

# Sustainable Materials Management White Paper

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The extent to which stakeholders have convenient access to reliable information and cutting edge technology is a critical determinant of how quickly society can transition to an economy based on the principles of sustainable materials management (SMM).

All stakeholders including generators, MRFs, brokers, end-markets, brand owners, local and state governments, the EPA, the general public, the investment community, and state recycling organizations need access to timely information to efficiently conduct their business and achieve their goals.

Examples of the type of information that these stakeholders need reliable access to include:

- Material pricing & availability
- Program plans
- Benchmarking
- Available products
- Services & contractors
- Level of “access”
- Recycling locations
- SMM benefits
- Why & how to participate
- Best practices
- Impacts
- Costs

This information is needed for a myriad of uses including measurement, making purchasing decisions, identifying investment opportunities, educating the public, assessing program performance, routing, forecasting, planning, plant operation, and allocating resources.

Given the speed at which technology that helps organizations collect, manage, and analyze information is evolving, it is critical that industry stakeholders know about, and can access, the best available data, systems, tools, and resources. It is also essential that infrastructure be created to support the development of new solutions when gaps and new needs are identified.

My recommendation is that a focused effort be made to research applicable technology and information services in a structured, centralized, and comprehensive fashion, with the assembled information made available to all stakeholders in an integrated and accessible way. Key areas of research when building this “SMM information ecosystem” could include existing technology and information management solutions, as well as unmet needs as identified by the SMM industry.