BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CODES

Rationale

Recycling is increasingly becoming an integral component of the nation's waste management system. *As* the waste disposal crisis deepens, many communities have enacted or are considering the enactment of recycling programs to help offset their disposal crisis.

Residences, commercial (public and private), and institutional multi-family and multi-unit buildings pose unique obstacles in the implementation of and compliance with local recycling efforts in densely populated urban areas. These obstacles include but are not limited to, lack of storage space, access, enforcement and education. Because most local building codes do not currently make provisions for recycling systems, these obstacles are likely to continue.

Policy

Municipal governments should direct and assist their Building Departments to develop codes and guidelines for the implementation of recycling programs that are consistent with the safety, health and well-being of building residents.

Local buildings codes should require new buildings and major renovations to explicitly provide for recycling systems as an integral component of the buildings' waste management systems. Special attention should be paid to provisions addressing office and multi-tenant buildings, especially in terms of storage and collection areas for recyclable materials.

Building codes should be developed jointly by the appropriate agencies administering local recycling programs and by all other pertinent local agencies to ensure that specific requirements of building codes are consistent with local recycling programs and maintain the highest standards of health and safety of building residents in their implementation. In addition, the national Uniform Building Code should be modified to conform with these considerations.

Cross-reference: Legislation and Regulation