



NEBRASKA RECYCLING COUNCIL

MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Approved by the Board of Directors, June 26, 2019

MISSION

The mission of the Nebraska Recycling Council is to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of resource recovery in Nebraska.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The NRC strives to apply the following guiding principles in how we approach source reduction, material reuse, recycling, recovery and composting in the State of Nebraska

- 1 Be passionate about how to create a better Nebraska and a better world through the expanded use of source reduction, material reuse, recycling, recovery and composting.
 - Reuse, composting, recovery, and recycling are value-added activities for Nebraska communities that create well-paying jobs, boosting the local economy and benefitting society.
 - Materials recovery is the preferred management option for all residential, commercial, and industrial discards.
 - Recycling is resource management, not waste management.
 - Sustainable Materials Management is a critical strategic shift away from the current strategy of waste management toward a more holistic resource management system that strives to use less materials overall, reduce toxins, and recover more used materials to create a more circular economy.
 - Recycling is not disposal.
 - Thermal combustion is not recycling, but is viewed as landfill diversion or energy recovery.
 - Recovery of materials through processes such as pyrolysis, gasification and other waste processing technologies is not recycling but is viewed as landfill diversion and resource recovery.
 - Local and regional markets should be prioritized where feasible for local and regional economic development.
 - Recycling programs must be designed to minimize contamination in consideration of the needs of end markets.
 - Recyclables are substitutes for raw materials for many products and packaging.

- 2 Educate elected and governmental officials, businesses, institutions and residents on the importance of source reduction, material reuse, recycling, recovery and composting and provide tools, training and assistance in how to implement these programs the most effective way possible.
 - Recycling requires the participation and collaboration of all stakeholders – citizens and consumers, providers and consumers of raw materials, product manufacturers, product distributors and retailers, providers of recycling infrastructure, and all levels of government.
 - Successful recycling programs must provide clarity and be accessible and convenient for users in all residential, business and institutional settings.
 - The foundation of successful recycling policy and goals is accurate and unbiased information.
 - Recycling goals must be clear, achievable, measurable and sustainable.
 - Businesses, institutions and communities should understand the principles of Zero Waste which is defined as the consumption of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products packaging, and materials without burning, and with no discharges to land, water, air, that threaten the environment or human health.

- 3 Encourage local and state governments to adopt recycling policies and ordinances suitable to their jurisdictions and supported by their citizens.
 - The State, municipalities, and solid waste agencies must have a uniform system for measuring source reduction, material reuse, composting, recovery, recycling, and waste disposal.
 - Policies and programs should not favor raw materials use and waste disposal over materials management by source reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery, and composting.
 - Local government plays a leadership role in the education of its businesses and residents on the proper separation of recyclable materials and minimize contamination of recyclables.
 - Government tax policies must provide direct and indirect incentives for recycled materials utilization, new recycling technologies, and infrastructure development.
 - Local governments should have the necessary authority, sufficient means and tools to implement successful residential, commercial, and institutional source reduction, material reuse, composting, recovery and recycling programs
 - State and local collection policies and programs should optimize solid waste data collection, participation rates, cost-effectiveness, direct incentives, and energy efficiency.

- 4 Encourage employers, public and private, to responsibly reduce waste through source reduction, material reuse, recycling, recovery and composting.
 - Nebraska stakeholders should commit to the purchase of recycled-content products.
 - Manufacturers should expand uses of recycled-content materials in their products.
 - Recycling stakeholders should support development and dissemination of consistent, scientifically based, and balanced educational material that informs citizens on the need for recycling and in the recycling process.
 - Manufacturers should assume responsibility to develop and support programs that optimize the recovery of their products such as “take back” programs. This is termed Extended Producer Responsibility.
 - Product and packaging environmental claims and labeling programs should be standardized, accurate, enforceable, and useful for consumers.

5 Promote the efficient collection and processing of recyclable materials

- Facilitate public and private partnerships that provides efficient and convenient collection and processing system that maximizes material quality and value.
- Material recovery facilities must follow industry best management practices and standards in their operation.

DEFINITIONS

Holistic:

Holistic infers all parts, steps and processes of current and future recovery and recycling are interconnected.

Resource Recovery

is where discarded materials are collected, diverted from the landfill, and then repurposed for additional useful applications through a variety of processes. Such processes include, but are not limited to pyrolysis, gasification and other waste processing technologies or techniques.