NATIONAL DATABASE ON RECYCLING CAPACITY

Rationale

The National Recycling Coalition emphasizes the need for sharing information, and calls for "National leadership for Research and Development and Technology Transfer." It also cites the need for "the establishment of a national publicly accessible computerized recycling database to provide an annual report on the national rate for recycling of all commodities recycled from the municipal solid waste stream as defined in RCRA.. The National Recycling Coalition is looking to refine and further this goal and to support steps that will implement it

Policy

The federal government should establish a national database that includes information on existing and proposed recycling capacity. At minimum, the commodities to be tracked in this database should quantify the generation (total material generated that could eventually be supplied) supply (total material collected, processed and available for delivery to an end market) and the demand (projected end markets for each reclaimed material) for each commodity, by application and grade. Applications and grades must be clearly defined within each commodity category.

Purchasers of recovered paper, plastic, glass, metal and other commodities should continue to publish specifications for recovered materials by grade and should expand educational efforts to inform processors, handlers and manufacturers about materials that interfere with the recycling process. Nationally uniform guidelines and specifications should be developed for these commodities. This information should be included in the national database.

Cross-reference: Legislation and Regulation; Education and Outreach