

POLICY POSITION
REGIONAL NONHAZARDOUS
SOLID WASTE RECYCLING NETWORK

BACKGROUND

It is the general policy of the states comprising the Southern Legislative Conference that every effort should be made to reduce and minimize the generation of nonhazardous solid waste prior to offering such waste for management. Each state has undertaken efforts to develop programs to encourage the reduction, reuse and recycling of nonhazardous solid waste.

One of the greatest barriers to the implementation of successful recycling programs is the development of stable markets. Regional organizations in other areas of the country have had some success in the development of more stable markets through the use of collective bargaining and collective procurement powers. Through its coordination of the interaction between state legislatures, the Southern Legislative Conference has a highly successful existing mechanism through which an effective program can be built.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference urges the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, specifically EPA Regions III, IV, and VI, to fully fund future projects of the Regional Environmental Network Enacting Waste Solutions (RENEWS) of the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments to develop and implement initiatives within this regional nonhazardous solid waste reduction and recycling network in the fifteen state region.

In addition, the Southern Legislative Conference urges Congress to recognize RENEWS as distinctly qualified to provide answers from a regional perspective in addressing recycling, market development, and other solid waste issues. The network includes representation from state legislatures, the executive branch of state governments, the Southeast Recycling Market Council and non-profit environmental groups. RENEWS will address aspects such as promotion, market development, industrial incentives and packaging reduction. RENEWS provides a forum for communication and information sharing; allows policies to be implemented at the state level in a coordinated fashion; and establishes an education format.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 11, 1992, Miami Beach, Florida.

Sponsored by: Representative Bruce Hanson, Mississippi

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