



## Towards a More Just and Unified United States

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The Board of Directors of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), the country's oldest nonprofit recycling advocate, has committed itself to developing and implementing an action plan to manifest a more inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable organization. NRC leaders will reevaluate past initiatives to advance diversity, and will work with previous **NRC Minority Recycling Council** members to support renewed engagement on the issues.

The NRC recognizes the need to live up to its values and stated guidelines for diversity and inclusion. Given the number of intersections between sustainability and social justice, it is imperative that the NRC take strong action to ensure NRC leadership reflects the diversity of the communities its members serve.

According to the NRC's **Internal Policy Handbook**, "It is the goal of the NRC to maintain a Board that reflects the sectoral, racial, gender and geographic diversity of the NRC membership," and one of the key activities of any non-profit board must be the constant development and growth of the board. The handbook also states that programs and operations of the NRC must reflect input from its diverse target audiences. All of these goals are in need of renewed vigilance.

As the NRC's 2020 election cycle begins, recruitment efforts will include an emphasis on racial diversity. NRC members of all races, creeds, genders, etc. with a commitment to recycling are invited to run for the board and become active in committees which can further advance the NRC's progress. Applicants may send their interest in board positions to NRC [Executive Director Sarah DeSouza](#), now through the end of August, 2020, with elections tentatively scheduled for October.

### Additional Upcoming Opportunities

- In an effort to make our event truly inclusive, the **NRC's 2021 National Zero Waste Conference** is continuing its partnership with [EcoJustice Radio](#), (Instagram: [@EcoJusticeRadio](#)) to spread the Zero Waste message beyond the walls of the conference, including an interview with Baltimore leaders about their Zero Waste Plan which was adopted in April of 2020. The **City Council of Baltimore, MD** adopted the first [Fair Development Plan for Zero Waste](#) in the nation. Developed by United Workers, the Plan provides a model for other communities to address equity issues as a priority, including a strong social justice focus, transitioning the city away from dumping on minority communities, and toward recycling, composting and reuse, which is expected to expand the economy by 1,800 jobs in two years.
- The [Northern CA Recycling Association \(NCRA\)](#) is hosting an upcoming **webinar on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. For more information, email [ncra@ncrarecycles.org](mailto:ncra@ncrarecycles.org)