



## NEBRASKA RECYCLING COUNCIL

# ADVOCACY MESSAGE AREAS OF AGREEMENT

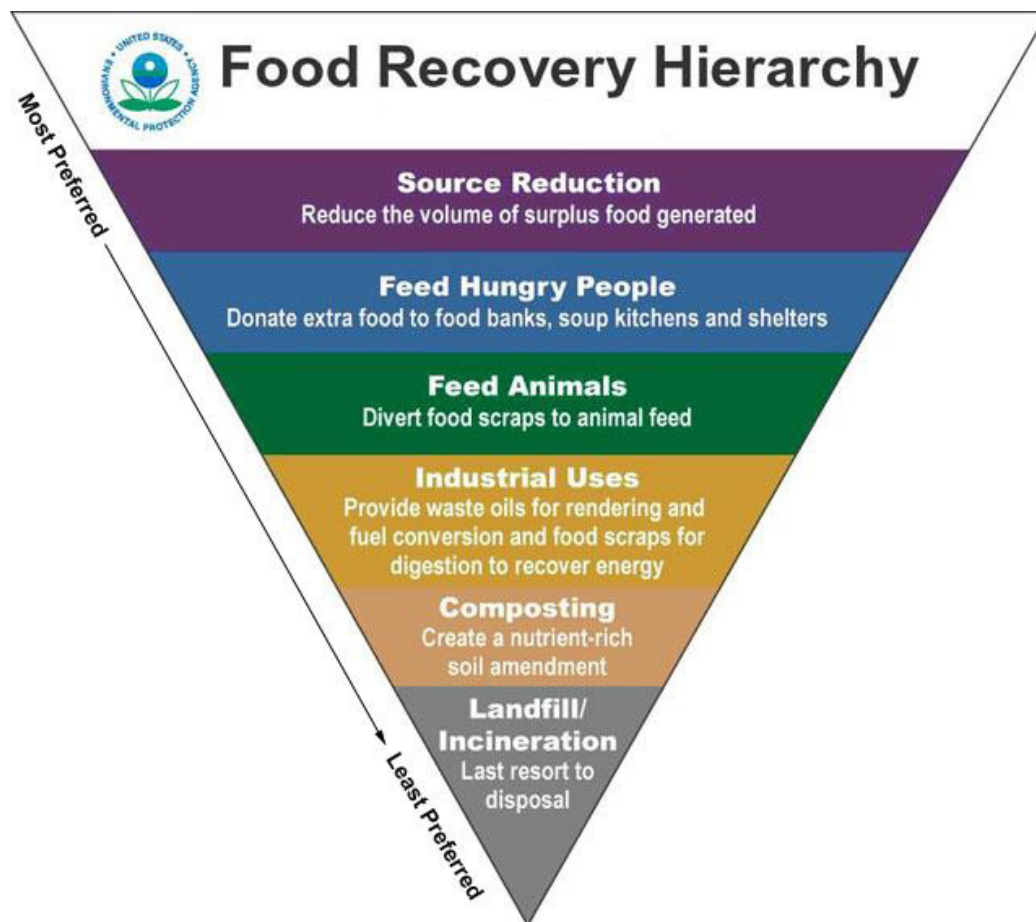
Approved by the Board of Directors, June 26, 2019

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## AREAS OF AGREEMENT

- 1 Advocate for voluntary State and community source reduction (including toxics reduction), material reuse, composting, recovery, and recycling goals to promote resource recovery and waste reduction. Goals must be clear, achievable, measurable, and sustainable.
  - a. NRC supports uniform methods for communities and the State to measure source reduction, material reuse, composting, recovery, recycling and waste disposal.
    - i. This would include annual reporting from waste and recycling collectors and processors on the amount of material collected, household and business participation which would be aggregated to community-wide totals as well as levels and percent of recyclables remaining in the landfill resulting from regularly scheduled waste characterization analyses.*
  - b. In the event voluntary goals are not met, NRC will advocate for and support local and State organizations in the development of policy changes and incentives that encourage source reduction, material reuse, composting, recovery and recycling.
- 2 Recognize that municipal solid waste (MSW) planning for State and local jurisdictions should continue and that NRC supports these efforts as necessary and important elements of municipal solid waste and resource management.
  - a. NRC supports the implementation of the resource/solid waste management hierarchy and integrated MSW planning that includes source reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and composting.
    - i. When comparing the cost and value of recycling to waste disposal, the full cost of disposal must be analyzed, including but not limited to: the long-term annual loss of crop production on disposal property; resource depreciation (land and natural resources); and environmental impact. The full value of recycling must include job creation, landfill space savings, revenue generated from the sale of material, and greenhouse gas emission reductions in making recycled-content products instead of products made from raw materials*
  - b. NRC supports zero waste planning for businesses, institutions and communities.
- 3 Advocate for the continuation of the State landfill ban on grass and leaves.

- 4 Advocate for local and state governments to consider disposal bans on materials and methods of enforcement where markets and infrastructure exist for recycling and composting.
- 5 Advocate for the development of strategies for composting source-separated organic materials.
- 6 Advocate for the development of demand-side policies such as, use of recycled content materials.
- 7 Advocate for purchasing policies that give preference to recycled-content products.
- 8 Advocate for the elimination of virgin material subsidies which adversely impact the demand for recycled materials and products.
- 9 Advocate for state and local investment tax credits, tax-exempt financing and other government financing tools such as grants, rebates and low-interest loans to increase private sector investment in recycling.
- 10 Advocate for the fair and accurate use of the chasing arrows symbol on packaging and support the disclosure of recycled content percentages, including post-consumer content, and how-to-recycle information on product package labels.
- 11 NRC supports the food recovery hierarchy established by the U.S. EPA.



- 12 Advocate for state and local funding of recycling public awareness campaigns and technical assistance on recycling and waste reduction tailored to meet local and state needs.

- 13 Advocate for the development of educational materials related to effective and sustainable solid waste management policies and procedures at the state and local levels.
- 14 Advocate for the development of industry best management practices and procedures standards for recycling and composting facilities to ensure efficient operation and to protect the health and safety of employees.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Advocacy:**

the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal: the act or process of advocating something