LEGISLATION AND REGULATION
COST EFFECTIVE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Rationale

As cities and businesses look to expand and strengthen their recycling efforts, the roles the existing network of recycling collectors, processors and markets is affected. These impacts need to be considered by program planners and policy makers.

Policy

As recycling activities are expanded, efforts should be pursued in a way that builds upon the existing recycling infrastructure of markets, processors, collectors, sorters (both private and non-profit) and the throughput they generate. As the existing infrastructure grows, steps should be taken to ensure cost-effective design of systems, and for collection, processing and end-uses to grow in size together.

Incentives to increase the recycling rates should be structured to provide maximum benefit to those who increase the amount of recycling in an area, rather than support existing activities. Community-based recyclers and non-profit recyclers should be funded and encouraged to expand into other recycling activities (such as commercial recycling pickups and public education) once public and private recycling activities are provided. Alternatively, other activities could be incorporated into the design of services to be provided on a more comprehensive basis.