

Recycling; Stimulating the Economy with Green Jobs

FACTS

- The recycling industry is estimated to provide over 2 million jobs and contribute over \$250 Billion to the GDP. However, the economic recession has had a singularly severe impact on recycling service providers due to the collapse in prices for many commodities commonly recovered from the waste stream, and may deter much-needed investment by both government and non-government service providers to modernize recycling services. Incentives for recycling investment are critical to preservation of the resource and energy conservation benefits of recycling and the job-creating benefits of recycling services.
- Purchasing power in the hands of recycling service providers will quickly stimulate American job creation in truck manufacture, cart/bin manufacture, and processing equipment manufacture, as well as direct employment in recycling services.
- NRC estimates that approximately \$300 million is needed to build new, state-of-the-art capacity and to upgrade and modernize existing material recovery facilities (MRFs) across the country in order to more economically recover a wider diversity of high-quality recyclables.
- Millions of new recycling bins are needed for locations not currently served. Each recycling bin may cost, on average, \$50.
- Thousands of old, fuel-inefficient, high-emitting diesel trucks are still collecting recycling across the nation. A new fuel-efficient, clean-burning diesels, hybrids, and alternative fuel collection vehicles may cost \$250,000 or more.
- Application of EPA's climate models indicates that recycling of municipal waste and scrap materials already lowers the carbon footprint of the nation by approximately 4-5%. Maintenance and enhancement of the recycling infrastructure is critical to preserving the nation's challenge to lower carbon emissions, and enhancement of recycling will further lower the nation's carbon footprint.