

1 Title: To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to implement standardized labeling on recycling  
2 bins to make it possible and easy for members of the public to recycle properly throughout the  
3 country.  
4

5 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in  
6 Congress assembled,

## 7 SECTION 1. STANDARDIZED LABELS FOR RECYCLING 8 RECEPTACLES.

9 (a) Purpose.—The purpose is utilize and implement guidelines for the national standardized  
10 labeling system for all recycling and composting receptacles; a design and format methodology  
11 which is consistent throughout the United States to assist members of the public to recycle and  
12 compost properly, wherever they might be. Material recovery facilities, recycling processing  
13 centers, and composting facilities will use the nationally standardized format and methodology to  
14 communicate the recyclables or compost materials accepted in their facilities. The recycling and  
15 compost haulers or municipality haulers that pick up recyclables and compost, will distribute the  
16 proper standardized labels to their customers or residents to display on all receptacles, all  
17 residential carts, and all dumpsters.

18 (b) Definitions.—In this section:

19 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the  
20 Environmental Protection Agency.

21 (2) PUBLIC SPACE.—The term “public space” means a business, an airport, a school, a  
22 stadium, a government office, a park, and any other public space, as determined by the  
23 Administrator.

24 (3) RECYCLING OR COMPOST RECEPTACLE.—The term “recycling or compost receptacle”  
25 means a recycling or compost bin, cart, or dumpster.

26 (4) RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING OR COMPOST PROGRAM.—The term “residential recycling or  
27 compost program” means a recycling program that services single family dwellings,  
28 multifamily dwellings or facilities, or both.

29 (5) LABELS.—The term “labels” means a medium such as a printed sticker, signage,  
30 banner, or an electronic medium to communicate the list of recyclables or compost  
31 materials accepted and the rules for sorting to members of the public, using the standardized  
32 methodology and design.

33 (c) Guidelines.—The Administrator shall publish the guidelines for the national standardized  
34 labeling system for a material recovery facility and compost facility to use to develop the labels  
35 that—

36 (1) use the national standardized methodology of colors, images, format, and  
37 terminology;

38 (2) shall be placed on recycling and compost receptacles in the service territory of the  
39 material recovery facility in accordance with paragraphs (1)(D) and (2) of subsection (e);  
40 and

1 (3) communicate to users of those recycling and compost receptacles—

2 (A) the specific recyclables and compost materials that the material recovery facility  
3 or compost facility accepts; and

4 (B) the specific rules of sorting for that material recovery facility or compost  
5 facility.

6 (d) Development of the Standardized Labels.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each material recovery facility and compost facility in the United  
8 States shall, in accordance with the guidelines published under subsection (c), use the  
9 national standardized labeling guidelines to develop the labels for use on recycling or  
10 compost receptacles in the territory area of the material recovery facility to communicate to  
11 users of those recycling and compost receptacles—

12 (A) the specific recyclables that the material recovery facility accepts or compost  
13 items that compost processing center accepts; and

14 (B) the specific rules of sorting for that material recovery facility or compost  
15 facility.

16 (2) SIMPLE AND DETAILED VERSIONS.—In developing standardized labels under paragraph  
17 (1), a material recovery facility and compost facility shall develop—

18 (A) a simple version of the label for use on recycling or compost receptacles used in  
19 public spaces, which shall list the basic recyclables or compost materials that the  
20 material recovery facility or compost facility accepts; and

21 (B) a detailed version of the standardized label for use on recycling receptacles used  
22 as part of a residential recycling program or of a compost label for use on a compost  
23 receptacle, taking into consideration the complexity of the packaging and products or  
24 accepted compostable materials disposed of by single family dwellings and  
25 multifamily dwellings and facilities.

26 (e) Distribution of the Standardized Labels.—

27 (1) SIMPLE VERSION.—

28 (A) IN GENERAL.—A recycling hauler that delivers materials to a material recovery  
29 facility or compost hauler that delivers materials to a compost facility, shall distribute  
30 the simple version of the label developed by that material recovery facility or compost  
31 facility under subsection (d)(2)(A) to each customer of the recycling or compost hauler  
32 that owns or operates a public space in the service territory of the material recovery  
33 facility or compost facility.

34 (B) QUANTITY.—The quantity of labels distributed to an owner or operator of a  
35 public space under subparagraph (A) shall be reasonably sufficient to ensure that a  
36 label may be placed on each recycling receptacle in that public space.

37 (C) ADDITIONAL LABELS.—If the quantity of labels distributed under subparagraph  
38 (B) is insufficient, a recycling or compost hauler described in subparagraph (A) shall  
39 make available to owners and operators described in that subparagraph additional  
40 standardized labels to purchase or download.

1 (D) REQUIREMENT OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—An owner or operator of a public  
2 space that receives standardized labels under subparagraph (A) shall display the labels  
3 on the recycling or compost receptacles in that public space.

4 (2) DETAILED VERSION.—A recycling and compost hauler or municipality, as applicable,  
5 that services a residential recycling or compost program in the territory served by a material  
6 recovery facility or compost facility shall display a detailed standardized label developed by  
7 that material recovery facility or compost facility under subsection (d)(2)(B) on each  
8 recycling or compost receptacle used by the residential recycling or compost program.