

Environmental Justice and The Recycling Industry's Commitment to Our Communities

(passed by the ISRI Board of Directors on May 14, 2021)

Recyclers are committed to being good neighbors in their communities by operating environmentally responsible and safe recycling facilities, and engaging in our communities. We recognize our role in building and maintaining healthy neighborhoods. Through these activities, recyclers seek to be recognized as members and partners in their community's well-being and growth. Recycling is essential to the community, just as it is essential to the manufacturing supply chain in the United States and globally.

ISRI supports the broad objectives of Environmental Justice, including:

- The equal treatment and opportunity for all people regardless of race, ethnic origin, heritage, language or economic status;
- To contribute positively to the communities in which our members operate, including the opportunity to be heard;
- To promote continued environmental stewardship; and
- To further promote the health and safety of employees, customers and communities.

The U.S. recycling industry has its roots in multi-generational family businesses with long standing investments and engagement in the communities in which we are located. While the recycling industry today is composed of a mix of small, mid-size and large companies – with some family owned and others publicly-held corporations – recyclers across the country support the social well-being of our communities through long term economic investment and stewardship of the environment.

Recyclers' presence in communities is positive and contributes to economic development, providing direct and indirect jobs, as well as a strengthened tax base for funding local schools and services. The recycling industry plays the primary role in transforming otherwise discarded materials into recyclable raw materials. These recycled raw materials are then manufactured into new products, driving economic and environmental sustainability and reducing waste and CO₂ emissions.

A core value of the recycling industry is workplace health and safety. The recycling industry is committed to proactive actions that prevent risks to workers by implementing protocols designed to maintain a workplace free from hazards, operating at the highest standards and employing the best business practices such as providing on-going training for all employees, monitoring our work environment and regularly scheduled equipment maintenance. These actions ensure a safe and healthy work environment, and endeavor to help protect all those that live, work and play in our communities.

We in the recycling industry strives to engage with our communities to achieve mutual understanding and shared goals for the success of *all* members of the community. It is the recycling industry's desire that *all* voices are heard, injustice is avoided, and shared objectives are achieved in ways that are economically and operationally beneficial for *all*.