

NRC Policy Developments Support For Sustainable Materials Management in 1986

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Background

- ▶ **National Science Foundation Research Agenda 1979**
- ▶ **Committee for a National Recycling Policy**
- ▶ **NRC Coalition expands in Fresno California at First National Recycling Congress 1980**
- ▶ **Six year discussion**
- ▶ **Fresno staff creates discussion draft of National Policy**
- ▶ **Consensus adopted in Seattle 1986**
- ▶ **We know a lot more now.**

INTRODUCTION

The National Recycling Coalition supports and recommends the implementation of policies by all levels of government - federal, state and local - by business and industry, and by individual citizens which will increase the viability of waste reduction, recycling, reuse and recovery mechanisms for resource conservation, environmental protection and economic development **(new rules)**

The National Recycling Coalition recognizes the necessity of immediate implementation of public policy decisions which reduce the exploitation and disposal of limited and valuable resources and encourage waste conscious decisions, **(conservation)**

Failure to aggressively pursue change through public education, business and industry policy developments, federal, state and local rule-making authority and legislation, and individual participation will lead to the continued degradation of our environment and weakening of this nation's competitive position in the world economy, **(Zero Waste is efficiency)**

The secondary recycled materials which recycling industries collect, process and utilize in production have difficulty competing with virgin materials because the cost of virgin materials rarely reflects the true social and economic costs of their extraction, depletion and disposal, individuals have come to prefer new materials even though recycled content goods often are of equal or better quality, Business and industry overlook research and development of recycled products and reutilization of materials because disposal has been easy and inexpensive. **(no subsidized Wasting)**

The National Recycling Coalition calls for affirmation of the economic and social worth of waste reduction, reuse and recycling by removing all barriers to scrap, secondary and recycled materials competing favorably with virgin materials, by educating consumers to make waste conscious decisions and by involving business and industry in aggressive research and product development to increase recycling and recyclability, Recycling is a policy for a Clean, safe and economically healthy future,

Emulate Nature
No burn ,no bury
Design products for repair and reuse

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The National Recycling Coalition supports policies that make the cost of transportation, whether by rail, seagoing vessel or truck, of secondary materials originating from a recycling facility or from a manufacturer to recycling facilities, to be equal or less than the cost of transporting virgin raw materials. **(Freight Rates)**

TAX POLICY

The National Recycling Coalition supports and recommends that the 1986 federal tax reform measure and other tax laws be reviewed regularly to identify inequities and undue bias that provide tax advantages to the manufacture and distribution of products made from limited resources and virgin materials, in those cases where tax laws encourage the exploitation of limited resources and the continued proliferation of single-use products.

Those tax laws should be modified to equalize the benefits of the manufacture and marketing of products developed primarily from recycled feedstocks, the purpose is to encourage industry and consumers to reject continued exploitation and disposal of limited and valuable resources and to select products that are recycled or are recyclable.

If these benefits are not equalized the National Recycling Coalition recommends tax modifications that would address this concern including But not limited to:

investment tax credit. Tax incentives for new applications of waste materials, and purchase or secondary use tax incentives. **(tax bads not goods....tax resource not labor)**

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The National Recycling Coalition endorses a national policy of the highest priority, the research, development and transfer of technology for uses in industry, commerce and all levels of government of recycled, recyclable, secondary and waste materials as the feedstock of industry. Implementation of this policy would result in less dependency on limited and virgin resources, the use of renewable, reusable and recyclable materials, and the research and development of substitute feedstock's of primarily recycled and secondary materials, **(Research)**

The National Recycling Coalition recommends that the Federal Government should allocate staff and resources to facilitate the transfer of information about existing and emerging recycling technologies for all commodities currently recycled from the municipal solid waste stream including, but not limited to, metal, glass, paper, plastics and yard waste, This technology information transfer should include, of a minimum: Standardized definitions and specifications for use and applications of these materials; information on the value of these materials; e.g., the value of compost for agriculture productivity and landscaping. **(EPA)**

NATIONAL RECYCLING DATA BASE

The National Recycling Coalition recommends the establishment of a national publicly accessible computerized recycling data base to provide on annual report on the national rate for recycling of all commodities recycled from the municipal solid waste stream as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Such a data Base should initially be compiled by the federal government from the existing data bases of national trade associations, Where available. Where not available, such data should be aggregated by the federal government in a confidential manner according to the Standard industrial Classification code, in addition, the data Base will include economic data on the costs of recycling commodities and of collecting and disposing of garbage. This analysis should be done with on accounting system that recognizes the avoided landfilled collection costs resulting from recycling. **(epa and the Internet)**

STANDARD SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

The National Recycling Coalition urges that all public and private bodies with responsibility for fixing product standards consider the ease of recycling of the end of the product's useful life and the use of waste materials in the manufacture of new products as factors in standard development. **(Standards for secondary materials, diversion calculations, zero Is Zero)**

A NATIONAL POLICY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The National Recycling Coalition supports and recommends a national policy of the highest priority that achieves maximum environmental quality, the use of renewable energy sources, alternative fuels and maximum materials recycling, **(Integrated Waste Management)**

The National Recycling Coalition further supports and endorses the following: Product Design for Recyclability **(Redesign)**

The National Recycling Coalition supports and recommends that manufacturers consider reuse and recycling in product design, The National Recycling Coalition supports and encourages business and industry policies and government action to eliminate, to the maximum extent possible, factors in the design of products which impede the products' recyclability and inject hazards into the recycling process. **(Emulate Nature, no harm to environment)**

Maximum Enforcement of Procurement Laws

the National Recycling Coalition recommends the maximum enforcement of existing laws requiring the procurement by governmental agencies of materials and supplies made from recycled materials, **(post consumer content, minimum recycled content)**

The National Recycling Coalition recommends the immediate establishment and enforcement of recycled product procurement requirements of all levels of government. **(EPA)**

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The National Recycling Coalition recommends that municipal, county and state government's accord priority consideration to pre-existing private sector. Volunteer and nonprofit programs in the development and implementation of solid waste management and recycling plans. Pre-existing programs providing satisfactory service should be incorporated into those plans.

(local inclusion)

A NATIONAL POLICY FOR RECYCLING EDUCATION

The National Recycling Coalition recognizes that education is the key to affecting change that results in rational decisions to increase waste reduction and utilize recycling. Through a national education policy that emphasizes environmental quality, resource conservation, waste reduction, recycling and sustainable growth. Society in the future can enjoy the best of science and technology and live in harmony with nature, **(Resource Management Degree program/ SWANA)**

Additionally, the National Recycling Coalition recommends the following educational components as part of a strong recycling educational policy: **(Culture Change)**

Buy Recycled Program The National Recycling Coalition strongly encourages a program to encourage consumers to purchase durable, reusable and recyclable goods, the program would emphasize the environmental advantages of recyclable consumer goods,

Labeling The National Recycling Coalition supports the labeling of consumer items to identify only those products which can be practically recycled by the consumer and shall encourage o Buy Recycled Program,

Curriculum Development The National Recycling Coalition believes that educational systems should develop and incorporate recycling curriculum and education as o major component in the school curriculum, The National Recycling Coalition believes it is extremely important that students learn to make rational cost-conscious decisions and to recycle to the waste generation level,

Recycle Week the National Recycling Coalition supports the national enactment of on annual "Recycle Week" as a means to remind and educate the population about the benefits of recycling.

Postage Stamp The National Recycling Coalition encourages the U.S. Postal System to develop a recycling commemorative postage stamp to demonstrate the national commitment to recycling and remind the public that recycling helps communities core for the environment.

Commercial Sector Education the National Recycling Coalition supports o national policy that encourages business and industry to establish and promote educational programs that inform consumers about the recyclability of consumer products and the potential hazards resulting from the disposal of the products which they manufacture and sell

Global Sustainability Policy

- ▶ **Circular economy (close the loop)**
- ▶ **Decoupling (off track of over consumption)**
- ▶ **Culture change (Global environmental principles)**

- ▶ **Redesign (made to repair, recycle or compost)**
- ▶ **Local control (local democracy)**
- ▶ **No burn, no bury, no toxics (environmental ethics)**