



EPA Grant Programs and Successes

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Recent Congressional and Policy Drivers Shaping EPA's SMM Program

- FY20 Appropriations directed EPA to produce a national recycling strategy
- Save Our Seas 2.0 Act provides authority for grants, reports and a strategy on post-consumer materials management (“plastics strategy”)
- Dec. 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report includes actions for EPA to strengthen recycling and recommend future policies
- FY21 Appropriations asked EPA to collect data on recycling and single-use plastics
- 17 pieces of proposed legislation related to recycling



Challenges to the US Recycling System



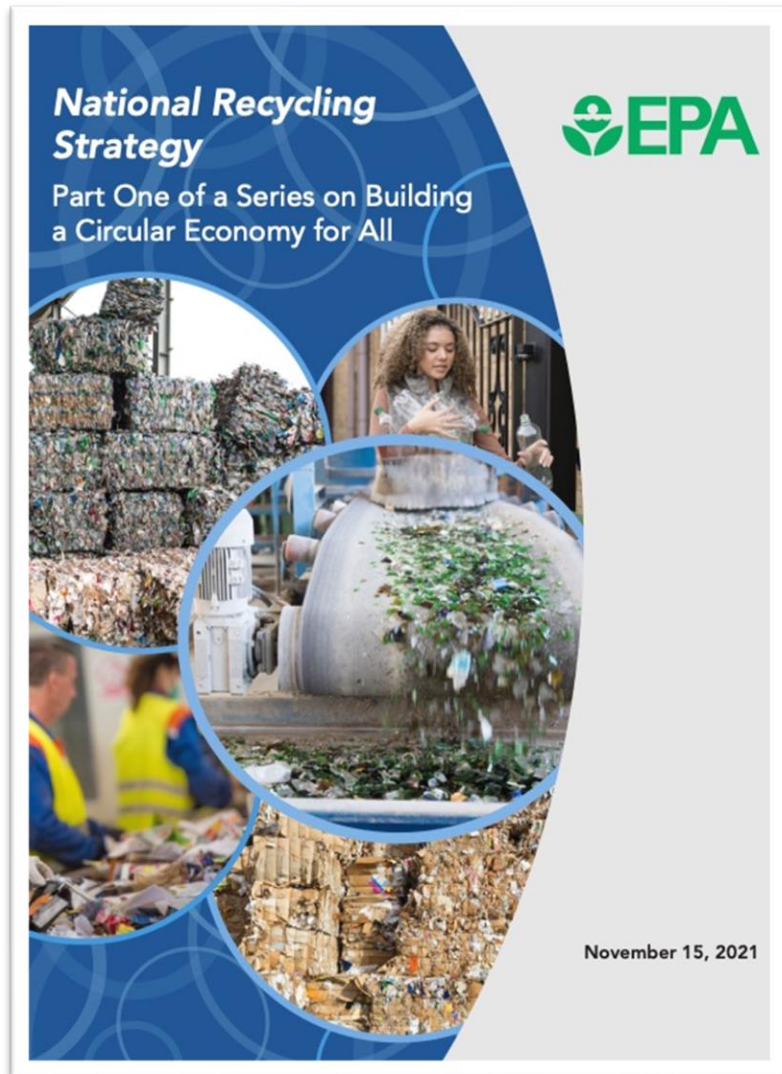
Inadequate recycling infrastructure and market demand for recyclables

Confusion on what is recyclable, leading to contamination

Environmental justice concerns, including around exporting recyclables

What is the scope of the National Recycling Strategy?

- Focuses on enhancing the national municipal solid waste (MSW) or “household” recycling system
- Identifies stakeholder-led actions to create a more resilient, equitable, and cost-effective MSW recycling system



epa.gov/recyclingstrategy





Background on the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program

Drivers, Purpose, Development Process To Date

Recycling Infrastructure Grant Program

Total funding \$275M

\$55 million per year from
FY22-FY26



What is the purpose of the Recycling Infrastructure Grant Program?



IMPLEMENT

the Strategy under
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 Recycling 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)





Background on the Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program

Purpose, Goals, and Eligibility

What is the Education and Outreach Grant Program?

Total funding \$75M

- \$15 million per year from FY22-FY26
- Minimum of 20% funding allocated to: rural communities, low-income communities, and communities identified as Native American

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



Who is eligible for 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

Social Media and
Digital Outreach

Advertising Campaigns

Toolkit for Municipal
and Commercial
Recycling Program

Labeling/Signs

Benefits of Recycling

Business Recycling
Outreach

Info on What Happens After
the Recycling Bin

Information on the
Importance of Quality in
the Recycling Stream

Other activities determined
appropriate to carry out



**EPA Region
New England
ONLY Grants**

Healthy Communities Grant Program

- **Sustainable Materials Management
Target Program Areas**
 - **Sustainable Management of Food**
 - **Sustainable Packaging**
 - **Built Environment**
- **Request for Application issued**
- **Proposals Due May 9, 2022**

https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/grants_2022hc.html



Chris Ratcliffe Co-Director RISRC

- History
- Evolution
- Strategy-Narrow Casting
- It's the Law!
- Current Work

History

- Earth Day-1998-2000
- Recycling's Hard Lessons
- RISRC and Dumpster Diving-2001
- RI Schools Flunk Recycling 101
- The Report Card, PR, and the Landfill
 - “The only thing that ever worked”
- Afternoon Custodians

Evolution

- 70% of school trash comes from the lunchroom
- Milk Diversion-buckets, strainers and straws
- Chaotic Lunchrooms
- Volkswagen Settlement Project
- Audience Participation
 - Who Wastes the Most Food at School?
 - High School, Middle School, or Elementary???

Average Annual Food Wasted Per Student

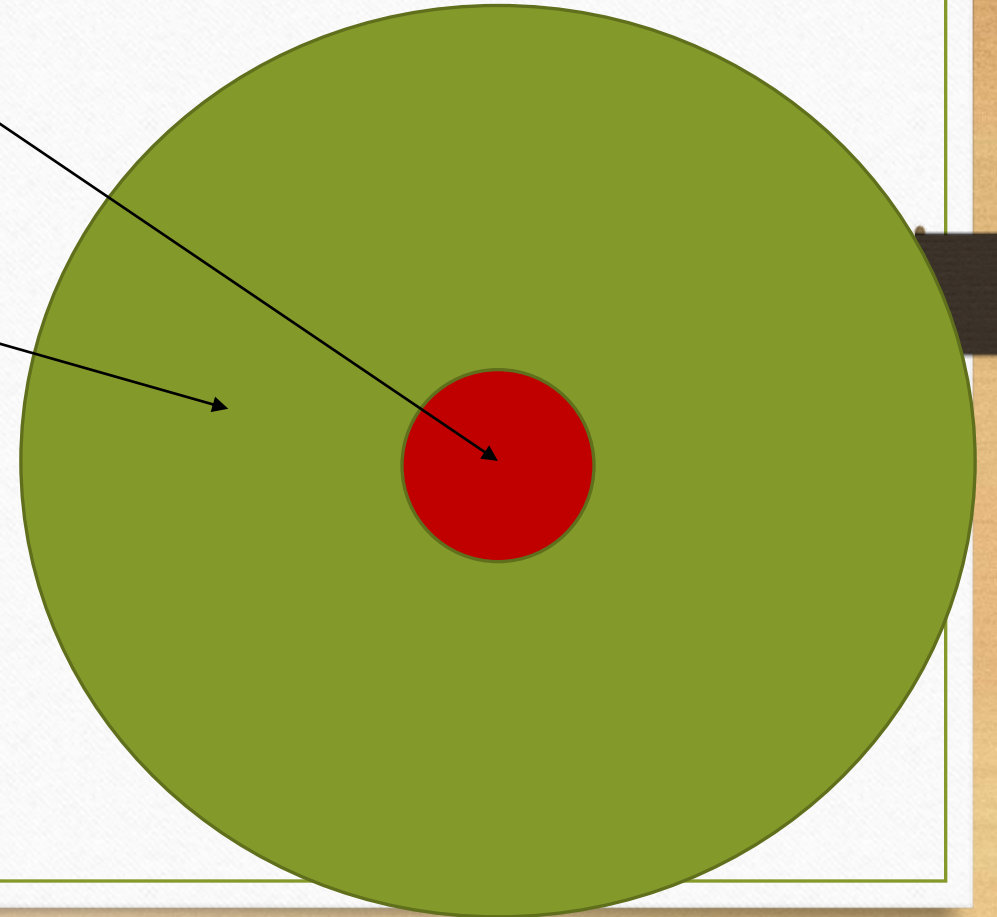
- Elementary School: 86.4 pounds
- Middle School: 70.2 pounds
- High School: 41.4 pounds

Elementary School with 500 Students

Wastes 43,200 pounds of food per year
21.6 Tons of Food

Strategy

- Narrow Casting
- Broadcasting



It's the Law!

2014 Food Waste Ban-52 Tons

- Schools Exempt

2020 School Food Waste Ban

- School Districts

Current Work

- EPA Healthy Communities Grant
- 4 Schools
- Waste Audits
- Cafeteria Rangers
- Tool Kit, Videos
- The Middle and High School Dilemma
- Study-Psychological Empowerment



End Food Waste Initiative in East Boston

NORTHEAST WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION (NEWMOA)

&

MAVERICK LANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES (MLCS)



Objectives

- ▶ The Project addresses Environmental Protection Agency's healthy indoor environments program area through its focus on food waste reduction and diversion.
- ▶ The Project's vision is for the Maverick Landing community to achieve zero wasted food status, including a community that sources its food from local farms and achieves an 80% reduction in the generation of wasted food community-wide by rescuing food and redirecting it from disposal.

MLCS Food Recovery

- ▶ Partners with local food distributor to rescue food that otherwise would be disposed.
- ▶ Hosts a food day to sell food at lower costs for MLCS residents and donates remaining to surrounding East Boston groups and organizations



Education Workshops for MLCS Youth Workers

- ▶ Introduction to Agriculture
- ▶ Food Security & Recovery
- ▶ Community Gardens in Urban Settings
- ▶ Climate Change & Food Systems
- ▶ Local Chef Session
- ▶ Celebratory Event



For More Information

Sign up to **Stay Connected** to learn more about grants, future strategies and reports:

<https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected>

Questions?

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