

Summary of US Market Development Efforts

Recycling market development programs differ across the US. This paper summarizes non-profit, state agency, and local jurisdiction efforts to develop domestic markets for recycled materials.

This summary is designed to inform the Washington State Recycling Development Center's advisory board. This document was prepared for discussion at the October 14, 2020 Advisory Board meeting. This list is not intended to be complete or comprehensive, refer to the references for more details.

Find more details in these references:

- [Recycling Market Development in the US](#) (RSE USA, 2019)
- [Recycling Development Center Report](#) (UW Evans School, 2019)

NON-PROFIT - several non-profits currently lead state or regional recycling market development efforts:

- **Northeast Recycling Council** ([NERC](#)); represents 11 northeast states (Maine to Maryland); Fostering communication, promoting sustainable recycling programs, and coordinating educational and public awareness activities related to recycling; started in 1987, contact [Lynn Rubenstein](#).
- **Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center** ([RMC](#)); clearinghouse of environmental, economic development, and manufacturing resources for end-use support of recycled commodities and products; started in 2005; [Bob Bylone](#).
- **Southeast Recycling Development Council** ([SERDC](#)); represents 11 southeast states (Florida to Virginia to Arkansas); Fostering communication, promoting sustainable recycling programs, and coordinating educational and public awareness activities related to recycling; started in 2004; contact [Will Sagar](#).

STATES – In addition to state environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) programs, some state market development-related initiatives are listed below:

- **Alabama** Dept. of Environmental Management (ADEM) partnered with SERDC to form the [Alabama Recycling Partnership](#) to offer recycling best management practices and grants.
- **California** Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) administers the [Recycling Market Development Zone](#) low-interest loan program, offers grants for use of tire-derived materials, and oversees several recycled content laws.
- **Colorado** Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) offers grants through business incubator program called Colorado [NextCycle](#).
- **Indiana** Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) offers grants through the Recycling Market Development Program ([RMDP](#)).
- **Massachusetts** Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) manages the [Recycling Market Development Grant](#) program, funds the [Recycling Revolving Loans](#), and offers permit fee waivers for recycling facilities.
- **Michigan** Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (MI EGLE) offers a [Recycled Materials Market Directory](#), [Materials Marketplace Exchange](#), and [Market Development Grants](#). Michigan EGLE recently announced Michigan [NextCycle](#) offering grants and innovation challenges. Michigan Economic Development Corporation offers [private activity bond financing](#) to manufacturers, nonprofits, and solid or hazardous waste disposal facilities.

Summary of US Market Development Efforts

- **Minnesota** Pollution Control Agency ([MPCA](#)) provides a [Recycling Markets Directory](#), [Recycled Products Directory](#), small business development center, technical and local assistance programs, and research and data.
- **North Carolina** Dept. of Environmental Quality ([NCDEQ](#)) offers a Recycling Business Assistance Center and Recycling Market Development Grants, Recycling Markets Directory, online materials marketplace, and pricing trends for recyclables. The NC Dept of Commerce participates in an Economic Development Partnership.
- **South Carolina** Dept. of Commerce ([SCDOC](#)) offers one-on-one materials management consultation to the recycling industry, coordinates on economic development, and offers a [business recycling directory](#).
- **Texas** Commission on Environmental Quality ([TCEQ](#)) hired a consultant to prepare a Recycling Market Development Plan, to be published in September of 2021.
- **Washington Economic Development Finance Authority** ([WEDFA](#)) is an independence agency within the executive branch of Washington State government. WEDFA finances businesses through loans and bonds, types of businesses include manufacturing, processing, production of alternate energy, waste, disposal, recycling and water or sewage treatment. [Rodney Wendt](#).

LOCAL INITIATIVES – examples of market development at the local level:

- **Washington Economic Development Association** ([WEDA](#)) is the trade association focused on economic development that supports economic developers from communities, counties, regions, ports, tribes, the state and private organizations (WEDA's member [organizations](#)), [Suzanne Dale Estey](#).
- **King County, Washington**, [LinkUP](#) works to expand markets for recyclable and reusable materials by facilitating an interactive community of businesses, public agencies and other organizations.
- **Austin, Texas'** [circular economy program](#) offers a materials marketplace, innovation competition, loans, and other resources.
- **Charlotte, North Carolina:** [Circular Charlotte](#) is a circular economy model and [Envision Charlotte](#) is an innovation effort.
- **Orlando, Florida**, The Recycling Partnership, and the US Chamber of Commerce partnered on [Beyond 34](#) pilot project.
- **Phoenix, Arizona**, Resource Innovation and Solutions Network ([RISN](#)) Incubator is a partnership between the city of Phoenix and Arizona State University on a business incubator for entrepreneurs involved in waste-to-product innovation.

Find more information at the Washington State Recycling Development Center [website](#) and Advisory Board [website](#). Reach out to the [Recycling Development Center Team](#) by email or sign up for the Recycling Development Center [email list](#).