

The National Recycling Goal & Recycling Initiatives



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The Past Year has been Challenging



Overcoming Challenges



SWANA and the industry overcame a lot of adversity over the past year

- Sudden 20%+ spike in residential waste
- Workers with COVID or quarantined

Industry was Essential

- Industry recognized by Md Gov Hogan
- SWANA chosen by FEMA to help distribute masks to industry (2 million!)
- Established Sanitation Workers Support Fund providing money to workers with COVID-19
- SWANA helped prioritize for vaccines

Media Outlets Looked to SWANA for Industry Perspective

SWANA IN THE NEWS

- **The Solid Waste Association of North America is recognized by government and news outlets as a thought leader in a wide variety of waste industry issues, including safety, recycling, marine litter, and technological and regulatory trends**
- **[SWANA Honors Industry Workers that Have Lost Their Lives](#) – Apr 28, 2021, *WasteAdvantage Magazine***
- **[Not every piece of plastic is recyclable — here's what you need to know](#) – Apr 26, 2021, *NBC TODAY***
- **[How Local Governments Can Deal with Recycling Scofflaws](#) – Mar 29, 2021, *Route Fifty***
- **['Garbage Freaking Everywhere' as Americans Venture Outdoors After a Year of Lockdowns](#) – Mar 26, 2021, *TIME Magazine***
- **['We can and must do better': Report analyzes sanitation worker deaths](#) – Mar 24, 2021, *Safety & Health***

Pandemic Has Helped Recycling Prices

One of the few silver linings to the COVID-19 pandemic has been the increased demand for recovered materials as companies sought to satisfy increased e-commerce and other consumer needs

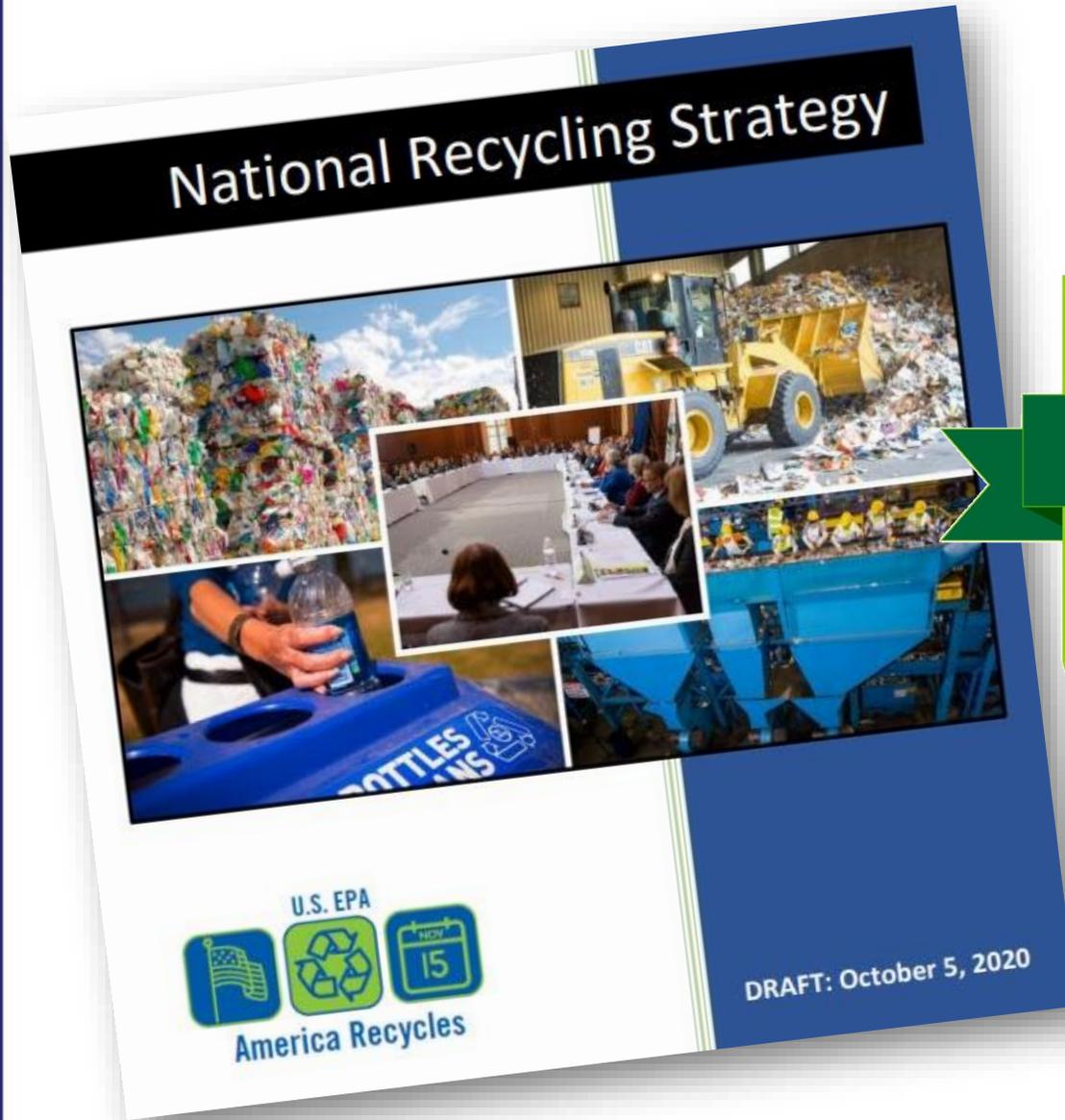
- OCC went from \$30 in early 2020 to over \$100
- Mixed Paper had negative value and is now worth \$20+
- Plastic prices (PET, HDPE, PPE) have also risen

**Congress
passed a bill
last year that
will help
recycling**

- The **Save Our Seas 2.0** bill passed almost unanimously. Although focused on marine litter it includes provisions providing money to local governments for recycling programs
 - \$55 million/year for improving “local post-consumer materials management”
- The bill passed in Nov/Dec 2020, after the EPA Appropriations bill was approved – so no funding was included for FY 2021!



Federal: EPA's National Recycling Goal & Strategy



National Recycling Goal

- In November 2020, EPA issued a National Recycling Goal of 50% by 2030
 - The current recycling + composting rate is 32%
 - NJ recycling rate is 39%, state goal is 50%
- Builds on the EPA “America Recycles” activities of 2018-2020
- 3 Key Measures
 - **Reduce contamination**
 - **Make the system more efficient**
 - **Strengthen markets for recycled materials**

National Recycling Strategy

The National Recycling Strategy will provide a roadmap for meeting the 50% by 2030 goal

- Draft Strategy was issued in Fall 2020 with 3 familiar objectives
 - Reduce Contamination – education, sharing info and best practices
 - Increase Processing Efficiency – support R&D, develop national definitions/measures, increase awareness of public/private funding
 - Improve Markets – workshops, analyze end markets, increase demand for recycled materials
- The Biden Administration is reviewing the comments provided on the draft.
 - EPA likely to take more aggressive steps to support recycling
 - EPA may see nexus to Climate Change and Infrastructure
 - Recycling creates jobs, reduces GHGs
- Final strategy likely this Summer

**We are
engaging with
the Biden
Administration
in EPA and
Congress**

- The Biden Administration EPA will be much more aggressive on the regulatory front
- Most environmental issues are viewed through two lenses:
 - Climate Change
 - Environmental Justice – NJ model?
- Solid waste and recycling rules, policies, and facilities are connected to both issues
- We are already involved on recycling and PFAS, and will engage on other issues as they arise (e.g., methane from LFs)
 - 2 ARF reports on PFAS coming out soon
- Congress – lots of bills re recycling (again)

Congress 2021- 22 Recycling

There are a growing number of recycling-related bills in Congress as both D's and R's look to improve domestic recycling systems

- **Recycling-only**
Incremental change v systemic change?
 - RECOVER Act, RECYCLE Act
 - Recycling & Composting Accountability Act
 - Break Free From Plastic Act
 - National bottle bill, ban on single use plastics
- **Climate Change**
 - CLEAN Future Act (E&C Chair Pallone) – EPR, Zero Waste grants, moratorium on new chemical recycling facilities
- **Infrastructure**
- **Basel Convention**

Safety – Nothing We Do is More Important



- The pandemic has increased our focus on health and safety
 - SWANA started its own Safety Matters newsletter in Feb 2021
- In 2019, waste collection had the 6th highest fatality rate in the U.S.
- SWANA data suggests 2020 was a little better than 2019
- We urge chapters to hold Hauler Safety Outreach events to help educate collection crews about best practices
- Take the [Safety Pledge](#), buy [SDTGA](#) stickers, apply for a [Safety Award](#) – engage!

Upcoming Events

Please register for:

- [June 15 SMM Summit](#) – Recycling, Composting, Food Waste and more
- [June 17 Landfill Challenges Summit](#) – PFAS, methane control, stability and more
- EPA leaders speaking at both events

Who wants to go to Florida????

- The “SWANA family reunion” will be Nov 1-4 at [WASTECON-2021 in Orlando](#)
- Members are VERY EXCITED to meet in person

David's Requests

- What can the NJ chapter do to help SWANA?
 - Contact the 55 new members and engage with them
 - Contact all 17 YPs in the chapter and make sure all of them are involved (only 2 new YPs)
 - Encourage members, co-workers, and others to participate in the June 2021 Summits and WASTECON 2011 in Florida
 - Hold at least 1 Hauler Safety Outreach event this year



Thank you!

**Let's do some
Q&A!**