



## PRIORITY GOAL: WASTE / CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### OVERVIEW

A circular economy is a systemic approach to economic development designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment. It is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources. Our mission is to transform waste into an opportunity.

### VISION

The **Statewide Sustainability Roadmap** envisions Arizona as being recognized nationally for valuing its materials through the development of a circular ecosystem driven by local reuse, recycling, recovery, and sustainable manufacturing markets, which improves the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

#### What is waste?

Any garbage, trash, rubbish, waste tire, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material. ARS 49-701.01



Blue trash cans line the street in a Tucson neighborhood.



Bales of recyclable metal from aluminum beverage can waste.

# GOALS

The **Statewide Sustainability Roadmap** identifies three separate goal areas that will help our state transform waste into an opportunity.

## Goal Area 1: Reduce

### 1 Product Design and Manufacturing

- To produce products with the least environmental impacts and the highest potential for recycling or recovery.
  - Create a lifecycle approach to manufacturing.
- To minimize or eliminate waste in manufacturing and maximize residual material value.

### 2 Zero Waste Vision: Education and Behavior Change

- To provide effective resources to enable and empower consumers to responsibly purchase, consume, reuse, recover, and recycle their waste.
  - Establish a robust recycling education program.
- To change the mindset of consumers that waste has value, thereby reducing waste generation, consumption and disposal.
  - Establish sustainable purchasing policies within place of business.

**Key policies to consider:** Takeback programs, ban on non-recoverable materials, encourage individual market players to set goals specific to their business.

**Key influencers for success:** Municipalities, consumer packaged goods companies, producers, manufacturers, businesses, food and agriculture, consumers, etc.

## Goal Area 2: Reuse & Repair

### 1 Product Reuse and Remanufacturing

- To prioritize the best and highest use of materials to maximize their lifespan.
  - Educate, innovate, and implement best practices and programs.

### 2 Product Repair

- To provide programs and incentives to encourage the growth of local repair and reuse models.
  - Educate, innovate, and implement best practices and programs.

**Key policies to consider:** Reuse/resource Center, C&D MRF, swap shop/HHW sharing, thrift shops, textiles, deconstruction, repair shop, etc.

**Key influencers for success:** Municipalities, consumer packaged goods companies, producers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, etc.



# GOALS

## Goal Area 3: Recover & Recycle

### 1 Product End of Life Management

- To provide effective recycling and composting programs that prevent materials from being landfilled.

### 2 Local Circular Economy Development

- To foster and stimulate the growth of local recovery markets, reducing the need for exporting materials.
- To facilitate the expansion of circular economy related businesses and jobs.

**Key policies to consider:** Resource innovation campus, MRF, resource recovery incubator, etc.

**Key influencers for success:** Municipalities, consumer packaged goods companies, producers, manufacturers, businesses, food and agriculture, consumers, etc.

### Overarching ideas for exploration:

Partnering with commercial recycling operators to improve the capture and value of recovered materials, educating members of state legislature on recycling issues in Arizona, standardizing recycling education across all sectors, supporting local businesses in education, and implementation of best practices, etc.

## STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

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