

# Final Recycling Policy Statement

Approved by the NAM Board of Directors 3/14/14

## 2.16. Recycling

Recycling continues to be an environmental, economic and societal success story led by manufacturers, many of which utilize recycled materials on a daily basis to make new products that add value to the economy. The private and public sectors have invested billions of dollars in infrastructure enabling citizens and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle efficiently. Recycling helps numerous industries reduce their energy use, along with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Recycling conserves non-renewable natural resources and raw material supply, creates jobs, contributes to the economy and offers consumers an efficient method to reduce their environmental footprint.

The NAM supports the collection, processing and subsequent reuse of recyclable materials. The NAM supports the principles of sustainable materials management, consistent with sections 2.0 and 2.05 of the NAM Environmental Quality and Sustainability Policy. The NAM supports life cycle thinking as a key tool for manufacturers making informed decisions and understanding the impacts of products including end of life options.

No one-size-fits all approach works in recycling. Different commodities may require different approaches or solutions when looking at opportunities to initiate and/or increase recycling. The NAM supports initiatives to identify and promote best practices in capturing recyclable materials. Policies should recognize and, when appropriate, credit manufacturers for their use of renewable and recyclable materials in the manufacturing process. The NAM supports additional public education to help raise recycling rates and quality.

Market forces should guide recovery and recycling systems:

- As with other goods and commodities, the NAM supports international free trade and open markets for recycling activities and materials.
- Voluntary actions can and should be part of the solution.
- The NAM supports policies that recognize the value of recyclable materials as economic commodities and that promote investment in recycling infrastructure.