

Since 2014, [The Recycling Partnership](#) has focused on driving U.S. circular packaging across communities through collaboration with companies, governments, NGOs, and industry with a unique, multi-pronged approach leveraging public and private dollars to advance circularity. The climate impacts of material circularity affect how we live, work, play, and govern. Material choices can be degradative to our environment and the resilience of communities as they adapt to the realities of climate change.

Achieving circularity means the future waste system must be braced by targeted, multilevel funding that unlocks and dramatically scales private and public dollars, de-risking and shifting supply chains across the globe. As the world recovers from the devastating impacts of COVID-19, the need for circularity is now more pressing than ever.

The Recycling Partnership's work and collaborative experience relates to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 4: We tailor our community education programs to the needs of our grantees. Our [website](#) also provides an array of free [tools](#) and [resources](#). In 2021, approximately 29,000 unique users from 190 countries referenced and downloaded our resources.

Goal 5: The Partnership's [DEI North Star Statement](#) ensures that we apply a multicultural lens across our work to ensure varied perspectives, especially those of gender diverse and BIPOC individuals. Our staff is empowered by our [core values](#) to stand up and speak out for equity and inclusion.

Goal 6: Marine litter from land-based sources is preventable when communities have access to collection infrastructure. Funding partner support allowed us to coordinate 2,500+ combined hours of volunteer-based waterway cleanups and [grant coastal cities](#) with lidded carts for over 170,000 households to contain recyclables and prevent litter.

Goals 8 & 9: We convene government and industry stakeholders to promote innovative approaches to material design and advance green jobs. Our 35 public and private [Circularity Council](#) members guide important decisions on how packaging becomes circular. We scale recycling impacts by combining grant funding to cities for residential recycling collection and [MRFs](#) to improve material sorting and domestic markets.

As part of The Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Global Plastics Pact Network, The Recycling Partnership and World Wildlife Fund launched the [U.S. Plastics Pact](#) in 2020, bringing together 100+ businesses, NGOs, government agencies, and research institutions toward a common vision of a circular economy for plastics, outlined by the New Plastics Economy.

We advance packaging design for prioritized decision-making with data-driven resources, including our free strategy tool, [Plastic IQ](#), co-developed with SYSTEMIQ and supported by Walmart, currently in global expansion.

Goal 11: Municipal waste management must be supported through public-private partnerships that advance material circularity and reduce environmental harm. Our [80+ funder companies](#), many with global operations, have helped us grant more than 3,100 communities with 1.3 million recycling carts.

Goals 12, 13, & 15: Circularity success hinges on full value chain collaboration. Recycling compliments other circular solutions such as reuse, minimization, substitution, reduction, and elimination. Cross-sector collaboration offers solutions like preventing ocean-bound litter with improved recycling collection and reducing waste and harmful chemicals through circular packaging design. Our community grants have reduced over 660k metric tons GHGs and diverted more than 770 million tons of recyclables from landfills.

Goal 14: The Recycling Partnership will continue its advisory role to the Alliance to End Plastic Waste and the Ocean Plastics Leadership Network, and as a contributor in the Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas Alliance. As a stakeholder to the UNEA Ad Hoc OEWG on Resolution 5/14, The Partnership stands ready to support the U.S. State Department as it begins negotiations toward an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution to create a national action plan that is organized, measurable, scalable, and just.

Goal 17: Voluntary company and government commitments are not enough to slow climate change or create a circular future. Partnership is part of our name for a reason. Our [80+ funding partners](#) work with us to solve U.S. residential recycling system challenges and rapidly advance the circular economy. To achieve this goal, we are committed to a blended finance model of public and private grants, loans, and market development. Data and science must drive policy and finance, underpinned by the requirement for equity, inclusion, and environmental conservation.

Let's go boldly together, there is no time to waste.