

Working with State Organizations to Spread the SMM Message

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The Association of Ohio Recyclers (AOR) provides statewide leadership on waste reduction, reuse and recycling policies and practices in order to promote economic growth, environmental improvement and community development in Ohio.

AOR promotes sustainable waste management practices that incorporate source separation, recycling of marketable materials in the waste stream, and innovative waste prevention and reuse initiatives. AOR develops important partnerships with business, government, and nonprofit leaders to bring about meaningful changes in the way we use and manage resources. AOR members are a diverse group that represents individuals, businesses, organizations and government entities that are generally engaged in recycling within the State of Ohio.

Through our affiliation with Keep America Beautiful and Keep Ohio Beautiful, AOR is able to leverage investments in state and nationwide recycling initiatives to benefit Ohio citizens and organizations. In partnership with Keep America Beautiful, AOR encourages recycling awareness and behavior change through student competitions in Ohio K-12 schools and in Ohio colleges and universities.

Most recently, AOR has been working with SWANA Buckeye Chapter and Ohio Association of Litter Prevention and Recycling Professionals to develop a conference on June 29-30, 2015, with a theme of “Best Practices in Sustainable Materials Management”. Bringing AOR and our constituents through the “beyond recycling” concept is a step forward and we are pleased to mark this new chapter in the organization’s development.

AOR also found itself in the fortunate position of having a board member on the planning committee of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Summit. AOR contends that a benefit from having a direct link between NRC and our state organization was that it helped us learn more about the forward-thinking concept of SMM and to bring it back to the region in a timely manner. We believe if more state organizations were more directly engaged in NRC, whether as board and/or committee members, it would allow NRC to continue to develop and disseminate its SMM-friendly resources and guidance in a cost-efficient and time-efficient manner.

More information about AOR can be found online at <http://ohiorecyclers.org>.

National SMM Plan Recommendations

- Develop economic and market development incentives for reuse and recycling.
- Fund the creation and dissemination of SMM engagement and education toolkits.
- Expand federal green procurement policies related to the purchase of reuse- and recycling-based products and services.
- Promote the adoption of federal extended producer responsibility laws.