

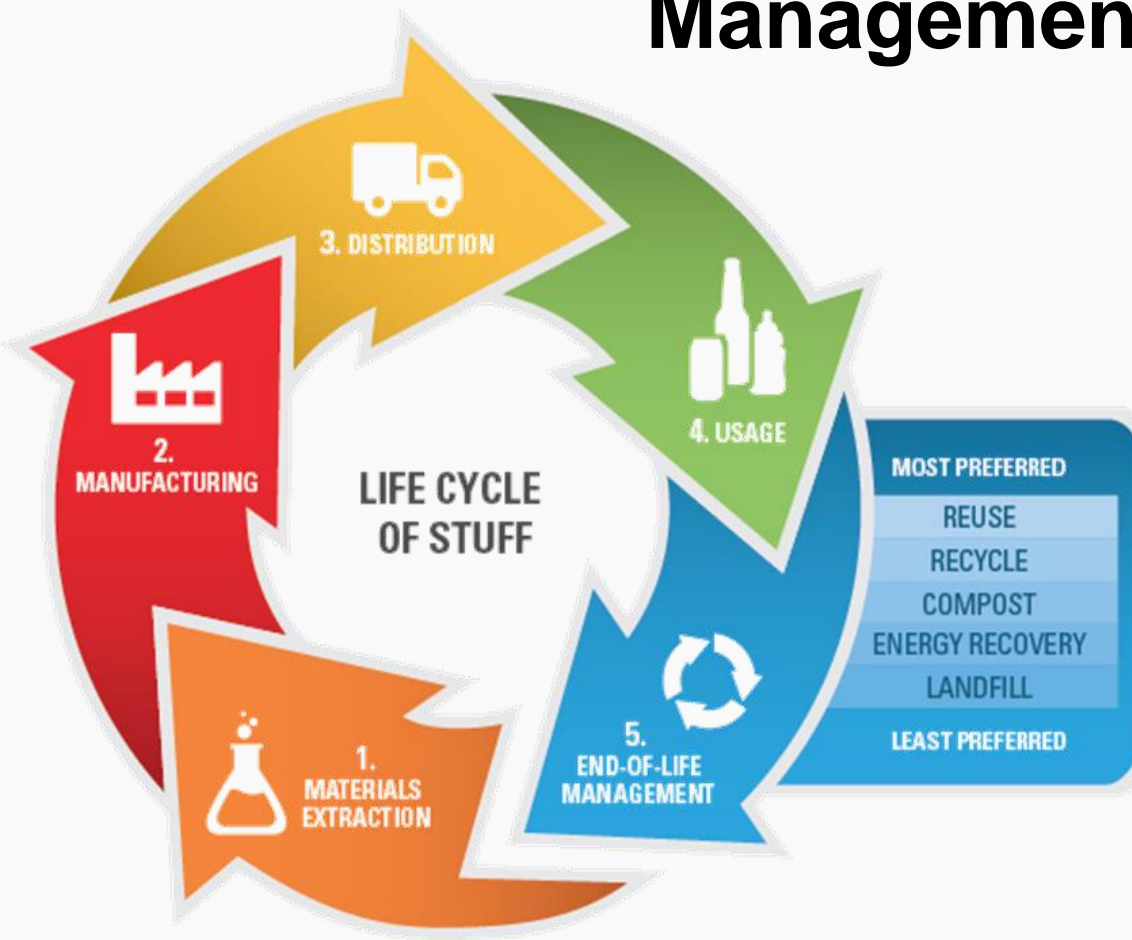
Addressing Challenges in the U.S. Recycling System, a Critical Sector in the U.S. Economy

**SC Department of Commerce
Recycling Industry Forum**

Cheryl T Coleman, Director
Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division
US Environmental Protection Agency

May 23, 2019

What is Sustainable Materials Management ?



“An approach to serving human needs by using/reusing resources productively and sustainably throughout their life cycles, generally minimizing the amount of materials involved and all associated environmental impacts.”



By 2030:
Let's cut the amount of food we waste in half.

APRIL IS WINNING ON REDUCING FOOD WASTE MONTH



**30-40% OF ALL
AVAILABLE **FOOD**
IN THE U.S. IS
WASTED**

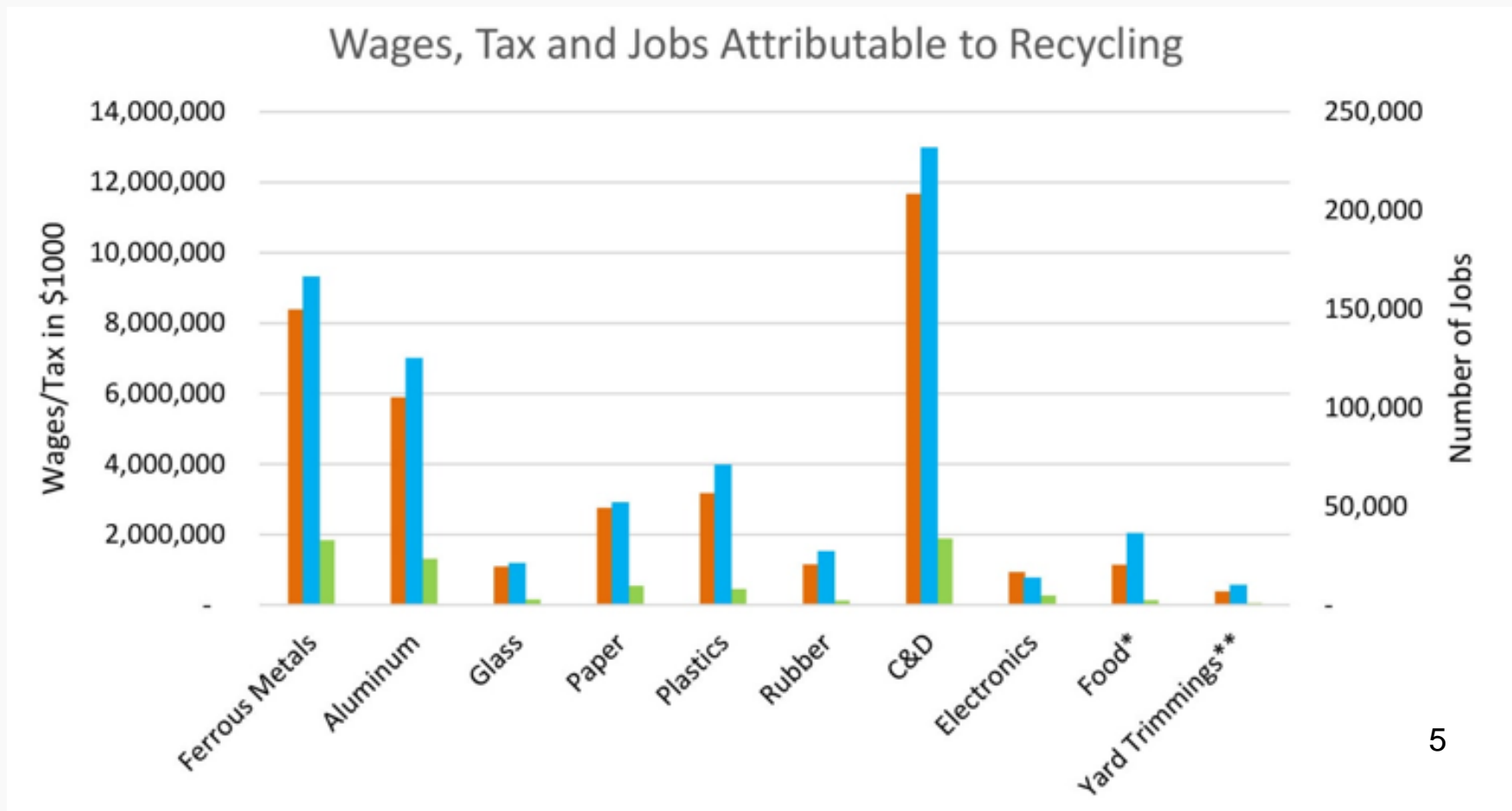
**Do your part. Join your federal partners
in reducing food waste.**

#NoWastedFood

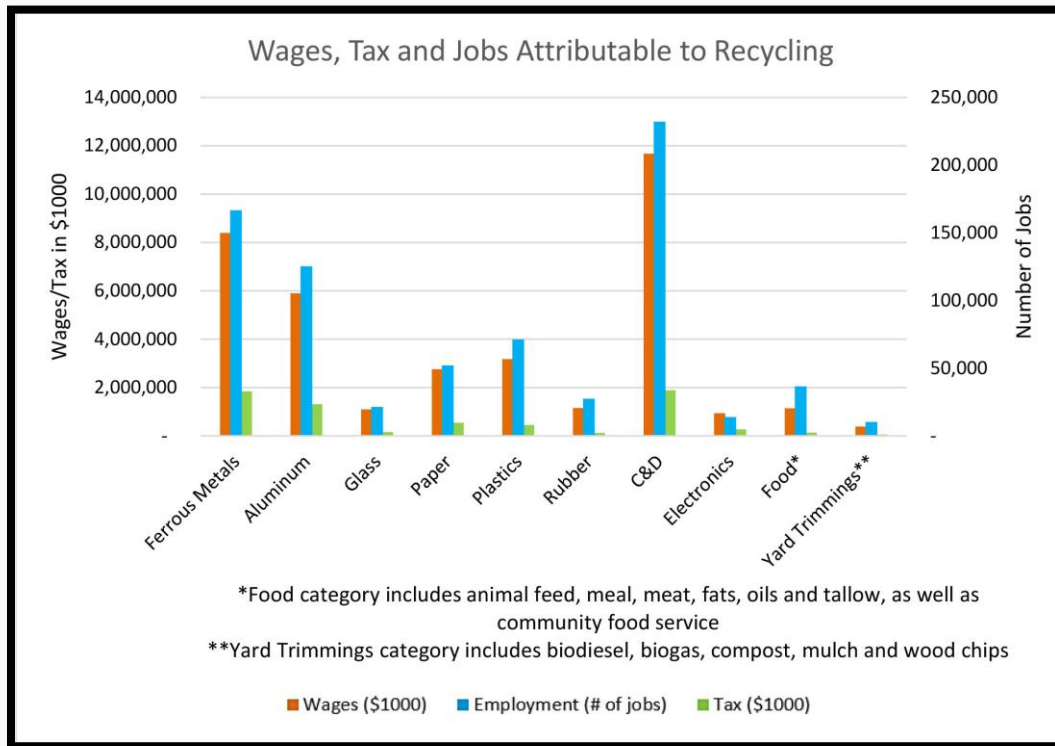


**U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION**

Recycling Economic Information



Importance of Recycling



- 757,000 jobs
- \$6.7 billion annually in tax revenues

• \$9 billion are thrown away each year!

America Recycles Day 2018





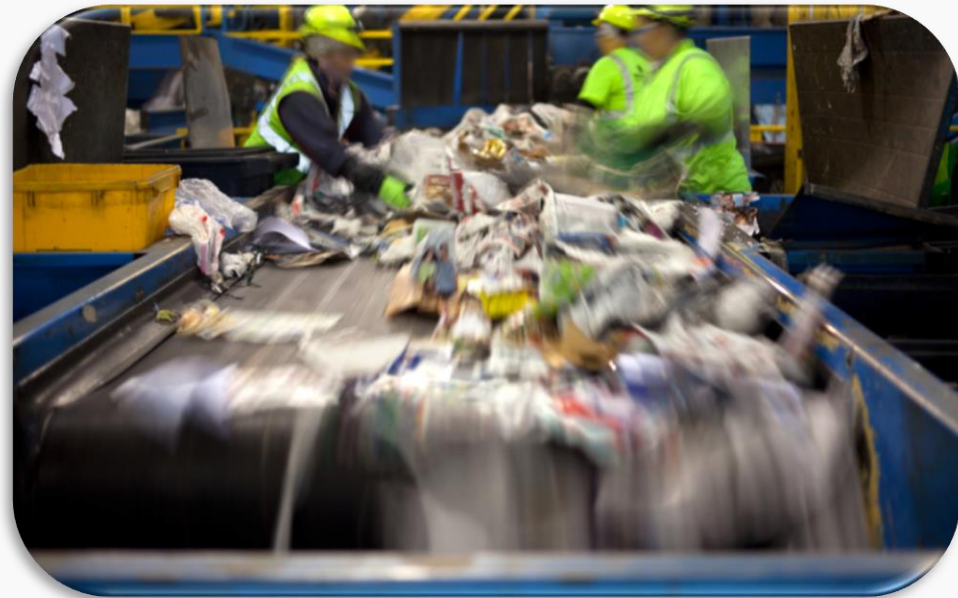
AMERICA RECYCLES DAY 2018 PLEDGE

In recognition of this America Recycles Day, November 15, 2018, we, the undersigned, pledge to work together to build on our existing efforts to address the challenges facing our nation's recycling system and identify solutions that create a more resilient materials economy and protect the environment. Our signatures indicate the interest and willingness of our organizations to participate in an ongoing dialogue over the next year to identify specific actions that we can take collectively and within our respective organizations to improve the nation's recycling system.

www.epa.gov

U.S. Recycling System Action Areas

- Education and Outreach
- Enhancing Materials Management Infrastructure
- Strengthening Secondary Materials Markets
- Enhancing Measurement



Working Together to Improve Recycling Systems



Additional EPA Efforts

- Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines
- Wrap Recycling Action Program
- WasteWise



Next Steps

- Sign the Pledge!
 - <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/forms/america-recycles-pledge>
- Draft Recycling Framework Release
- America Recycles Summit 2019

The Pledge

My organization pledges to work together with EPA and the other America Recycles Pledge signatories to build on our existing efforts to address the challenges facing our nation's recycling system and to identify solutions that create a more resilient materials economy and protect the environment. My submission of this form indicates the interest and willingness of my organization to participate in an ongoing dialogue to identify specific actions that we can take collectively with EPA and the other signatories, and within our respective organization, to improve the nation's recycling system.

Sign the Pledge

Please complete the below form in its entirety, including selecting your organization type and choosing one or more action areas in which your organization is most interested in being involved.

Please read the above pledge language carefully before you submit the form. Submission of the below form indicates your pledge signature.

[↑ Top of Page](#)

Organization Name (Required)

Primary Point of Contact (Required)

Contact E-mail Address (Required)

Areas of Interest (select all that apply) (Required)

- ☐ Education & Outreach: Communicating what, where and how materials can be recycled, to the public and across the recycling chain.
- ☐ Enhancing Materials Management Infrastructure: Helping recyclers adapt to an evolving materials stream and prepare to recycle new materials.
- ☐ Strengthening Secondary Materials Markets: Producing high quality, contaminant-free recycled materials that can be easily incorporated into products.
- ☐ Enhancing Measurement: Developing specific, measurable goals supported by consistent terminology and data collection methodology.

Submit

Thank you!

Cheryl T. Coleman, Director

U.S. EPA Resource Conservation
and Sustainability Division

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@EPAland