



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 4, 2022

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Collection of Information in Response to Congressional Data Request (OMB Control Number 2050-NEW; EPA ICR Number XXXX)

**FROM:** Carolyn Hoskinson, Director  
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Office of Land and Emergency Management

**THRU:** Courtney Kerwin, Director  
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**TO:** OMB Desk Officer for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

Pursuant to section 3507(j) of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), as implemented in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR §1320.13, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby requesting emergency processing of an information collection necessary to respond in a timely manner to direction in the fiscal year 2021 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill and associated reports.

The specific [language in the bill](#) report directs the Agency to “begin a comprehensive data collection effort to strengthen residential recycling and accelerate the move towards a circular economy The bill specifies that the data collected should include: the number of community curbside recycling programs; the number of community drop-off programs; the total amount of residential packaging materials collected through deposit programs; the total amount of residential materials collected through curbside programs annually; the types of materials accepted by each program; the number of citizens with access to recycling services on par with access to disposal; and the inbound contamination and capture rates of community recycling programs. Furthermore, the bill directs the Agency to collect data on single use plastics, including the types of single-use plastics currently in commerce, the recyclability of these plastics types, and the rates at which these plastics are currently recycled by plastic type and by region. Additionally, the Agency should collect data on aluminum, including the rates at which aluminum cans are recycled. Further, the Agency should develop estimates of the infrastructure investment required to modernize the Material Recovery infrastructure to achieve consistent collection across the nation and maximize the efficient delivery of materials to the circular economy. The Agency should also develop estimates for the amounts of investment

needed to provide all citizens with access to recycling services on par with access to disposal. The updated strategy with recommendations should be reported to the Committee within 270 days of enactment of this Act". (pg 95-96).

### **Information Collection Activities Involved in this Emergency Request**

Under this clearance, EPA proposes conducting a screening survey at the state level to collect best available estimates of measures and data elements identified in the bill report. Given the scope and complexity of the request, the survey is intended to develop initial information that may be used to efficiently characterize the residential recycling landscape nationally and inform more specific and targeted data collection that may be conducted under a subsequent full information collection request.

The specific parameters of the proposed collection are:

- Utilize existing EPA and partner/stakeholder information to identify points of contact in each state;
- Provide an initial email with follow-up phone contacts to convey survey purpose, encourage participation, and identify most appropriate respondents;
- Administer the questionnaire on-line with an estimated 30-minute completion time; and
- Provide an option to complete questionnaire over the phone using parallel script.

The questionnaire and implementation approach were designed to minimize anticipated burden and reflect consultation with relevant parties, including state and organizational representatives from the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) and the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEMOA).

### **Burden**

The burden for the number of respondents is based on contacting representatives for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC). It is anticipated state representatives will spend an average of 30 minutes, but not to exceed one hour answering the survey questions. The burden of time is therefore at a minimum of 25.5 hours (calculated at 51 states and DC spending 30 minutes per survey). The burden is not expected to exceed 50.5 hours (calculated at 51 states and DC spending one hour per survey). EPA does not anticipate any capital or operations and maintenance costs.