multinational corporations to effectively leverage private sector expertise, investment and supply chains.
- USAID's five-year (2016 to 2021) Municipal Waste Recycling Program (MWRP) reduces land-based sources of ocean plastic waste in four of the top five contributing countries – Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Through MWRP, USAID has provided 30 grants and technical assistance to a variety of local actors, such as NGOs and recycling entrepreneurs, for innovative, local and sustainable solutions to improve solid waste management and waste recycling efforts in and around targeted cities. As a result, people across the four countries are benefiting from cleaner and healthier cities with improved waste management services. Having recognized their effectiveness, local governments plan to extend and replicate these approaches.
- In June 2019, USAID launched an agreement leveraging more than \$100 million in a private-sector investment strategy managed by Circulate Capital and funded by multinational companies, including PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, Dow, Danone, Unilever and Coca-Cola. USAID provides a \$35 million, 50 percent loan-portfolio guarantee through the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), which is used to incentivize private capital investment in the recycling value chain in South and Southeast Asia. At least 50 percent of the total facility must be used for loans in four countries that align with USAID's MWRP (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Sri Lanka).
- Subject to availability of funding, USAID plans to expand its work through field-based programs in key countries of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. To prepare for these new programs addressing ocean plastic pollution, USAID is currently training staff members on governance, finance, technologies and policies to support solid waste management and the circular economy.

You can find more information on all of USAID's ocean plastic pollution and solid waste management programming at <https://urban-links.org/issue/ocean-plastic-pollution>.

Examples of partners and stakeholders: USAID works internationally with a diverse group of stakeholders across the solid waste management system, including local and national governments, NGOs, academia, donor organizations, and members of the private sector.



Agency name: U.S. Department of Commerce

Physical locations: Washington, D.C., Silver Spring and Gaithersburg, MD, and multiple U.S. and overseas offices

Agency's mission: The mission of the Department of Commerce is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity. The Department of Commerce promotes job creation and economic growth by ensuring fair trade, providing the data necessary to support commerce and constitutional democracy, and fostering innovation by setting standards and conducting foundational research and development. Through our bureaus and 46,608 employees (as of January 31, 2018) located in all 50 states, every U.S. territory, and more than 86 countries, we provide U.S.-based companies and entrepreneurs with invaluable tools through programs such as the Decennial Census, the National Weather Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Foreign Commercial Service. Among many other functions, the Department oversees ocean and coastal navigation, helps negotiate bilateral trade agreements, and enforces laws that ensure a level playing field for American businesses and workers.

Context and applicability to recycling: Department of Commerce officials regularly consult with private-sector stakeholders and non-governmental organizations, and they work with state, local and foreign governments to support U.S. firms, including solid waste management and recycling firms, both domestically and abroad. Through its various bureaus, the Department works to foster innovation and the international competitiveness of U.S. solid waste management and recycling firms, as well as that of the companies using recycled materials.

Department of Commerce's explicit roles and actions in recycling by bureau:

Agency Name: International Trade Administration (ITA)

Agency's mission: The mission of ITA is to create prosperity by strengthening the international competitiveness of U.S. industry, promoting trade and investment, and ensuring fair trade and compliance with trade laws and agreements. ITA assists U.S. recycling firms in finding new and expanding existing export markets for their equipment and materials. ITA's team of environmental technologies industry and trade specialists, located in the United States and overseas, is dedicated to enhancing the global competitiveness of U.S. industry, expanding market access, and increasing exports. The [Environmental Technologies Top Markets Report](#) highlights overseas markets where the U.S. government is best able to

leverage finite resources to generate export opportunities for U.S. environmental technologies, goods, services and products, including for the recycling sector. Such market analysis also serves to inform ITA's trade promotion work, including under the auspices of ITA's Environmental Technologies Global Team. ITA employs the Global Team to share information on global policy issues impacting the industry and international markets and to work with U.S. companies to promote trade in recycling equipment and recycled materials. ITA is assisted in these efforts by the [Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee \(ETTAC\)](#), which advises the Environmental Trade Working Group of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, through the Secretary of Commerce, on the development and administration of programs to expand U.S. exports of environmental technologies, goods, services and products.

Partners and stakeholders: The Department works with the full range of stakeholders on matters relating to recycling, including standards and certification organizations, professional and trade associations, non-profit and global organizations, and government entities at the state, local and federal level, as well as individual solid waste management, recycling and materials firms.



Agency Name: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Agency's mission: The mission of NIST is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. NIST is developing a circular economy program with subprograms enabling materials design to improve recyclability (e.g., through use of machine learning technologies established as part of the [Materials Genome Initiative](#)); supporting development of critical infrastructure for circularity; and supporting improved performance and efficiency of recycling instrumentation and equipment. NIST is establishing work to support the data infrastructure necessary for a national approach to circularity including recycling by development of documentary standards with international standards bodies and tools to support the entire supply chain (for example, through our Office of Data and Informatics, Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, Applied Economics Office, and research programs). NIST supports its other agency partners through measurement tools, data and standards to better understand and reliably quantify environmental impacts of mismanaged waste and the linear economy (for example, in partnership with [Hawaii Pacific University and the Center for Marine Debris Research](#)).



Agency Name: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Agency's Mission: Science, service and stewardship.

1. To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts.
2. To share that knowledge and information with others.
3. To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

While NOAA does not have explicit mandates or regulations related to recycling, [NOAA's Marine Debris Program](#) is the U.S. federal government lead for addressing marine debris (through the Marine Debris Act, or Save Our Seas Act). Marine debris results from solid waste that is not properly disposed of, managed, or recycled and is deposited or washed into waterways or coastal areas. The Marine Debris Program works at the national, state and local levels to prevent marine debris from entering the environment (including through increasing recycling), remove priority debris from coastal areas, study and understand the scope and scale of marine debris in the U.S., and understand the impacts of marine debris on the environment.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program is dedicated to reducing and preventing the impacts of marine debris by conducting education and outreach and supporting practical solutions to marine debris problems. NOAA accomplishes this by increasing participation in education and outreach opportunities, developing outreach products that raise awareness of marine debris, and reducing waste and increasing recycling in internal operations. NOAA's Marine Debris Program also provides grant funding to support projects across the country that use outreach and education as a way to help change behavior and result in more sustainable practices to reduce the volume of waste produced, increase recycling, or ensure more effective waste management practices.

Agency name: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's mission: The mission of the DOE is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

Context and applicability to recycling: Transitioning from a linear to a circular economy provides significant energy and emissions savings and is a key focus area for the DOE. DOE is primarily a science- and technology-funding organization, competing awards for transformative science and research, development, and demonstration of

energy-related technologies. In addition, DOE sponsors 17 National Labs, which have delivered tremendous scientific and technological progress to address the nation's greatest needs. Regarding recycling, the priority is to develop efficient and economic pathways, as well as the scientific foundations, to recycle (or upcycle to high value products) energy-intensive materials, such as metals and plastics, as well as developing materials that enable renewable energy, such as polymer matrix composites for vehicles and wind blades and critical materials used for wind turbines and batteries.

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: DOE has made several strategic investments to develop technology for improved recycling systems. These efforts span from fundamental research to technology development to industry partnerships. Examples include:

- IACMI – The [Composites Institute](#), a Manufacturing USA Institute, was established in 2015 to develop lower-cost, higher-speed and more efficient manufacturing and recycling processes for advanced polymer matrix composite materials.
- The [REMADE Institute](#), a Manufacturing USA Institute, was established in 2017 to address recycling challenges across the supply chain for metals, fibers, plastics and e-waste.
- The [BOTTLE Consortium](#) is a National Lab-led consortium focused on developing chemical and biological pathways to upcycle plastics and designing novel plastics that are recyclable by design.
- Energy Frontier Research Centers bring together creative, multi-disciplinary scientific teams to tackle the toughest scientific challenges preventing advances in energy technologies. Two centers were selected in 2020 to address challenges associated with plastic waste:
 - [Center for Plastic Innovation](#).
 - [Institute for Cooperative Upcycling of Plastics](#).
- Better Plants is a program that partners with industry to reduce their energy and emissions impacts. As part of this broader program, the Waste Reduction Pilot was recently launched to share best practices for reducing waste, including through recycling.
- The [ReCell Center](#) is a national collaboration of industry, academia and national laboratories working together to advance recycling technologies along the entire battery life cycle for current and future battery chemistries.

Examples of partners and stakeholders: DOE funds research, development and deployment through cooperative agreements and grants. Awardees include universities, National Labs, NGOs, and small, medium and large businesses.



Agency name: U.S. Department of State

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's Mission: The mission of the Department of State is to represent America's foreign policy abroad and advance the interests and security of the American people.

Context and Applicability to Recycling: The Department of State has two offices that lead in recycling initiatives and support related efforts in international fora: the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) and the Office of Environmental Quality (ENV) in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES). Several missions abroad and domestic operations implement recycling initiatives with support from M/SS and OES/ENV.

Explicit Roles and Action in Recycling:

Management and Operations: With 22,000 facilities, 15,000 vehicles, and 75,000 personnel in more than 190 countries, the U.S. Department of State has a large global footprint to leverage to highlight recycling. Domestically, the Department works to reduce waste production and improve recycling, typically reaching 49 percent or greater waste diversion in its portfolio. The Department diverted 40 percent of nearly 3.5 million metric tons of construction and demolition waste in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

Overseas, many areas lack municipal waste management infrastructure but U.S. embassies and consulates work to develop creative solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle and to maximize efficiency. Examples of these waste management efforts include waste reduction and recycling campaigns, auditing local waste management infrastructure, upgrading onsite waste management capabilities, and composting.

The Department supports ongoing sustainability efforts through its annual Greening Diplomacy Initiative Awards and other programs. More information on the Department's sustainability efforts are available at state.gov/eco-diplomacy and in the annual [Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan](#).

Policy Development: The [Office of Environmental Quality](#) (ENV) develops and coordinates U.S. policy on international waste management issues, including international efforts relating to plastic pollution, land-based sources of marine debris, electronic waste and hazardous wastes. ENV leads U.S. participation in relevant multilateral agreements and forums, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and addresses related issues, including recycling, through close collaboration with the U.S. interagency and outreach efforts.

ENV has led campaigns to educate posts and Department staff on plastic pollution and waste management through a webinar series and recycling challenge, as well as facilitating communication with U.S. companies on international commercial, trade and investment conditions in this sector. ENV also coordinates a monthly U.S. government interagency call on plastic waste and scrap to provide updates and support collaboration and information exchanges on relevant issues, including recycling initiatives both domestically and abroad. Additionally, ENV regularly conducts stakeholder outreach to U.S. industry and environmental NGOs to exchange information relevant to developing U.S. policies and negotiating positions in international fora. Finally, ENV uses economic support funds to support projects abroad on improving solid waste management and encouraging innovation along the entire value chain.



Agency name: U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)

Physical location: Washington, D.C.

Agency's mission: GSA's mission is to deliver value and savings in real estate, acquisition, technology and other mission-support services across government. Through GSA's Public Buildings Service (PBS), Federal Acquisition Service (FAS), and various staff offices, GSA provides workspaces to more than 1 million federal civilian workers, oversees the preservation of more than 480 historic buildings, and facilitates the federal government's purchase of high-quality, low-cost goods and services from reliable commercial vendors.

Context and applicability to recycling: GSA promotes recycling through various programs, standards and tools, as well as through the Federal Management Regulation (FMR) and associated FMR Bulletins on personal property management. GSA's GSAXcess® website facilitates reuse of excess and surplus federal personal property like furniture, motor vehicles, computers and other equipment by transferring it to other federal agencies or State Agencies for Surplus Property for subsequent donation to eligible non-federal entities. In FY 2019 and FY 2020 through mid-April, GSAXcess enabled the reuse of over \$1.8 billion worth of such items from dozens of agencies, keeping these items out of the solid waste stream while stretching federal and state taxpayer dollars. GSA's Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service (P100) establishes sustainable performance criteria for the diversion of construction and demolition waste from landfills through reuse, recycling and donation. PBS's national specifications for contracted facilities operations services establish requirements for recycling municipal solid waste generated at GSA-managed facilities.

Explicit roles and actions in recycling: GSA provides education and tools to support recycling and the procurement of products made with recovered materials through the Sustainable Facilities Tool, or [SFTool.gov](https://www.sftool.gov). GSA's [GSAXcess®](#) program facilitates reuse of excess and surplus federal personal property. GSA's National Capital Region (NCR) offers federal agencies in the Washington, D.C. metro area the opportunity to participate in GSA NCR's recycling sales program, whereby participating federal agencies and recycling contractors share revenue generated through the recycling of municipal solid waste generated in federal buildings.

Examples of partners and stakeholders: In GSA-managed and leased buildings, GSA relies on federal tenant agencies to participate in recycling programs and on facilities operations and construction contractors, as well as lessors, to offer recycling services to the federal government. GSA's personal property disposal works with several stakeholders, including public agencies and eligible nonprofit organizations, to assist them with the donation or sale of surplus federal personal property.







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