



**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE on
ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS**
CHAIRMAN SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

The STEWARD Act: Strategies to Eliminate Waste and Accelerate Recycling Development Act

Sponsored by Chairman Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse, and
Senator John Boozman

The United States faces significant waste management challenges, with limited access to recycling infrastructure, particularly in underserved communities. Strengthening recycling systems and improving data collection on recyclable materials will enhance domestic manufacturing supply chains and reduce landfill needs.

RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The STEWARD Act establishes the *Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program* at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to expand recycling access in underserved communities by authorizing strategic infrastructure investments and public-private partnerships.

The pilot grant program:

- Authorizes competitive grant awards from \$500,000 to \$15 million to support projects that enhance recycling infrastructure using a hub-and-spoke development model;
- Prioritizes communities with limited access to materials recovery facilities; and
- Supports projects that:
 - Increase transfer stations,
 - Expand curbside recycling programs, and
 - Reduce collection and transportation costs.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

The STEWARD Act modernizes recycling and composting data collection by establishing standardized metrics to assess and improve waste management systems nationwide.

The bill authorizes the EPA to collect and analyze data on market trends, material processing rates, and the effectiveness of curbside recycling programs, along with associated accessibility challenges. The bill also establishes new metrics to track material diversion from landfills, supports voluntary data-sharing partnerships with states, and provides technical assistance to State and local governments to improve recycling and composting rates. Additionally, the bill directs the EPA to assess national composting potential, evaluating infrastructure, regulatory barriers, costs, and industry trends.

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

The STEWARD Act is strongly supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including prominent companies such as PepsiCo, Unilever, and General Mills, along with major trade associations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. This coalition underscores the dual benefit of advancing the nation's recycling infrastructure—driving both economic growth and environmental sustainability through improved waste management practices.