



March 18, 2019

Senator Edward J. Markey  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
SD-255  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
229 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Markey & Representative Ocasio-Cortez:

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is an organization with over 6,000 members representing a broad spectrum of NGO's, companies and others involved in recycling including waste haulers, recycling processors, users of recycled materials, trade associations, local and state governments and committed individuals both elected and recycling activists. The NRC works to maintain a growing prosperous, productive and ever evolving recycling system across our country as well as improve the sustainable use of resources. Moreover, working together, we have achieved remarkable and demonstrable reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>e (Carbon dioxide equivalent).

The NRC was very excited to see the introduction of the 'Green New Deal'. Such a comprehensive approach to climate change is long overdue. The United States needs to claim a leading role in reducing the disastrous impact that the warming of our planet will have on everyone.

The impact of solid waste disposal has been widely documented by the US EPA and independent scientists across the globe. The report by the Institute for Local Self Reliance "Stop Trashing the Climate"<sup>1</sup> is an excellent reference on this subject as is the EPA's archived web site<sup>2</sup>. We also believe that increased recycling and composting will alleviate some of the social impact of solid waste facilities which fall disproportionately on minority and low income neighborhoods.

We are contacting you in the hope that you will include more composting and recycling elements into the Green New Deal as you move toward implementing legislation. These initiatives are affordable and effective way to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. They will also reduce resource consumption and create additional good paying jobs in the United States.

Among the initiatives we would like to see included are:

**Recycling and Composting Infrastructure** - Funding for the development of improved recycling and composting infrastructure including, but not limited to new sorting technology, CNG collection vehicles and fueling facilities, expansion of domestic markets for recyclables

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ilsr.org/stop-trashing-the-climate/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.epa.gov/epa/climatechange/climate-change-and-waste.html>

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**Food Waste** - Funding for composting programs and facilities that will reduce the flow of food waste and other organic matter to landfills and increase the generation of renewable energy from waste.

**Local Government Assistance** - Funding for to assist local governments and businesses in reducing waste

**Recycled Material Utilization** - More funding and requirements for federal agencies to increase their use of products made with recycled material and compost.

**National Goals** - The setting of national Zero Waste/Recycling goals and policies to help attain them

We would like to work with you and your staff to support the Green New Deal and integration of recycling and zero waste to this important vision for protecting our planet, protecting our environment, promoting our economy and improving social equity for our nation.

Very truly yours,



Dave Keeling  
President