

EDUCATION & OUTREACH ESTABLISHMENT OF K-12 RECYCLING CURRICULUM

Rationale

Source reduction and recycling are not currently represented in the format framework of environmental education in K-12 schools.

Policy

The source reduction and recycling of waste must be reflected in K-12 school curriculum for society to make this a daily practice. A clearinghouse to provide technical support may be useful. Consistent, coordinated statewide programs are needed to provide information on and involvement in source reduction and recycling programs at all stages of K-12 curriculum.

Current science curricula would be the first place to include a significant emphasis on these topics. Initial efforts should be made to incorporate these topics into at least four specific grade levels in the K-12 public school system. The goal should be to constantly and consistently strive to instill reduce-recycle values over time.

High schools should be encouraged to provide the maximum number of recycling opportunities for all materials on campus, to act as a model and to provide experience for volunteer and paid students to learn about recycling from an operations perspective.