

Recycling Reimagined

BUILDING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Recycling, composting and other sustainable waste management strategies are crucial to keeping America's cities clean.

Since the 1960s, increased recycling has been one of the most widespread success stories in conservation and sustainability.

Ninety four percent of Americans have access to some type of recycling service(s) and 73 percent have curbside recycling.

As recycling has blossomed into a global industry, flaws in the system have also grown. Inconsistent recycling standards are confusing to residents, and single-stream recycling is leading to high rates of contamination. And Americans continue to generate more and more waste.

A linear economic model is “take, make, waste.” Innovative cities are promoting a circular economy that connects the two ends of the cycle, using waste as a feedstock for production. Efforts to create a more circular economy can preserve resources, create jobs, add economic value, minimize waste and curb greenhouse emissions.

*Source: 2017 ISRI Economic Impact Study

Recycling by the Numbers

*In 2017, the U.S. recycling and reuse industry accounted for:

534,000

in stable jobs

\$30.6BILL

in wages

\$117BILL

in economic activity

\$8.2BILL

in state, local, and federal tax revenues