NATIONAL MEASUREMENT STANDARDS FOR WASTE PRODUCTION & RECOVERY

Rationale

The National Recycling Coalition's National Recycling Measurement Standards and Guidelines were created as an essential first step toward the establishment of local. state and federal methods of measuring recycling rates. The National Recycling Coalition is now looking to the federal government to assist in the next steps required to further these goals.

Policy

The federal government should direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a nationally uniform system for state and local governments to measure waste production and recycling rates.

Definitions of solid waste, municipal solid waste, recyclables, recycled and related terms should be standardized nationally. Based on these definitions, guidelines for measuring quantities of solid waste, materials recycled and materials composted should be developed within a year by the EPA

The National Recycling Coalition's National Recycling Measurement Standards and Guidelines should be used as the basis for this definition and measurement system. EPA should also pay special attention to characterizing and quantifying waste production patterns.