



Guiding Principles

Expand Economic Development Through Recycling

Recycling is an important component of Missouri's current economy and provides future economic development opportunities. The expanded collection, processing, and re-manufacture of recovered materials generates new jobs, tax revenues and markets. Recycling stimulates innovation and entrepreneurship.

Manage Materials, Not Waste

Waste prevention, product stewardship, reuse, recycling and composting significantly reduce the demand for extraction and use of virgin resources, and deliver multiple environmental, economic, and community benefits. These include conserving resources, saving energy, reducing pollution and mitigating the impacts of climate change. The magnitude of these benefits extends far beyond preserving landfill capacity and reducing landfill gas emissions.

Reduce Demand on Natural Resources

The one-way extraction and use of virgin resources for products and packaging that are rapidly discarded to landfills or incinerators is a primary cause of global resource depletion. This creates many environmental, climate and social problems, and is fundamentally unsustainable.

Preserve Embodied Energy and Value

Maximizing the recovery, re-use, recycling, and composting of products and materials in as whole and as useful a form as possible preserves the embodied energy used in production and delivery of those products.

Use Locally Recovered Resources

Using locally recovered materials to furnish as many of our needs as possible supports local economic development and jobs, and reduces the environmental and climate impacts of longer supply chains. In particular, composted organics should be used as a soil amendment. Concrete, asphalt and other materials recovered from construction and demolition projects should be reused for local infrastructure and development.

Product Stewardship

The growing volume of complex, toxic and over-packaged products increases demand on waste management systems and liabilities associated with these systems. Product stewardship reduces waste net system costs by shifting the fiscal responsibility for product management away from the general public to the producers and consumers of products. This policy uses market competition to encourage product re-design, resource efficiency, less packaging and improved logistics.

Missouri Recycling Association	
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