LEGISLATION AND REGULATION
RECYCLED CONTENT PRODUCT STANDARDS

Rationale

Improvements in the markets for recycled materials will add certainty to recyclable material collection programs expanding throughout the nation. The expansion of markets, in turn, rests heavily on the use of recycled content products. Thus, measures are needed to expand and encourage the use of recycled content products.

Policy

Local, state, and national laws should be adopted that ensure the highest level of recycled content available in the marketplace for newspapers, packaging and other consumer products. Wherever possible, standards should be revised to allow greater use of recycled and recyclable materials. Impediments to use of recycled products should be scrutinized carefully, including review of FDA health-related constraints on recycled materials used in a variety of food packaging and paper brightness standards.

The impact of hazardous wastes regulation on recycling programs should be evaluated carefully to assure the maximum benefit to society is achieved in reducing both solid and hazardous wastes (e.g., non-bleachable inks have been introduced to decrease the amount of hazardous wastes from inks, but make paper non-recyclable in today's technology). The National Recycling Coalition also urges that all public and private bodies with responsibility for establishing product standards consider as factors in the standard development the product's useful life and the use of waste materials in the manufacture of new products.