PROCUREMENT
PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES FOR RECYCLED PAPER

Rationale

The National Recycling Coalition maintains its support for the "total recycled fiber" portion of the RAC's Definitions and Standards for Government Procurement Guidelines for Recycled Paper. There remains a strong division of Board sentiment between:

a) A requirement for specifically post-consumer content, and
b) Agreement with the RAC's recommendation for post-consumer (or comparable) category.

The National Recycling Coalition Board has an outstanding request to the RAC to respond to several key questions. These questions were raised prior to the adoption of the guidelines and have yet to be fully addressed.

1) More information is required to determine the extent of the "equivalent" component of the material that would be included in the "post-consumer or equivalent" definition by paper category,
2) More information is required on the cost of accounting for strictly "post-consumer" definition and associated economics as it affects the cost of recycling paper,
3) A procedure needs to be defined that will be utilized to account for and monitor compliance with these requirements (post-consumer or equivalent).
4) The work ability of a standard that would limit the amount of "equivalent" material included in the "post-consumer or equivalent" definition would be given further consideration.

Policy

The National Recycling Coalition encourages swift action to conduct the necessary research to address these questions, to analyze their impacts, and to apply the necessary modifications to the proposed standard so that they may be adopted and implemented