



West Coast Climate & Materials Management Forum

Why Materials Matter

Americans use and consume over 10 tons of products and resources (“materials”) per person each year.¹ The materials we use flow through the economy from extraction to processing, manufacturing, use, and recovery or disposal. Each stage requires energy and results in greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, more than 40% of U.S. emissions are a result of producing, transporting, and disposing of materials.²

Sustainable Materials Management

Sustainable materials management is an approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts throughout every stage of a product’s lifecycle, from manufacture to disposal. Examples of effective greenhouse gas emissions emission reduction strategies include reducing the amount of materials used to make products or provide services, influencing product design to reduce the amount of raw materials used and increase their durability so they last longer, and increasing ease of disassembly, recycling, and transformation of products for further use of their components.



“Our mission is to inspire, inform and show communities how to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving the way they source, use and recover materials.”

Join the West Coast Climate Forum

The West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum is an EPA-convened collaboration of state, local, and tribal governments that are developing ways to institutionalize sustainable materials management practices.

Become part of our growing network of governments and you can:

- Learn more about sustainable materials management tools and strategies to further your climate change goals.
- Get support planning and prioritizing your materials management efforts.
- Be a peer mentor by sharing your experiences and lessons learned.
- Get recognized for your work through the West Coast Climate Forum’s website, social media, and quarterly newsletters.

Visit: westcoastclimateforum.com | Email: info@westcoastclimateforum.com

Use our Tools and Resources

Webinar Series

Thought-provoking, informative presentations and discussions on applying sustainable materials management approaches to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Research Summaries

Topics include changing consumer behavior, waste prevention, product design and packaging, and more.

Turn-key Materials

Management Presentation

Equips your organization with talking points and slides to communicate the importance of sustainable materials management.

Take Action in Your Community

Climate Action Toolkit

Provides strategies and templates to include materials management in climate action plans.

Food: Too Good To Waste

Offers tools local governments and organizations can use to help residents reduce food waste at home.

Climate Friendly-Purchasing

Toolkit (in development)

Provides strategies and resources to help institutions reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their procurement decisions.

References:

1. “Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead” (U.S. EPA, June 2009)
2. “Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices” (U.S. EPA, September 2009)