

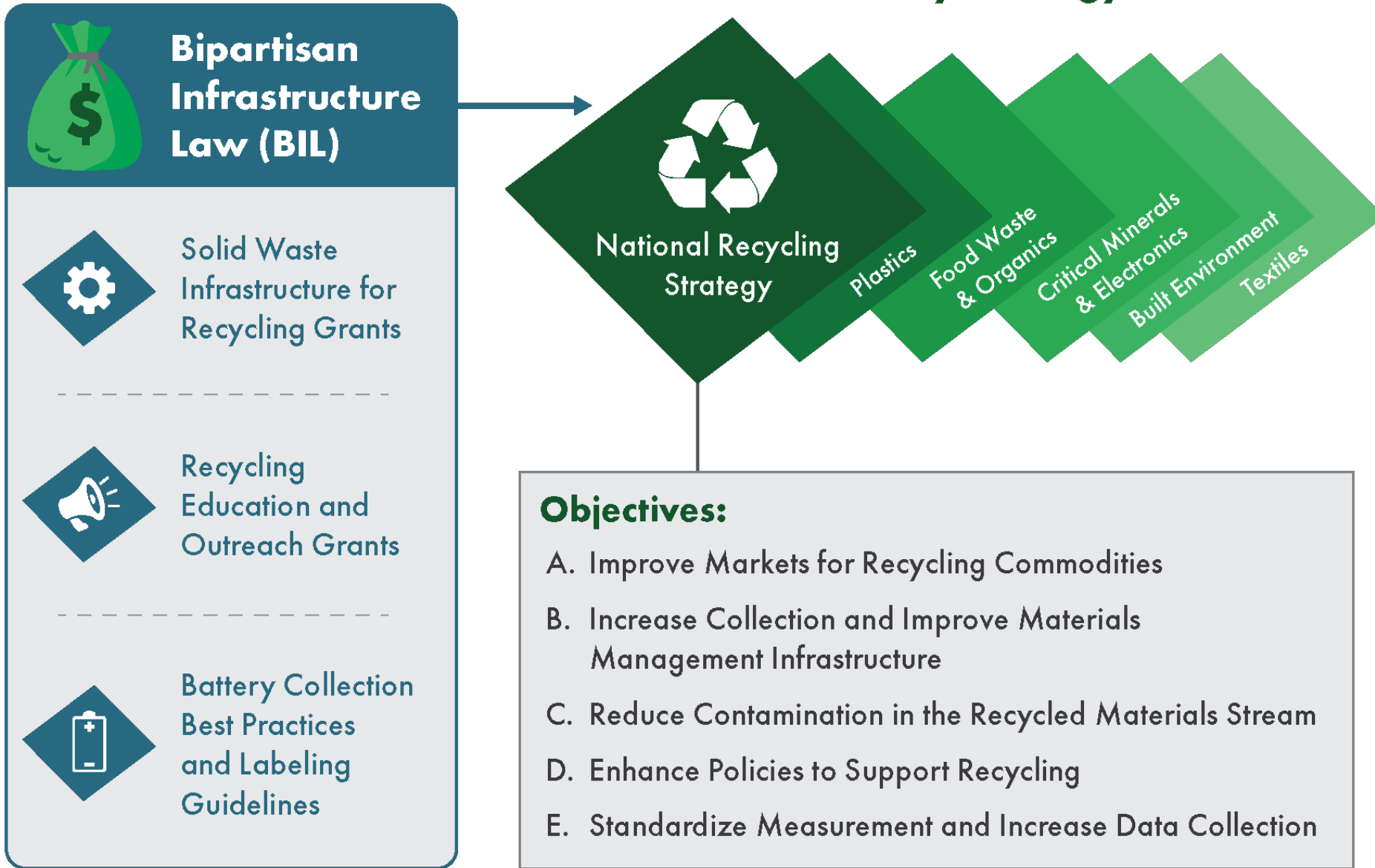


# EPA Sustainable Materials Management Updates

Georgia Recycling Conference  
September 26, 2022

Barbara Alfano  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4

## Circular Economy Strategy Series



***EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, and addresses climate change, and environmental justice.***





# **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investment for 5 Years**

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## **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program**

- \$275M for State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)
- This represents an entirely new program for SMM

## **Recycling Outreach and Education Grants**

- \$75M for education and outreach grants focused on improving education and outreach about waste reduction and recycling
- Again, an entirely new program for SMM

## **Pollution Prevention Program Grants**

- Additional \$100M for P2 Grants
- Expands existing STAG grants
- Quadruples the size of the Pollution Prevention grant program.

# Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program

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## IMPLEMENT

the Strategy under  
Save Our Seas 2.0 Act  
section 301(a)



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## SUPPORT

improvements to  
local post-consumer  
materials management,  
including municipal  
recycling programs



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## ASSIST

local waste management  
authorities in  
making improvements  
to local waste  
management systems

# Who is eligible for SWIFR grant funding?

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- States, including District of Columbia
- Political subdivisions of states
- Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Tribes
- Former tribal reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior)
- Alaskan Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203
- Intertribal Consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a)



# Who is eligible for Education/Outreach grant funding?

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- States, including District of Columbia
- Local governments
- Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Tribes
- Native Hawaiian organizations, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Non-Profit organizations
- Public-private partnerships



# Summer Feedback Listening Sessions

- BIL programs covered
  - SWIFR Grants
  - Education and Outreach Grants and Model Recycling Program Toolkit
- Groups targeted
  - Tribes
  - State, territorial, and local governments
  - General public
  - NGOs and Private Sector
- Sought Feedback on the following topics
  - Infrastructure Needs and Priorities
  - Education and Outreach Needs and Priorities
  - Data and Measurement Needs, and
  - Battery Collection Best Practices

# When will the grants be posted?

*EPA now anticipates publishing all the grant guidance and Requests for Applications (RFAs) this fall*

- *Oct 30 tentatively*
  - *Noncompetitive SWIFR Guidance to States and Territories*
- *America Recycles Day (Nov 15)*
  - *Request for Application for competitive SWIFR*
  - *Request for Application for REO*



# Updates on EPA's Circular Economy Strategy Series



**PART 1:**  
National  
Recycling Strategy



**PART 2:**  
Plastics



**PART 3:**  
Food Waste



**PART 4:**  
Critical Minerals  
& Electronics



**PART 5:**  
Build Environment



**PART 6:**  
Textiles



# National Strategy (ACTION PLAN) to Prevent the Wasting of Food & Expand Organics Recycling

## Objectives (draft):

- ☐ Prevent Household Food Waste
- ☐ Prevent Food Service Food Waste
- ☐ Prevent Retail Food Waste
- ☐ Recycle any Remaining Food Waste and Enhance Organics Recycling Opportunities
- ☐ Conduct Research and Improve Measurement

- Part of the *Circular Economy Strategy Series*
- Draft to be out for public comment in fall/winter
- Helps us achieve our 2030 Goal of 50%

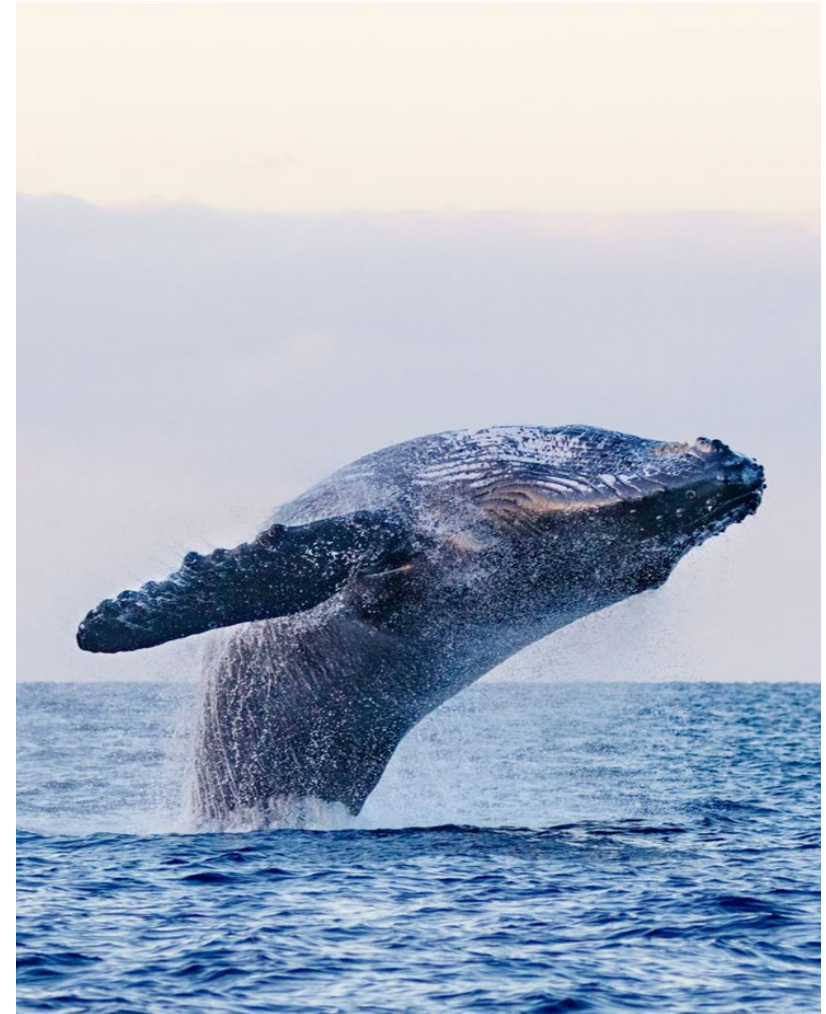
# Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Section 301 -Plastics Strategy

## SEC. 301. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

(a)... the EPA Administrator shall, **in consultation with stakeholders**, develop a strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure for the purpose of reducing plastic waste and other post-consumer materials in waterways and oceans.

(b) the EPA Administrator shall—

- (1) distribute the strategy to States; and
- (2) **make the strategy publicly available, including for use by:**
  - (A) for-profit private entities involved in post-consumer materials management; and
  - (B) other nongovernmental entities.





# Plastics Strategy:

- **Objective 1: Design, products and systems**
- **Draft Objective 2: Policy and Technical Assistance**
- **Objective 3: Post-Use Waste Management Infrastructure**
- **Draft Objective 4: Post-Use Water Management Infrastructure**
- **Draft Objective 5: Microplastics**
- **Draft Objective 6: Measurement**
- *Draft Objective 7: Public awareness and motivating public action*



# Draft Strategies

Just as we sought public comment on the National Recycling Strategy...

- Both the draft Plastic Strategy and Food Waste Action Plan are likely to be available for Public Comment period for 60-to-90-day public comment later this fall/winter





# Requests for Information

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- Requests for Information (RFI's) published this summer
- 3 RFIs published:
  - Education and Outreach Grant Program & Model Recycling Program Toolkit
  - Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program
  - Battery Collection Best Practices and Voluntary Labeling Program
- Comments are being used to inform program development



# USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Funding Opportunity

## FY 2023 Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

- Supports projects that work across the food system to increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their food needs; and promotes comprehensive responses to local food access, farm and nutrition issues, including strategies to reduce food waste and other agricultural needs that mutually benefit agricultural producers and consumers.
  - CLOSING DATE: Friday, October 7, 2022
  - ELIGIBILITY - Public food program service providers, tribes, private nonprofit entities, including gleaners
  - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-CFP-009321

# EPA Calls for Nominations for 2023 Green Chemistry Challenge Awards

- Nominations can be submitted by companies or institutions that have developed a new green chemistry process or product that helps protect human health and the environment, including technology that reduces or eliminates greenhouse gas emissions, to combat the climate crisis.
- Nominations are due to the agency by December 9, 2022.
- An independent panel of technical experts convened by the American Chemical Society Green Chemistry Institute will formally judge the 2023 nominations and make recommendations to EPA for the 2023 winners.
- EPA anticipates giving awards to outstanding green chemistry technologies in six categories next Fall.
- More information on past award winners and how to submit entries can be found at: [Green Chemistry | US EPA](#)

# R4's Current Grants related to Reducing Food Waste

Grant Recipient	Funding Amount \$	Project	Award Date
TN Society of St Andrews	30,000	Food Loss Mapping & Pilot Project	2020
Florida Atlantic University	195,426	Support for Regional Community Anaerobic Digestion for Organic Waste Diversion	2021
Emory University	298,502	Prototype for Anaerobic Digestionfor Atlanta Urban Areas with EJ Concerns	2021
The Green Urban Lunch Box (GULB)	25,000	Atlanta Gleaning Organization Training and Awareness	2021
The 4Roots Foundation Inc. FL	25,000	Florida Pilot Produce Rescue Program	2021
United Against Poverty, Inc	25,000	Pilot to Mobilize Farm Produce	2021
Ecology Action Inc	52,878	Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance for Food Manufacturers	2021
The 4Roots Foundation Inc. FL	100,000	Atlanta GA Food Rescue Program	2022
Land of Sky Regional Council NC	50,000	Support for a Don't Waste Food NC campaign and Technical Assistance by an Innovative Team of Business Professionals	2022
Georgia Southern University	200,000	Conduct a Feasibility Study on Anaerobic Digestion Capacity at Pulp and Paper Mills using Food Waste from Universities	2022
Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) GA	25,000	Expansion of Recycling and Reuse Operations, including Food Composting	2022
City of Atlanta GA	25,000	Expansion of Food Waste Awareness to Restaurants	2022
<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>1,186,806</b>		

# Other EPA SMM Grants

Grant Recipient	Amount	Project	Award Date
Lifecycle Building Center	\$ 50,000	Create a “Reuse for Communities Toolkit” for Building Materials Reuse Association (BMRA) develop training for deconstruction	2020
Souteast Recycling Development Council	\$ 25,000	SERDC Rural Infrastructure Project	2021
NC DEQ	\$ 25,000	NC Recycling Market Tool	2021
UGA Research Foundation	\$ 75,269	Circularity in the Southeast: Overcoming Barriers to Recycling	2022



# Where to find the latest BIL information

New webpages to highlight our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law work:

- <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>
- <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program>
- <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/recycling-education-and-outreach-program>
- <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/battery-collection-best-practices-and-voluntary-battery-labeling-guidelines>

What is a Circular Economy:

<https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/what-circular-economy>

These pages will continue to be updated as our programs develop.

# How to Learn More?

- Sign up to “stay connected” to learn about:
  - New grant programs
    - Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants
    - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - Education and Outreach Grants
  - EPA reports (Recycling Measurement Guide)
  - Circular Economy strategies and action plans
    - Development and Implementation

[epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected](https://epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected)



Questions

