



Sustainable Materials Management

Historically SWANA has supported the practice of integrated solid waste management and has developed 27 Technical Policies in support of these practices. The USEPA describes “Integrated Solid Waste Management” as a comprehensive waste prevention program, where the major activities are waste prevention at the source, recycling and composting, combustion with energy generation, and disposal in properly designed, constructed, and managed landfills. SWANA's 27 Technical Policies fully support this concept and are structured in the following categories:

1. Strategic planning for integrated municipal solid waste management
2. Funding and managing integrated waste management systems
3. Storage, collection, transportation and transfer of solid waste
4. Recycling, organics management, waste-to-energy/conversion, and landfilling as part of integrated solid waste management

SWANA is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan that places greater emphasis on Sustainable Materials Management (SMM). In addition, SWANA's technical committees are in the beginning stages of crafting a new Technical Policy addressing this topic. Already embodied in many of the existing 27 policies are the key aspects of SMM, including:

1. Lifecycle assessment
2. Recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion
3. Safe recycling of toxic-containing material
4. Producer responsibility

SMM National Plan

As a first step, SWANA believes a National Plan should be the vehicle to develop a comprehensive definition of Sustainable Materials Management (SMM). The Plan itself should contain *Goals, Objectives and Strategies*. Within the *Goals and Objectives* should be a review of areas in the United States that have already make SMM a priority in their communities. Within the context of *Strategies*, should be the development of *Best Practices* that represent SMM and a comprehensive *Path Forward*. The *Path Forward* should contain the following elements:

- Timing to phase away from landfilling activities
- Infrastructure required to achieve the objectives of SMM
- Funding requirements and sources
- Programs required to achieve the *Goals*
- Policies required to implement the *Goals*
- Potential Barriers in achieving *Goals*