EDUCATION & OUTREACH
ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

Rationale

A national education policy is needed that emphasizes environmental quality, resource conservation, source reduction recycling and sustainable growth so that society can enjoy the best of science and technology and live in harmony with nature.

Solid waste management suffers from a lack of qualified personnel to carry out the broad mandates of waste reduction and recycling. In business and industry, professionals are needed to maximize product durability, to ensure accommodations for recycling in building design and to promote procurement of recycled and low-waste materials. In government, professionals are needed to implement needed programs in source reduction, recycling, procurement and market development .and in shifting the solid waste system to an integrated waste management system.

Policy

Colleges and universities should develop fully-accredited degree programs for integrated waste management and recycling to train future graduates to become waste management professionals with expertise in these particular fields. Degree programs may include single-disciplinary degrees with a solid waste/recycling emphasis (e.g., engineering and packaging design or architecture and building design for recycling) as well as interdisciplinary programs involving business, political, economic, legal, environmental and engineering perspectives.

To raise environmental consciousness and as part of general education in community colleges, colleges, and universities, courses should be required in Biology of Human Survival including emphasis on cycles in nature and essentials of environmental ethics, resource management, source reduction and recycling.

Colleges and universities should aggressively work to develop graduate programs to research and develop innovative products from recycled materials, and to provide quantitative and qualitative information to professionals in the field as part of a nationwide recycling extension service. Colleges and universities should be encouraged to provide the maximum number of recycling opportunities for all materials on campus, to act as a model and to provide experience for volunteer and paid students to learn about recycling from an operations perspective.