

Abstract

U.S. EPA's Efforts to Advance Sustainable Materials Management

The Resource Conservation & Recovery Act provides the legislative basis for EPA's Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Program, setting a strong preference for resource conservation and recovery over disposal. EPA's *SMM: The Road Ahead* (2009) provided a life-cycle based analytical framework for moving toward SMM. The *Road Ahead* serves as the foundation for EPA's current SMM Program, which is focused on advancing SMM in the built environment (buildings, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure), reducing food loss and waste in the U.S by 50% by 2030, and increasing the recovery of packaging materials. EPA also provides estimates of national generation and recovery rates for municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris in the U.S, and develops tools to support the environmentally responsible beneficial use of industrial non-hazardous secondary materials. International efforts include collaboration with the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency. This presentation will provide an overview of EPA's SMM Program, including an historical perspective on the evolution of EPA's waste/end-of-life focused efforts to current activities implementing EPA's FY17-2022 SMM Strategic Plan.