

# LDEQ RECYCLING UPDATES

Jodie Kimball

LDEQ

October 25, 2023

# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 (**SCR13**)
- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (**SWIFR**) Grant
- Recycling Education and Outreach (**REO**) Grant

# Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 (SCR13)

During the 2022 Regular Session, Senate Concurrent Resolution NO. 13 (SCR13) was brought forth, requesting for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to study and make recommendations for strategies to increase the recycling of plastic.

The Report of Recommendations was due and reported by **March 10, 2023**

# SCR13

LDEQ invited stakeholders to a series of dialogue sessions on increasing and improving plastics recycling.



LDEQ acknowledges that these five dialogue sessions, held from November 2022 through January 2023, are the first steps in a long process towards a circular economy.

# SCR13

It was established that successful plastic recycling programs require solving challenges related to

## Supply of Recyclable Material

Consumer behavior

Access to recycling

Collection methods

Sorting methods

## Demand for Recyclable Material

Recovery capabilities

Economics

End markets

## Value-Chain Coordination

Availability of MRFs

Incentives

# SCR13

The first step to improving recycling within LA is to work towards the model of a circular economy.



# SCR13

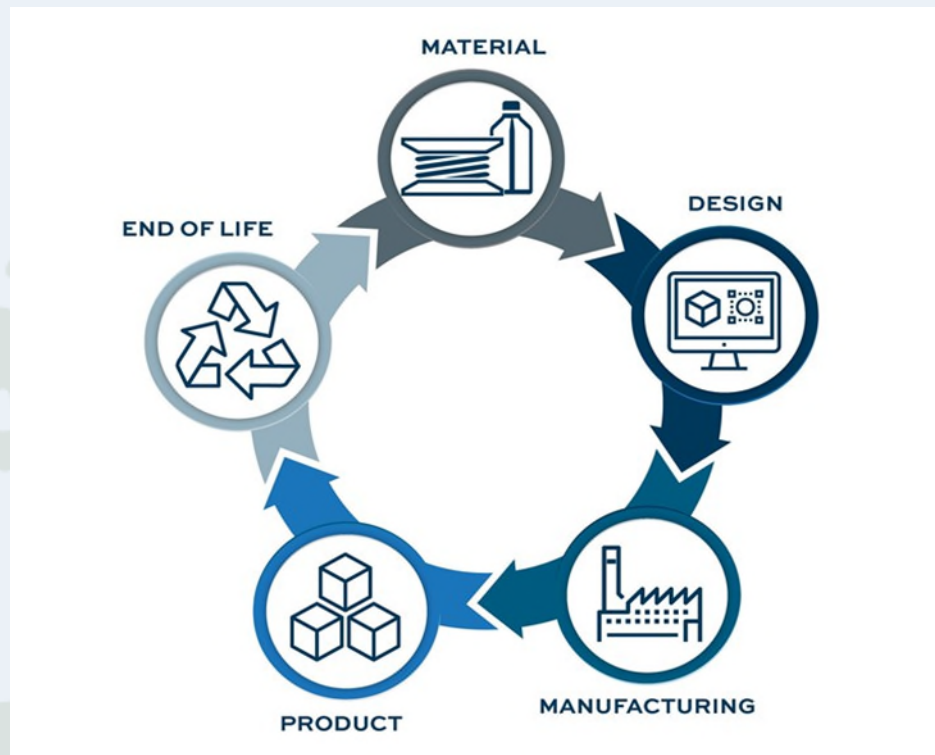
Currently, our economy is **linear**.

We take materials from the Earth, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste.



# SCR13

In a **circular economy**, we stop waste being produced in the first place and target sustainability.





# SCR13

This transition from **linear** to **circular** economy is becoming a key focus for policymakers around the world.

The goal of a **circular economy** approach is to prolong the useful lifespan of resources for as long as possible.

# SCR13

Plastic recycling has **MANY** challenges.

## **Education and consumer awareness**

have proven to be the best method to increase recycling, minimize contamination of recyclables, and decrease the flow of recyclables to landfills.

# SCR13

The future of recycling will require ***multiple approaches*** to establish new recycling programs, expand and increase existing programs, and provide long-term sustainability.

# SCR13

These approaches come in the form of

**Education  
and  
Outreach**

**Funding**

**Program  
Policies**

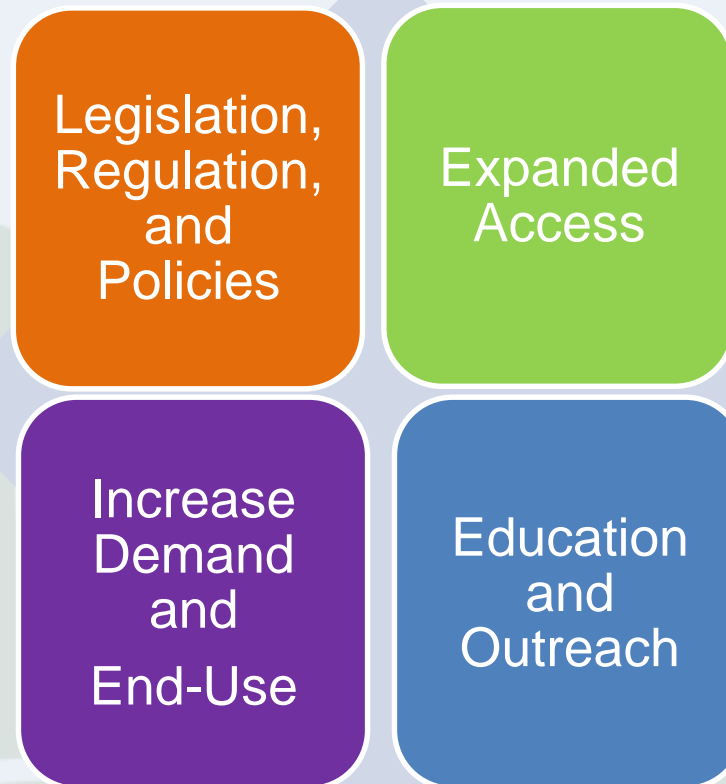
**Incentives**

**Regulations**

**Legislation**

# SCR13

LDEQ recommended that the legislature should consider the establishment of a *Recycling Stakeholder Task Force* to investigate and advance:



# SCR13

## Legislation, Regulation, and Policies

- ❖ Utilize existing and develop new legislation and regulations.
- ❖ Develop financial incentives to encourage: reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- ❖ Update the *Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)*.
- ❖ Develop policies that increase circularity of the economy.
- ❖ Develop new funding opportunities through grants, partnerships, and legislative initiatives.

# SCR13

## Expanded Access

- Expand existing recycling programs.
- Develop updated recycling goals.
- Develop policies and programs to increase residential access to recycling.
- Evaluate opportunities to develop and increase access to curbside pickup, drop-off centers, and Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs).

# SCR13

## Increase Demand and End-Use

- Work with other state agencies and public and private partners to research and develop MRFs and end-use markets.
- Develop a comprehensive organic waste and food waste reduction program.



# SCR13

## Education and Outreach

- Develop a public awareness, education, and outreach program.
- Expand coordination, availability, and accessibility of information on recycling at the state and local levels.
- Develop data collection and reporting system.
- Initiate future collaborative dialogue sessions.

# Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant is a program administered by the U.S. the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorized by the [Save Our Seas 2.0 Act](#) and funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, ([the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)), provided \$275 million for SWIFR grants.

# SWIFR

LDEQ submitted a Notice of Intent to Participate (NOIP) in the SWIFR grant opportunity on December 5, 2022 and a draft workplan was submitted on February 3, 2023.

Final allocations were announced in September 2023 and LDEQ was awarded **\$612,441**.

# SWIFR

SWIFR grants were issued to assist in implementing the **National Recycling Strategy** through:

- ❖ funding of improvement of post-consumer materials management and infrastructure;
- ❖ supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management and recycling programs; and
- ❖ and assisting local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

# SWIFR

## Scope of SWIFR Program

The EPA granted the funds to support the enhancement of state post-consumer materials management programs.



# SWIFR

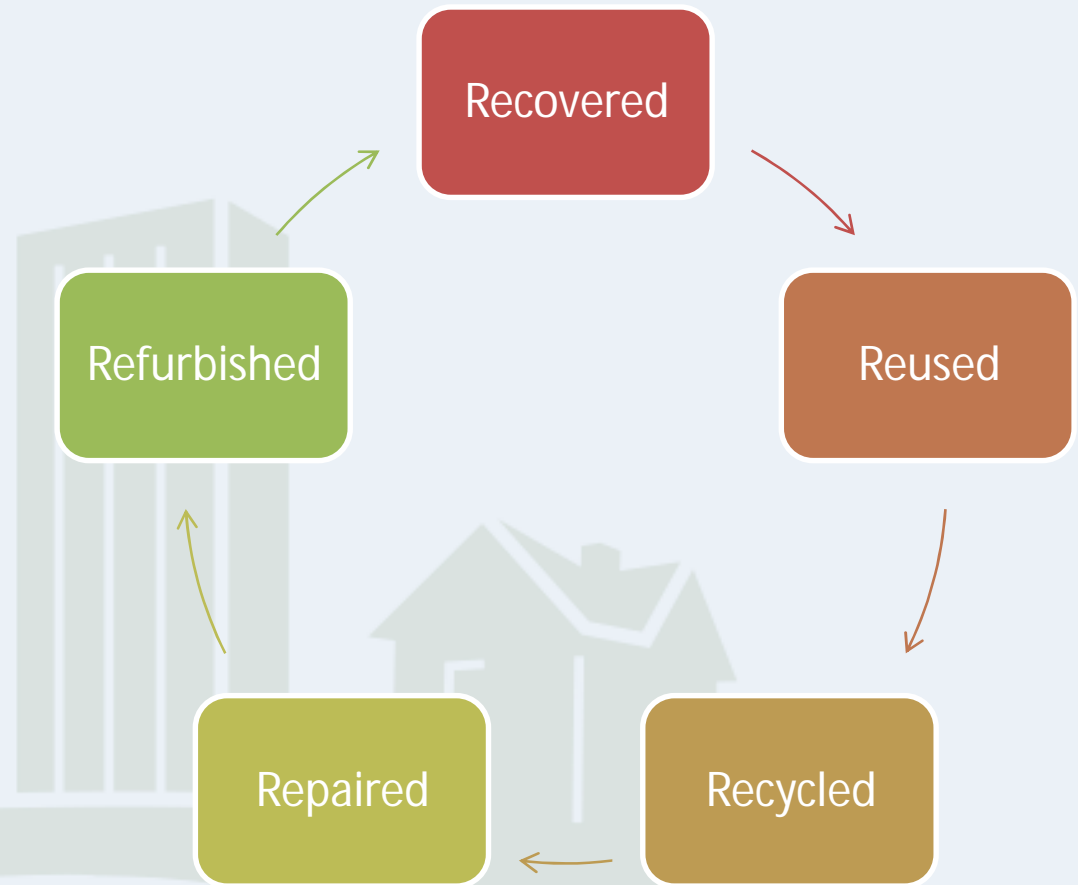
## Post-consumer materials management

refers to the systems, operation, supervision and long-term management of processes and equipment used for post-use material.



# SWIFR

Post-consumer materials management includes packaging, goods, products, and other materials including the systems and processes that can be



# SWIFR

With SWIFR funds, LDEQ will:

update the  
statewide solid  
waste  
management  
plan (SWMP)

develop  
standardized  
measurements  
and reporting

provide  
guidance and  
technical  
assistance, and  
outreach for the  
implementation  
of the SWMP



# SWIFR

The updated SWMP will include the incorporation of

circular economy

climate goals

zero waste

addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities in Louisiana.

# SWIFR

Update the Debris Management Plan

DEVELOP POLICIES CONSISTENT WITH:

National Recycling Strategy

Food Loss and Waste and Reduction Goal

Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy

# SWIFR

## ONLINE STANDARDIZED PLATFORM FOR REPORTING

pounds of waste per household

annual diversion rates

annual tonnage trends

tonnage analysis

curbside program access

# SWIFR

## Community engagement

- information sharing
- community input
- identify gaps
- regional challenges
- administrative/financial needs

# SWIFR

legislation and/or  
regulations

address minimum  
recycling  
standards

standardized  
recycling  
requirements

standardized  
reporting  
requirements

# SWIFR

## FINAL RESULTS FROM GRANT ACTIVITIES

recommendations for regulations and statutes

stakeholder and community involvement (36 community meetings)

development of an updated SWMP with 64 parishes served

standardized reporting

guidance for contamination issues

# SWIFR

## SWMP OUTCOME

the establishment of a connection with circular economy principles, the state's climate and zero waste goals while simultaneously addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities in Louisiana.

# Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also provides \$75 million total from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2026 for grants to fund the new

**Recycling Education and Outreach (REO)**  
Grant Program.



# REO

## REO PROJECTS



Inform the public about residential or community recycling programs.



Provide information about the recycled materials that are accepted as part of a recycling program



Increase collection rates and decrease contamination in recycling programs.

# REO

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$30,000,000.

EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 assistance agreements under this funding opportunity, with at least one award  
[per EPA Region.](#)

# REO

LDEQ submitted a Notice of Intent to Participate (NOIP) in the REO grant opportunity on December 9, 2022.

Louisiana's REO Grant application was submitted **February 16, 2023**.

REO grant will be awarded during **FALL 2023**

# REO

If awarded the REO Grant, LDEQ plans to develop and implement a statewide recycling education program to raise public awareness to



increase recycling and



decrease contamination.

This program will focus on formal and non-formal education that includes designing a statewide recycling curriculum.

**Focus communities will be rural, disadvantaged, low-income, and Native American**

# REO

Recycling  
campaign to  
encourage  
reuse and  
reduction

Recycling  
Webpage

Social  
Media

Sub-Award  
Program

# REO

## Recycling Webpage

portal providing customized education materials and direct mailers

digital labels to improve consistency to make recycling simple for consumers

track recycling availability in the state.

## Social Media

Inform the public the ramifications of improper recycling

advertise recycling opportunities (America Recycles Day, Earth Day, game days, festivals, and conferences)

## Standardize Measuring Tools

Collect and evaluate tonnage, participation, and contamination metrics programs

Track the percentage change in participation rate of the recycling or composting program

Track the number of communities reached through outreach activities

# REO

## Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the State, and Local Levels

A significant portion of technical assistance will focus on established recycling programs in communities defined as disadvantaged, rural, and low-income and promote waste reduction activities in communities that lack recycling programs.



The web portal will provide educational materials to compensate for systemic barriers, and technical assistance to these communities.

# REO

LDEQ will work with Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) to develop a K-12 environmental education program for formal and non-formal programs with or without curbside/drop-off recycling.

Other tools that will be developed in collaboration with KLB are presentations and booklets for groups such as after-school programs and churches, and train-the trainer workshops.



# REO

## Outreach Events

America  
Recycles Day

Earth Day

Conferences

Game Days

Festivals

# REO

## OUTREACH EVENTS

reducing  
pollution

circular  
economy

backyard  
composting

household  
hazardous waste  
collection events

contamination in  
recycled streams

# REO

## Grant Programs/Sub-awards

Target existing recycling programs in rural, disadvantaged, and/or low-income communities

Support the study of strategies of food waste and organic waste composting

### SUB-AWARDS

Address recycling education and outreach in communities and churches in close proximity to rural, disadvantage, or low-income communities

To advance implementation of recycling lessons and youth outreach in non-formal and classroom settings

# REO

## ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change

Advance International and Subnational Climate Efforts

Reduce Waste and Prevent Environmental Contamination

# REO

## Reduce Waste and Prevent Environmental Contamination

By educating the public, promoting community litter-abatement activities, and advancing environmental education programs, improper disposal of waste will be addressed at the residential level.

A 3D-style banner with a red and white striped border, containing the word "REDUCE" in black capital letters.

REDUCE

A 3D-style banner with a yellow and white striped border, containing the word "REUSE" in black capital letters.

REUSE

A 3D-style banner with a green and white striped border, containing the word "RECYCLE" in black capital letters.

RECYCLE

# REO

## Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change



Through improving recycling, it will ultimately help mitigate the climate crisis by limiting the amount of waste that goes into landfills, thus reducing methane emissions.

# REO

## Advance International and Subnational Climate Efforts

The proposed recycling activities will advance the Louisiana Climate Action Plan (LCAP) to reach the state's goal of net zero emissions by 2050.



# REO





# Contact Information

LDEQ Waste Permits Division

Jodie.Kimball@la.gov

(225) 219-3045

