



Overview of SMM Program, Circular Economy, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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Jim Callier, EPA Region 7

Callier.james@epa.gov

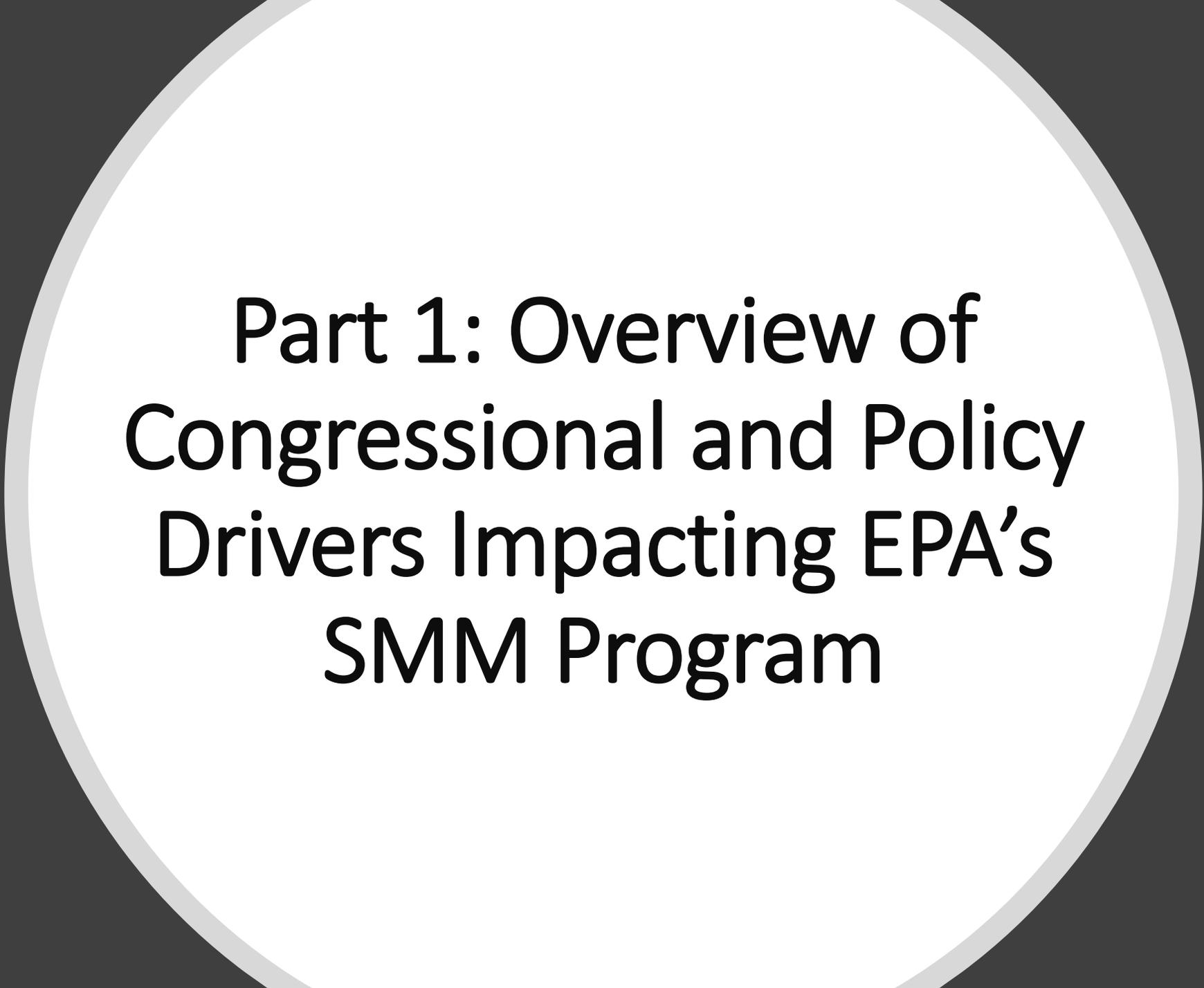
Session Objectives

1

Provide an overview of Congressional and Policy Drivers Impacting EPA's SMM Program.

2

Provide an overview of EPA's newly released *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All* and how you can lead or support the effort.



**Part 1: Overview of
Congressional and Policy
Drivers Impacting EPA's
SMM Program**

Recent Congressional and Policy Drivers Shaping EPA's Materials Management Work

- FY20 Appropriations directed EPA to produce a national recycling strategy
- Save Our Seas 2.0 Act provides authority for grants, reports and a strategy on post-consumer materials management (“plastics strategy”)
- Dec. 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report includes actions for EPA to strengthen recycling and recommend future policies
- FY21 Appropriations asked EPA to collect data on recycling and single-use plastics
- 17 pieces of proposed legislation related to recycling



Unprecedented Congressional Support for Recycling and Materials Management

- **2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:**
 - Grant funding for FY22-26:
 - \$55M/yr for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program
 - \$15M/yr for education and outreach on prevention, recycling, including a toolkit to support programs
 - \$25M for best practices for battery collection and voluntary labeling program
 - \$10M for a battery collection program
 - \$15M to create voluntary labeling guidelines for batteries



SWIFR, Recycling Education & Outreach, and Batteries: Overview of funding

SWIFR Grants

- **\$275,000,000** for grants under section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (55M/yr).
 - Implement the strategy developed under section 301(a) of the SOS 2.0 Act, support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs; and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.
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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Education and Outreach Grants & Other Activities

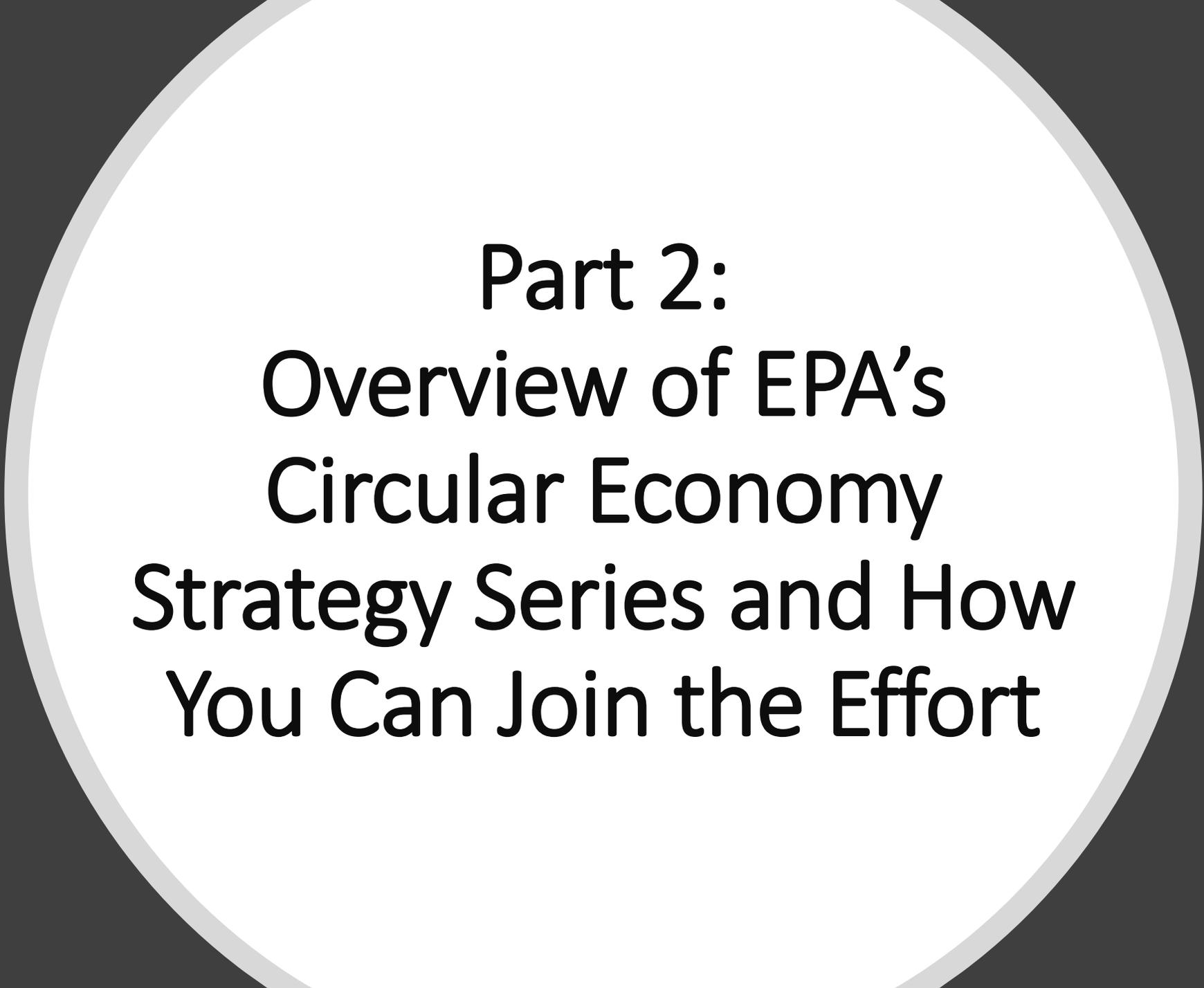
- **\$75,000,000** (\$15M/yr from FY22-26).
 - Award education and outreach grants focused on improving material recycling, recovery, management, and reduction. Directs EPA to develop a model recycling program toolkit for States, tribes, local governments for use in carrying out the grant program.
 - Calls for increased coordination at the federal level regarding the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) program and increases the frequency by which EPA must review the CPGs to every 5 years.
 - Directs EPA to assist educational community by promoting the introduction of recycling principles and best practices into public school curriculum.
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Battery Collection Best Practices

- **\$10,000,000** for fiscal year 2022, available to be expended until September 30, 2026.
 - Develop best practices that may be implemented by State, Tribal, and local governments with respect to the collection of batteries, are technically and economically feasible for State, Tribal, and local governments; are environmentally sound and safe for waste management workers; and optimize the value and use of material derived from recycling of batteries.
 - Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a best practices report.
-

Voluntary Battery Labeling Guidelines

- **\$15,000,000** for fiscal year 2022, available to be expended until September 30, 2026.
- Establish a program to promote battery recycling through the development of voluntary labeling guidelines for batteries and other forms of communication materials for battery producers and consumers about the reuse and recycling of critical materials from batteries. Strive to ensure that voluntary labeling guidelines and other forms of communication materials developed under the program are consistent with international battery labeling standards; and the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act (42 U.S.C. 14301 et seq.).



Part 2:
Overview of EPA's
Circular Economy
Strategy Series and How
You Can Join the Effort

Why a Strategy Series on Building a Circular Economy for All?

- Public comments on the October 2020 draft Recycling Strategy:
 - Strategy should be broader than recycling and include a circular economy
- Comments from Congress:
 - Reframe the Strategy and acknowledge importance of circular economy
- Encompass the work of our entire program, not just a small part of it (e.g., recycling)
- Strategies to highlight the connection between material use and climate change and environmental justice
- Provide a vision forward for the next 10 years that encompasses SMM and reflects our statutory authorities

Natural resource extraction and processing contributes:



50% of global climate change impacts



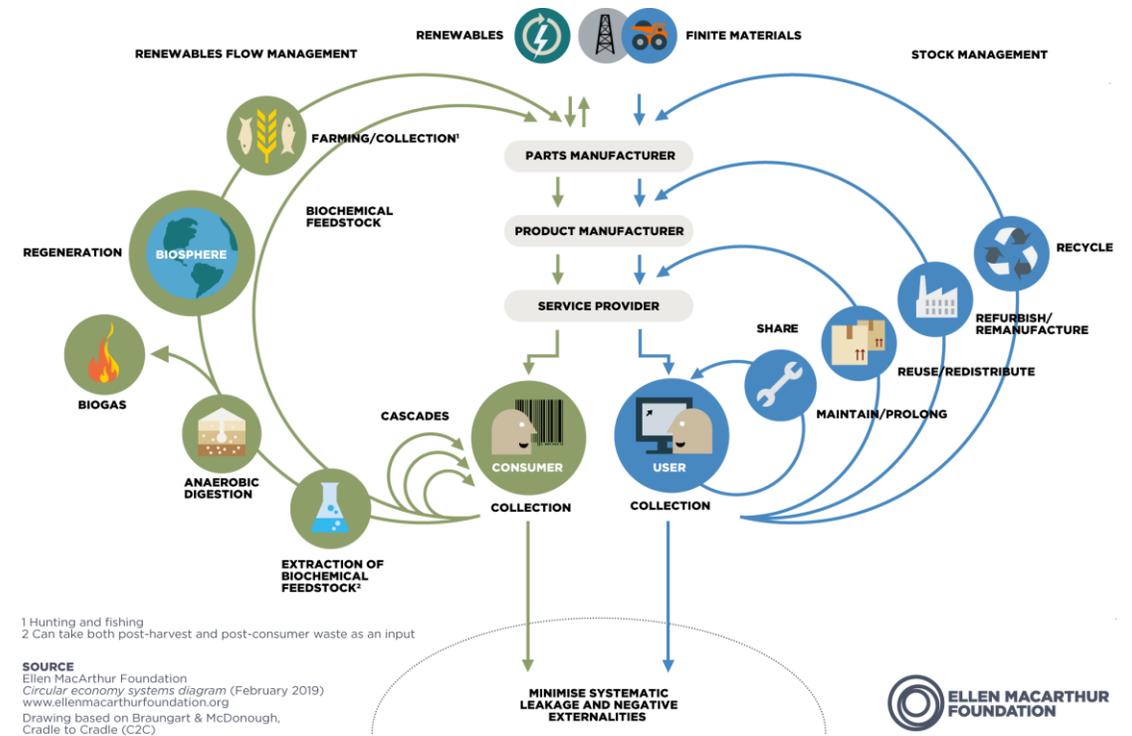
90% of global biodiversity loss and water stress



11% of global species loss

EPA's Circular Economy Strategy Series

- Part 1: National Recycling Strategy
- Part 2: Plastics
- Part 3: Food Waste
- Part 4: Critical Minerals and Electronics
- Part 5: Built Environment
- Part 6: Textiles



We are establishing a 10-year vision and strategic direction for the SMM Program – one that embraces zero waste/circularity, sustainable materials management, addresses climate change, and environmental justice.

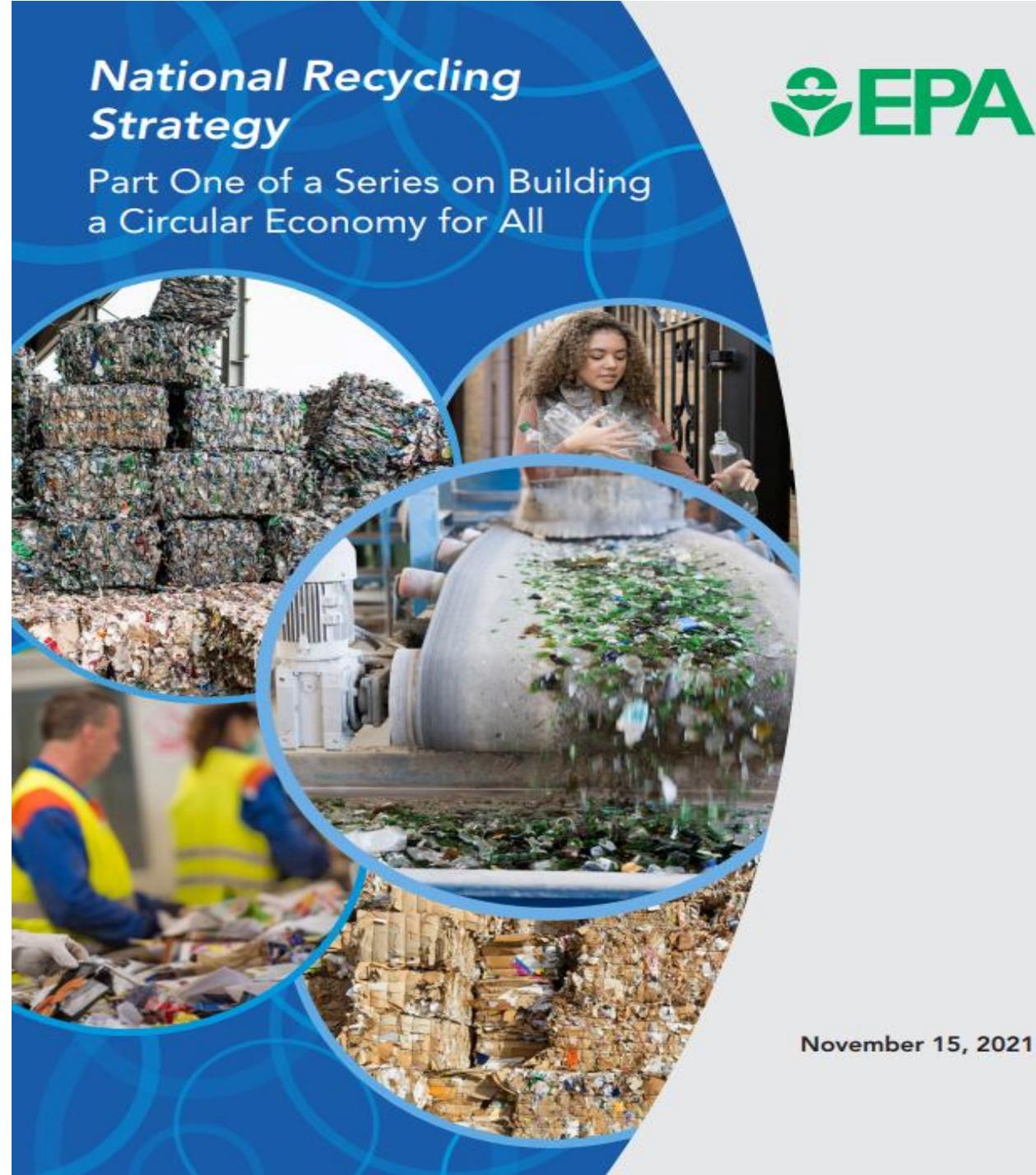
Goals of the Circular Economy Strategies

- Reduce domestic and international climate impacts and social inequities associated with natural resource extraction and processing
- Reduce ecosystem loss and destruction
- Stimulate economic development (jobs, businesses) related to circular economy



National Recycling Strategy Released on America Recycles Day

November 15, 2021



National Recycling Strategy
Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All

EPA

November 15, 2021

The graphic features a blue background with white circular patterns. It includes the EPA logo in the top right corner. The central part of the graphic is a collage of images related to recycling: a woman sorting through plastic bottles, a large industrial roller processing waste, stacks of compressed cardboard boxes, and workers in a recycling facility. The text 'National Recycling Strategy' and 'Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All' is positioned at the top left of the graphic area.

Scope of Part One: National Recycling Strategy

- Focuses on enhancing the national municipal solid waste (MSW) or “household” recycling system
- Identifies stakeholder-led actions to create a stronger, more resilient, more equitable and more cost-effective MSW recycling system
- Acknowledges recycling alone cannot help us achieve a circular economy
- Commits EPA to developing additional strategies (material reuse and reduction, food waste, plastics)



Challenges to the U.S. Recycling System

- Inadequate recycling infrastructure and market demand for recyclables
- Confusion on what is recyclable, leading to contamination
- Environmental justice concerns, including around exporting recyclables



National Recycling Strategy Objectives

- A. Improve Markets for Recycled Commodities
- B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
- C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
- D. Enhance Policies and Programs to Support Circularity
- E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection



Objective C: Decrease Contamination

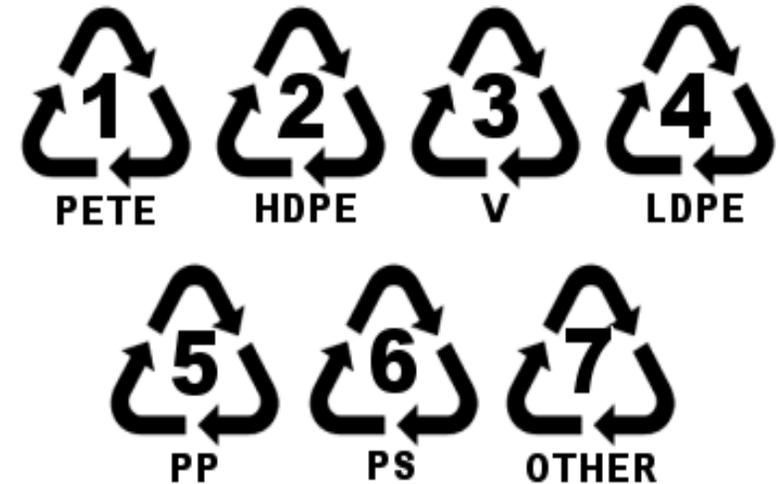
Example Actions:

Improve consistency of labels for recyclable products and recycling bins

- Help address consumer confusion about what can be recycled and which bins to use
- Promote labels that are not misleading
- Reduce contamination in recycling

Develop common recycling messages

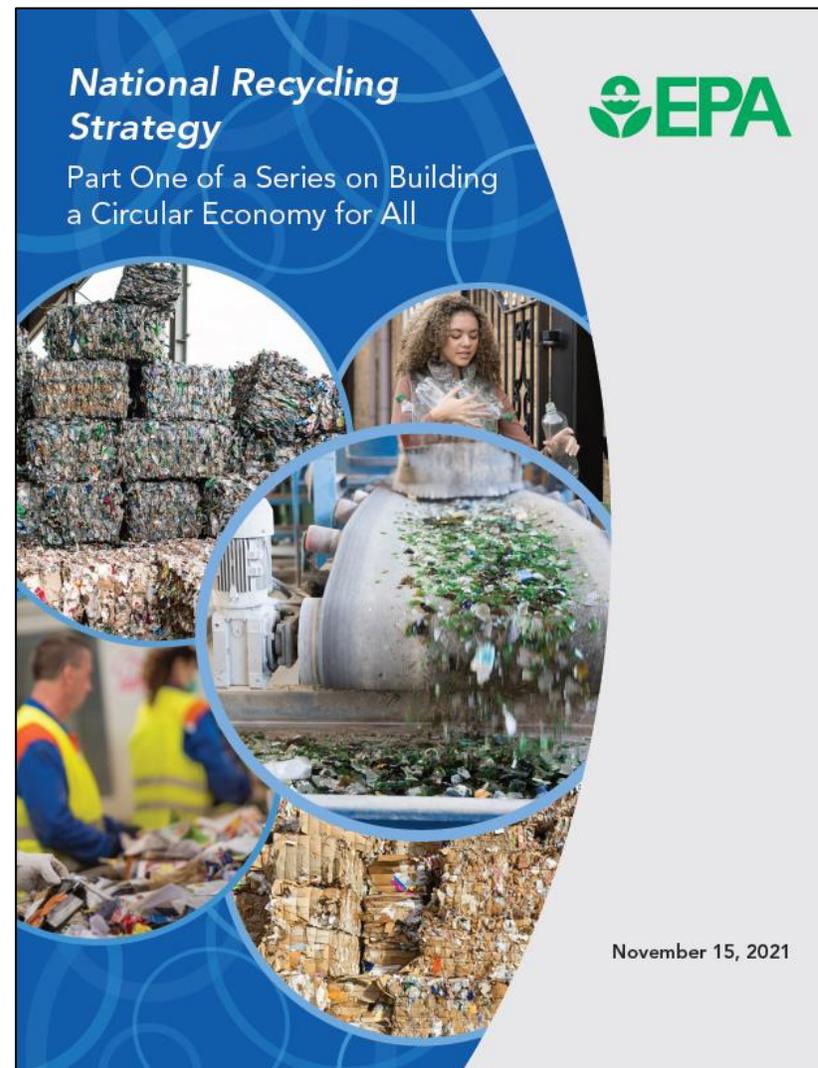
- Help public understand how to recycling properly and to avoid wishcycling
- Support states, local and tribal governments



Some Believe the Resin Codes on Plastics Indicate the Material is Recyclable

How You Can Join the Effort!

- View the Strategy's actions:
<https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy>
- Successful Implementation of the National Recycling Strategy will take action from all stakeholders!
- Encouraging stakeholders to sign up to “lead” or “support” Strategy actions
- Invite entities to identify new actions for consideration



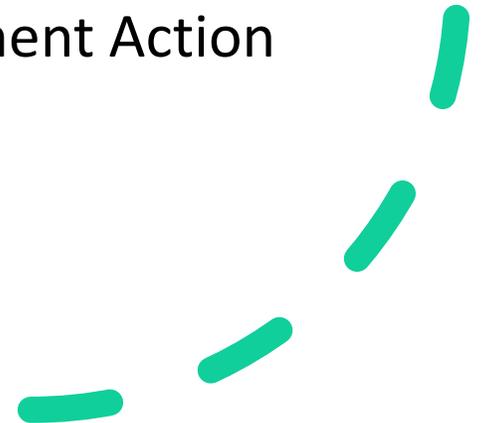
Who can “Lead” and “Support” Actions?

- Anyone can potentially lead or support a Strategy action!
- Leaders and Supports Could Include Representatives from:
 - Federal government
 - Local/state/tribal government
 - NGOs
 - Trade association
 - Private industry
 - Other



Roles for “Leads” and “Supporters”

- **Action Leads:**
 - Help Develop and Lead Plan to Implement Action
 - Provide action plan text for EPA Website
 - Coordinate and convene action supporters
 - Provide Periodic Updates to EPA on Progress
 - Report Updates on Milestones (Quarterly?)
- **Action Supporters:**
 - Work with Action Leads to Implement Action
 - Support may be large or small



A Few Reasons to Lead or Support an Action

Help Create a More Efficient and
Effective Recycling System

Support the Nation in Meeting the
National Recycling Goal

Amplify Existing Work

Get Cross-Sector Support on an
Effort

Be Recognized

Online Platform for Sharing Progress Updates

Objective	Action Title	Action Number	Status
Improve Markets	Host dialogues stakeholders to learn how to promote greater use of recycled content in products	A4.4	Not started
Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure	Conduct a needs assessment of recycling infrastructure in the United States	B1.2	Not started
Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure	Conduct an environmental justice assessment of non-hazardous solid waste management infrastructure in the U.S.	B1.3	Not started

See Strategy Actions at: epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/circular-economy-implementation-plan-online-platform

Where Do I Sign Up?

Select "Lead" or "Support" associated with actions of interest to you or your organization.

A: Improve Markets for Recycled Commodities

A1.1 Conduct market development workshops and dialogues

None Lead Support

A1.2 Support regional market development entities

None Lead Support

A1.3 Produce an analysis of market development opportunities suited to rural areas

None Lead Support

Express Interest to Lead or Support Actions at:
epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/take-action

How do I Learn More?

- **Sign up to “stay connected” to learn about:**
 - New grant programs!
 - Solid waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants
 - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - Education and Outreach Grants
 - EPA reports (Recycling Measurement Guide)
 - Circular Economy strategies – Development and Implementation
- **Sign up here:** epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected



Plans for 2022

Implement the Recycling Strategy	Continue national, regional and local efforts to implement the National Recycling Strategy.
Develop Additional Circular Economy Strategies	Develop additional Circular Economy strategies (Plastics, Food Waste, Critical Minerals and Electronics, Built Environment and Textiles).
Develop New Grant Programs	Develop new funding opportunities to support solid waste infrastructure and education/outreach.
Gather Feedback	Collect stakeholder input to inform strategies and grant opportunities.



CONTACT US

- Lead or Support a National Recycling Strategy Action: epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/take-action
- Sign up to Stay Connected on our Strategies and grants: epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected
- Email EPA at SMMPartners@epa.gov
- Reach your EPA Regional contacts:
 - Callier.james@epa.gov