SWANA State of Recycling 2020
A Legislative Outlook at the Federal Level
Why are we talking about federal legislation?

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IS NORMALLY A STATE, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ISSUE

COMMUNITIES MANAGE MORE THAN 9,000 RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

BUT LOCAL DECISIONS AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FORCES
Adapting to a new reality

NO ONE IS REPLACING CHINA

RECYCLING REQUIRES HIGHER QUALITY OF MATERIALS

THE STATUS QUO IS NOT SUSTAINABLE
What do we need right now?

• **Infrastructure**
  • Adapt to evolving waste streams
  • Increase value of materials
  • Reduce costs

• **Education**
  • Reduce contamination
  • Raise awareness
  • Increase participation
RECOVER Act

• Realizing the Economic Opportunities and Value of Expanding Recycling Act (H.R. 5115)

• Introduced in House on November 15, 2019
  • Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA-29)
  • Representative Larry Bucshon (R-IN-8)
  • Representative Greg Stanton (D-AZ-9)

• Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
RECOVER Act

• Funding for infrastructure and education
• Establish Recycling Infrastructure Program within Environmental Protection Agency
• Provide financial assistance to States, local government, and tribal governments
• For projects that support and expand recycling infrastructure and recycling programs
  • State and local government eligibility requirements
  • Reporting requirements
  • Federal funding cannot exceed 50%
RECOVER Act

PRIORITIES

• Expand recycling access and collection of recyclable materials to underserved areas
• Modernize existing technology
• Use innovative technology
• Enhance curbside recycling and other collection
• Reduce contamination of recyclable materials
RECOVER Act

$500,000,000 TOTAL

$150,000,000 – FY 2020

$125,000,000 – FY 2021

$100,000,000 – FY 2022

$75,000,000 – FY 2023

$50,000,000 – FY 2024
RECYCLE Act

• Recycling Enhancements to Collection and Yield through Consumer Learning and Education Act of 2019 (S.2941)

• Introduced in Senate on November 21, 2019
  • Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)
  • Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
  • Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)
  • Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
  • Senator Todd Young (R-IN)
  • Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)

  • Senator Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH)
  • Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
  • Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
  • Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
  • Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

• Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works
RECYCLE Act

• Establish a consumer recycling education and outreach grant program
• Provide grants to States, units of local government, Tribal governments, nonprofit organization, a public-private partnership
• To improve the effectiveness of residential and community recycling programs through public education and outreach
  • Entities must demonstrate funds will encourage collection of recycled materials that are sold to an existing or developing market
RECYCLE Act

Model Recycling Program Toolkit

School Curriculum

Federal Procurement
RECYCLE Act

$75,000,000 TOTAL

$15,000,000
FY 2020 – FY 2024

At least 10% must be allocated
to low-income communities
SOS 2.0 Act

• **Save Our Seas 2.0 Act**
• To improve efforts to combat marine debris
• Introduced in Senate on June 26, 2019
  • Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
  • Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
  • Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
  • + 17 Co-sponsors
• Passed Senate January 9, 2020
SOS 2.0 Act

- Combating Marine Debris
- Enhanced Global Engagement to Combat Marine Debris
- Improving Domestic Infrastructure to Prevent Marine Debris
SOS 2.0 Act

- Strategy for Improving Post-Consumer Materials Management & Water Management
- Grant Programs
- Studies & Reports
SOS 2.0 Act

• Post-Consumer Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program
  • Grants to States to support local programs

• Trash Free Water Grants
  • Grants to units of local government, Indian Tribes and nonprofit organizations

• Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Grants
  • Grants to local governments
SOS 2.0 Act

• Post-Consumer Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program
  • Support Strategy developed
  • Support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs
  • Assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems
  • Deploy waste interceptor technologies e.g. “trash wheels”
  • $55,000,000 annually – FY 2021 - 2025
SOS 2.0 Act

• Trash Free Water Grants
  • Support projects to reduce solid waste in water by reducing at source, including anti-litter initiatives
  • Enforce local post-consumer materials management ordinances
  • Implement State or local policies related to solid waste
  • Capture post-consumer materials at stormwater inlets, outfalls or in bodies of water
  • Provide education and outreach about post-consumer materials movement and reduction
  • Monitor or model flows of post-consumer materials
  • $10,000,000 annually – FY 2021 -2025
SOS 2.0 Act

Sent to U.S. House of Representatives and referred to Committees

+ Transportation and Infrastructure
+ Natural Resources
+ Foreign Affairs
+ Energy and Commerce
+ Science, Space, and Technology
+ Agriculture
Udall/Lowenthal Legislation

• Not introduced in either House or Senate
• Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47) introduced outline and draft legislation in 2019
• Asked for input from public, interested stakeholders
• Version for introduction released January 17, 2020
Extended Producer Responsibility
National Beverage Container Program
Prohibition on Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags & Other Single-use Products
Minimum Recycled Content Requirements
Designing for the Environment Requirements
Improved Product Labeling
Standardized National Recycling & Composting Labeling System
Prohibition on Certain Exports of Waste
Recycling & Litter Cleanup Trust Fund
New Plastics Production Pause & Regulatory Changes
What can I do?

INFORM

EDUCATE

ADVOCATE
Questions?

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