



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution Supporting America Recycles Day and the United States Environmental**
2 **Protection Agency National Recycling Strategy**

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, in response to international policy changes and other challenges, the United States
4 Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) focused on recycling challenges in the United States,
5 which led to the first America Recycles Day Summit. In 2019, the U.S. EPA published the National
6 Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System to highlight the current challenges in the nation's
7 municipal and residential recycling system within four key areas: promoting education and outreach,
8 enhancing infrastructure, strengthening materials markets, and enhancing measurement, and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, the U.S. EPA announced it would work to establish national recycling goals in
10 2020 to inspire action and drive participation, innovation, and progress across the entire value chain,
11 including consumers, and

12 **WHEREAS**, America Recycles Day (ARD) 2020 focused the attention of the nation on the importance
13 of recycling, and where businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals have
14 joined together to celebrate ARD 2020, through innovation and discovery, and are encouraging their
15 employees, staff, customers, membership, and all citizens to pledge to buy more recycled-content
16 products, and

17 **WHEREAS**, participating in ARD and actively supporting its mission is one of the ways the American
18 people can help raise awareness about the need to reduce waste by reusing, recycling, and buying
19 recycled products since a successful recycling system is a critical component in reducing the
20 environmental impacts of materials across their lifecycle, and

21 **WHEREAS**, as part of an integrated effort, the U.S. EPA has been developing a draft National
22 Recycling Strategy that identifies objectives and actions needed to create a more robust, more resilient
23 recycling system. The draft national recycling goals aim to develop standardized definitions for the
24 recycling industry to keep pace with today's diverse and changing waste system. The draft strategy will
25 identify actions needed to address these challenges that build on the collaborative efforts by stakeholders
26 from across the recycling system that began under the National Framework for Advancing the U.S.
27 Recycling System, and

28 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. EPA National Recycling Strategy identifies strategic objectives and actions
29 needed to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling
30 system, and



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31 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. EPA obtained preliminary input in the development of the National Recycling
32 Strategy from stakeholders, such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Environmental Council of the States
33 (ECOS), the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), the
34 Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), Tribal representatives, and the South Carolina Department
35 of Commerce, and

36 **WHEREAS**, recycling has been a critical component of a Sustainable Materials Management (SMM)
37 approach, which aims to reduce the environmental impacts of materials across their lifecycle, and

38 **WHEREAS**, through the SMM program, stakeholders strive to help meet the material needs of the
39 future by providing methods to decrease environmental impacts of materials use while increasing
40 economic competitiveness, and

41 **WHEREAS**, stakeholders realize that recycling is a key driver of the economy and a way to conserve
42 resources and protect the environment, and

43 **WHEREAS**, recycling supports a green economy, green jobs, job creation and promotes manufacturing
44 of products made from secondary or post-consumer materials, and

45 **WHEREAS**, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) can play an essential role in state,
46 territorial, tribal, and local agency input in the implementation of the national recycling strategies, and

47 **WHEREAS**, the NLGA encourages states to avail themselves of the U.S. EPA SMM program, technical
48 assistance on resource conservation, recycling, resource recovery, and waste reduction in conjunction
49 with its national counterpart, and

50 **WHEREAS**, the NLGA supports a sustainable and robust recycling program that is important if citizens
51 want to leave our nation's environment healthy and sustainable for future generations. The NLGA
52 supports improving recycling rates, access rates, participation rates, job creation, capture rate, and
53 tonnage of recyclables landfilled for a more robust recycling system. This leads to investment and
54 innovation, which are necessary to strengthen the U.S. recycling system and support industry-wide job
55 creation, and

56 **WHEREAS**, the NLGA recognizes that there is a need to improve local markets for recyclable materials
57 and recyclable products and better integrate recycled materials into products and packaging designs.
58 Policies, programs, initiatives, and incentives should focus on recycled content. Implementing such a
59 system for recycled materials will provide local jobs, add resiliency to market disruptions and create cost
60 savings for local businesses, and



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61 **WHEREAS**, ARD helps build on this progress by uniting environmental and community organizations,
62 business and industry, and agencies at all government levels as partners in the vital effort to keep
63 recycling working. ARD encourages every business and consumer in the U.S. and the territories, to start
64 or enhance recycling efforts and to buy recycled-content products to sustain the economy, improve the
65 environment, and preserve precious natural resources for the sake of generations to come.

66 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NLGA recognizes and encourages the work of the
67 U.S. EPA and its efforts to improve recycling throughout the country.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports consensus-building and collaboration among
69 state and territorial officials on the promotion of the National Recycling Strategy.

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA is committed to working with the U.S. EPA to promote
71 solutions that can improve the U.S. recycling system and achieve the environmental, economic and
72 social benefits of recycling.

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports a plan for more consistent tracking and
74 reporting of municipal and residential recycling activities on a regional and national scale.

75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA encourages promotion of and engagement with ARD
76 every November 15th.

ADOPTED, this day, the 25th of March, 2021.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Josh Green (D – Hawaii), Lt.
Governor Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado), Lt. Governor Josh
Tenorio (D – Guam)