

# Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

## Annual Accomplishments

The mission of EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) is to protect human health and the environment by promoting resource conservation, ensuring proper waste management, preventing harmful exposure, and overseeing the cleanup of land for productive use. We do this by establishing and implementing regulatory standards, incentive-based programs, and best practices in collaboration with communities, governments, businesses, and other organizations. ORCR implements the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

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### Highlights from Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments



We announced over \$100 million to expand recycling infrastructure and waste management systems. We selected 25 communities to receive grants under the newly created Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity. We announced 59 selectees in SWIFR grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia and 25 selectees in Recycling Education and Outreach grants.



We published "Creating Disaster-Resilient Buildings to Minimize Disaster Debris" to provide actions for communities to improve buildings to withstand natural disasters.



We published frequently answered questions about how to identify and safely manage solar panels that are hazardous waste, and how the hazardous waste regulations apply when recycling and reusing solar panels.



We published two memos for incorporating disaster resilience considerations into the hazardous waste permitting and PCB approval processes. These memos provide guidance to permitting authorities and include recommendations for conducting vulnerability screenings and assessments.



EPA, USDA, and FDA published the “National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics.” The goal is to prevent the loss and waste of food, increase recycling of food and other organic materials, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save households and businesses money, and build cleaner, healthier communities.



We published the "Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution" for public comment and received over 91,000 comments.



We finalized changes to the coal combustion residuals (CCR) regulations for "legacy CCR surface impoundments." This rule will reduce incidents of cancer from the consumption of arsenic in drinking water, avoid IQ losses from mercury and lead exposure, improve water quality, and protect endangered species.



We launched a website to provide information to households about how to properly dispose of leftover medications. This new site helps people understand why proper disposal of household medication is important.



We published a proposed rule to improve the requirements for evaluating and implementing safe and available alternatives for waste explosives. We developed tools to assist permitting authorities in reviewing alternative technology evaluations and provided site-specific assistance to several EPA regions, states, and territories.



We hosted a series of working sessions to increase battery recycling. These sessions included broader discussions on small-format consumer electric and portable batteries along with more focused conversations about mid-format and large-format batteries, including those for e-bikes and e-scooters, vehicles, energy storage, and industrial uses.



We published a proposed rule to add nine PFAS compounds as RCRA hazardous constituents. With this proposal, we are protecting communities by strengthening our ability to address PFAS contamination under the RCRA cleanup program. We also proposed clarifying EPA's regulatory authority to address releases of non-regulatory hazardous waste through corrective action permit conditions.



We oversaw 15 projects focused on community-specific concerns. These initiatives provided resources for regions to incorporate these considerations into their work.



Through our Community Engagement and Technical Assistance Program, we implemented nine community-driven projects, providing access to support, resources, and information through a neutral third party.



We provided states with grant funding to address hazardous waste management. We also supplied data, guidance, and checklists as well as technical assistance to the regions and states as they worked toward their regional performance goals.

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## Letter from ORCR's Director



Carolyn Hoskinson reflects on the amazing work ORCR accomplished in fiscal year 2024.

**Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,**

Our mission in ORCR is to protect human health and the environment by promoting the conservation of resources, ensuring proper waste management, preventing harmful exposure, and overseeing the cleanup of land for productive use. Each fiscal year, I'm delighted to see the progress we've made. I've highlighted just a few of our accomplishments below and strongly encourage you to read the full report.

The newly renamed **Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program**, formerly called the RCRA Corrective Action Program, provided program and technical support for regions and states — work with a huge economic impact. Our latest annual study found that business activities occurring at 126 facilities where cleanups have been partially or fully completed employ more than 112,000 workers, with estimated sales of more than \$45 billion and an aggregate income of more than \$10 billion.

Our **international work** advanced equities on numerous fronts, ensuring [hazardous waste moved safely across borders](#) and that solid waste management was adequately addressed in [international agreements](#).

In FY24, we continued work on a comprehensive funding strategy to support Tribal Nations' waste management systems. We conducted six site visits, gathering the data needed to estimate funding needs for all 574 federally recognized Tribes across the nation. We also continued our **collaboration with Tribes and the Indian Health Service** to address open dumping. To date, we have assessed over 150 open dumps and uploaded our data to the Operations and Maintenance Data System so that these sites become eligible for Indian Health Service funding for cleanup or closure.

In October of 2023, we released a new [Wasted Food Scale](#). The new scale replaces our previous Food Recovery Hierarchy — dating back to the 1990s! — and reflects the latest science. Decisionmakers can use this tool to **understand the best options for managing food waste** in terms of environmental impacts.

In December of 2023, we improved the **scientific rigor** behind the [Waste Reduction Model](#) by releasing version 16 for public comment, as well as a data quality analysis and a peer review of the model. WARM provides high-level comparisons of potential greenhouse gas emission reductions, energy savings, and economic impacts when considering different materials management practices such as recycling, composting and landfilling, among others.

In April of 2024, we published the [final denial of a petition to classify discarded polyvinyl chloride](#), a type of plastic commonly known as PVC, as a hazardous waste under the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**. In the final denial we concluded that the petition did not provide sufficient information to justify listing discarded PVC as a hazardous waste.

In May of 2024, we published the [final approval of a variance petition](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy for the Hanford Site in Washington State. This will help ensure that treatment and disposal of 2,000 gallons of low-activity radioactive and hazardous waste is done in a manner that **minimizes threats to human health and the environment**.

In July of 2024, we published a [final rule to expand the e-Manifest system](#) to include export manifests and other manifest-related reporting. EPA, states, and territories will now receive this information directly from the [e-Manifest system](#), which both **reduces the paperwork burden and improves data access**.

In response to the 2021 [Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity](#), our RCRAInfo team worked with the Central Data Exchange group in EPA's Office of Mission Support in FY24 to implement multi-factor authentication, **ensuring a seamless transition for over 100,000 industry users**. We also launched Cost Pro software in RCRAInfo, meeting a key permitting program priority. Cost Pro provides the ability to calculate the costs incurred at RCRA Subtitle C facilities for activities such as cleanup efforts and for closure and post-closure work.

At the tail end of the fiscal year, we launched the updated "[Biennial Report](#)" module within RCRAInfo. The Biennial Report data are vital for **understanding the state of hazardous waste generation and management**, both nationally and at the state and local levels. These data provide key insights into the volume and types of wastes generated as well as waste management industry trends.

We completed six economic analyses, incorporating **quantitative estimates of the benefits** that come from reducing a range of health effects. The economic analysis for the updated [Residential Soil Lead Guidance](#) was one of the first such analyses to estimate the number of cases of cardiovascular disease avoided by reducing lead exposure, and presents the monetary benefits that come from this reduction of cases in the U.S.

We processed 150+ funding actions, **committing over 90% of our extramural resources**. We also made more than \$112M of infrastructure investment funds available to EPA regions who awarded those funds to states, tribes, and communities.

We **communicated** all the above work through 10 national press releases, as well as many social media posts, enhanced educational graphics, and improved and expanded web content. We responded to more than 180 inquiries from reporters, and our webpages were viewed almost seven million times.

To say I am proud of the work our Office does is an understatement. We continue to support EPA's regions, as well as states, Tribes, local communities, NGOs, associations, other federal agencies, and industry. Perhaps most importantly, we continue to protect the approximately 5.3 million people living within one mile of permitted hazardous waste facilities, and everyone else who is impacted by both municipal solid waste and hazardous waste management practices.

I thank each of you for your contributions to these immensely impactful accomplishments, and I look forward to achieving even more with you next year.

Sincerely,

**Carolyn Hoskinson**  
*Director*

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# Safely Managing Hazardous and Solid Waste

## Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments: Materials Recovery and Waste Management Division



Protecting the environment and public health through our waste management work on coal ash, disaster resilience, PFAS, PVC, and hydrofluorocarbons, international collaboration, imports and exports, solar panels, and pharmaceuticals.

## Protecting Communities from Hazardous Waste and Providing Technical Support for Local Governments

On February 8, 2024, ORCR published a [proposed rule](#) to add nine per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds as RCRA hazardous constituents. With this proposal, EPA is protecting communities by strengthening its ability to address PFAS contamination under the RCRA cleanup program at RCRA hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

On April 26, ORCR published the [final denial](#) of a petition to classify discarded polyvinyl chloride, a type of plastic commonly known as PVC, as a RCRA hazardous waste. In the final denial, EPA concluded that the petition, even as supplemented by the information received through the public comment period, provided insufficient information to justify listing discarded PVC as a hazardous waste.

On May 9, ORCR published the [final approval](#) of a variance petition from the U.S. Department of Energy for the Hanford Site in Washington State to treat and dispose of 2,000 gallons of low-activity



radioactive and hazardous waste in a manner that minimizes threats to human health and the environment.

On August 2, ORCR published [Creating Disaster-Resilient Buildings to Minimize Disaster Debris](#). This document provides practical actions for communities on planning, designing, improving, and adapting new and existing buildings to better withstand natural disasters.

## Protecting Communities from Coal Ash and Helping States Meet Federal Standards



On May 8, 2024, we finalized changes to the [CCR regulations](#) for Coal Combustion Residuals Management Units and inactive surface impoundments at inactive electric utilities, referred to as "[legacy CCR surface impoundments](#)." This rule will reduce incidents of cancer from the consumption of arsenic in drinking water, avoid intelligence quotient losses from mercury and lead exposure, improve water quality, and protect threatened and endangered species. This rule will also reduce the possibility of impoundment failures, including both “catastrophic” failures and smaller-volume releases.

ORCR collaborated with several states in their work to develop state CCR permitting programs. We provided technical and policy assistance to help them develop regulations and state authorization application packages. In many cases, this communication and assistance is ongoing. Unfortunately, despite extensive attempts to collaborate, EPA determined that the portions of the Alabama CCR permit program that were submitted for approval do not meet the standard for approval; those portions submitted are significantly less protective of people and waterways than the federal regulations require. Therefore, in May 2024 EPA [denied the application](#) submitted by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, which sought to allow the Alabama CCR permit program to operate in lieu of the federal CCR program.

## Protecting the Environment and Public Health through Emissions Reductions and Recycling of HFCs, Solar Panels, and Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

In FY24, ORCR partnered with the Office of Air and Radiation to reduce emissions and increase the recycling of hydrofluorocarbons. We finalized [a rule on the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons](#) under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020. As part of this effort, we also finalized alternative recycling standards for ignitable used refrigerants under RCRA authority. These changes to the hazardous waste regulations will decrease emissions and support the safe recycling of used refrigerants.

Safe and efficient solar panel recycling facilitates development of a circular economy for critical materials. To enable solar panel recycling, ORCR posted answers to [frequently asked regulatory questions](#). We answered questions about identifying and safely managing solar panels that are hazardous waste and questions about how the RCRA regulations apply to solar panels that are reused and recycled.



We [launched a website](#) to provide information to households about how to properly dispose of leftover medications, including how to use various pharmaceutical take-back programs. This new site helps the public understand why proper disposal of household medication is important as well as what households should and should not do with their unwanted medications. The website also provides collectors of household medications with information about what they should do with the medications they collect.

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## Protecting the Environment and Public Health Through Safe Management of Hazardous and Solid Waste Across Borders

Our international work advanced equities on numerous fronts, whether it was ensuring [hazardous waste](#) moved safely across borders or solid waste management was adequately addressed in [international agreements](#).

In FY24, ORCR processed over 2,400 notifications that included tens of thousands of waste streams for imports and exports of RCRA hazardous waste through the [RCRAInfo](#) Waste Import Export Tracking System. U.S. trade in hazardous waste remains focused in North America with 70% of shipments going to Canada and 18% to Mexico.

As the lead for the U.S.-Mexico Border 2025 Waste Policy Workgroup, we co-hosted two binational webinars on the management of scrap tires with counterparts from Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). In September 2024, we joined the Deputy

Administrator and other EPA senior leadership at the National Coordinators' Meeting to mark the accomplishments of the Border 2025 program, which wraps up next year.

In November 2023, we adopted a waste threshold for waste contaminated with mercury at the fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5). We served on the technical expert group and spoke in the plenary session, completing implementation of the waste article of the Convention after more than seven years of negotiation.

We joined the Department of State-led U.S. government team at the 3rd and 4th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings to negotiate a new global instrument aimed at eliminating plastic pollution. ORCR played a key role in advancing draft text for the agreement with the goal of finalizing it at the end of 2024.



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## Collaborating with Communities, Tribes, States, and Federal Agencies






### Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments: Program Implementation and Information Division



Protecting the environment and public health through our work on RCRAInfo, e-Manifest, community engagement, hazardous waste cleanup and permitting, open burning/open detonation (OB/OD), PCBs and emerging contaminants, open dumps, extreme weather adaptation, and our collaboration with Tribal Nations on their waste management systems.

## Protecting Communities by Cleaning Up Contamination and Providing Technical Support to Regions and States

ORCR continued implementing the five 2030 Program Goals focused on cleaning up contamination at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Through our RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (formerly known as the Corrective Action Program), we made significant progress – and surpassed the annual goal – toward the 2026 five-year long-term performance goal of 425 cleanups, meeting the Ready for Anticipated Use milestone. Nationally, the program achieved the following targets:

-  22 cleanups met the Human Exposures Under Control target of 17.
-  25 cleanups met the Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control target of 25.
-  40 cleanups met Remedy Construction, just under the target of 44.
-  42 cleanups met the Performance Standards Attained target of 41.
-  87 cleanups met the Ready for Anticipated Use target of 85.

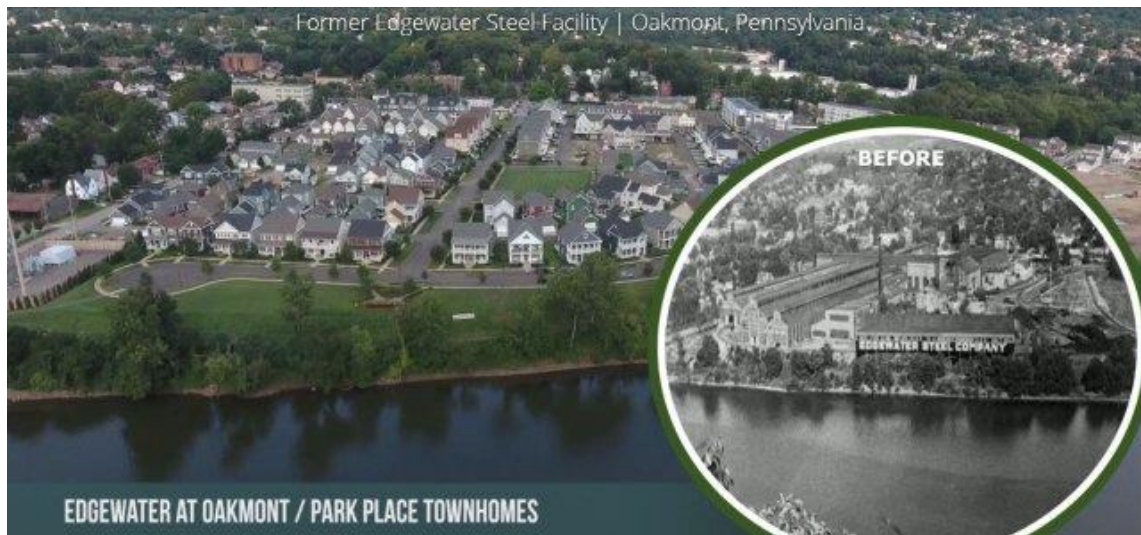
The Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program also provided program and technical support for regional and state program implementers:

**Program:** Collaborated with the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) on a national workshop to train new and experienced staff across the country.

**Policy:** Provided policy support for disaster resilience, lead cleanup, long-term stewardship of cleanups, and the benefits of cleanups to communities.

**Technical assistance:** Provided cutting-edge site-specific technical support to EPA regions and states through the national RCRA Optimization program. In FY24, four optimization reviews were conducted addressing cleanup barriers at facilities struggling to achieve cleanup milestones.

**Technology transfer:** Participated in national and international conferences to present state of science involving characterization and mitigation of [chemical vapor intrusion](#) and management of legacy and emerging contaminants.



Example of before and after a hazardous waste cleanup.

## Protecting Public Health and the Environment through OB/OD Rule, e-Manifest Rule, and Technical Assistance to Regions, States, and Territories

In FY24, ORCR continued responding to concerns about the potential impacts related to [open burning/open detonation of waste explosives](#). Specifically, in FY24 we published a [proposed rule](#) that would improve the implementation of existing requirements to evaluate and implement safe and available alternatives in lieu of OB/OD. We also assisted in the implementation of the existing requirements, which included providing contractor assistance and developing tools to assist permitting authorities in reviewing alternative technology evaluations and providing site-specific assistance to several EPA regions, states, and territories.



In July 2024, we published a [final rule](#) that expands the [e-Manifest system](#) to incorporate export manifests and other manifest-related reporting. EPA, states, and territories will now receive this information directly from the e-Manifest system, reducing paperwork burdens and improving data access. This final rule also requires certain generators of hazardous waste to register for access to e-Manifest to view their manifests electronically, avoiding the need to mail in manifests. The final rule also requires companies to correct data to enable high-quality data in the system.

In FY24, we published two guidance memos for incorporating disaster resilience considerations into the hazardous waste permitting and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) approval processes. These memos provide guidance to permitting authorities on when and how to consider potential future adverse impacts in the present-day permitting process and include recommendations for conducting vulnerability screenings and assessments.

## Protecting the Environment and Public Health by Addressing Community Concerns, Partnering with States, and Collaborating with Tribes and Other Federal Agencies

In FY24, ORCR oversaw 15 community-focused projects, including two new initiatives to provide resources for regions to incorporate community-specific considerations into their work.

We led 10 RCRA community of practice meetings, providing a forum for the program, states, industry, and the public to share research, best practices, and lessons learned in their work. In addition, through our [Community Engagement and Technical Assistance Program](#), we implemented nine community-driven projects.

We provided hazardous waste grant funding to states. We supplied data, guidance, and technical assistance to the regions and states as they worked toward their regional performance goals.

We developed options with regional staff to update the RCRA hazardous waste state grant allocation formula. We also created a new Collaborative Program Oversight initiative with the EPA regions by establishing a cross-program Planning Group and piloting meetings with EPA Regions 1 and 3.

We support Tribal Nations' waste management systems. Our workgroup began a Solid Waste Cost-of-Service Quantification Study to estimate financial needs. We conducted six site visits to gather data, and we will use the data to estimate the funding needs for all 574 federally recognized tribes across the nation.

We also continued our collaboration with Tribes and the Indian Health Service to address open dumping. To date, we have assessed over 150 open dumps and uploaded our data to the Operations and Maintenance Data System so that these sites become eligible for IHS funding for cleanup or closure.





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## Protecting the Environment and Public Health and Supporting Industry Through Improved Data About Waste Management



In response to the [Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity](#), ORCR's RCRAInfo team worked with the Central Data Exchange group in EPA's Office of Mission Support to implement multi-factor authentication, ensuring a seamless transition for over 100,000 industry users. We also launched the Cost Pro software in RCRAInfo, meeting a key permitting program priority. Cost Pro provides the ability to calculate the costs incurred at RCRA Subtitle C facilities for activities such as

cleanup efforts and for closure and post-closure work.

Finally, we launched the updated "[Biennial Report](#)" module within RCRAInfo, incorporating numerous data checks and validations leveraging the e-Manifest data. The Biennial Report data, required by statute, are vital for understanding the state of hazardous waste generation and management, both nationally and at the state and local levels. These data provide key insights into the volume and types of wastes that are generated, and trends in the waste management industry.

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## Providing Programmatic Support

### Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments: Program Management, Communications, and Analysis Office

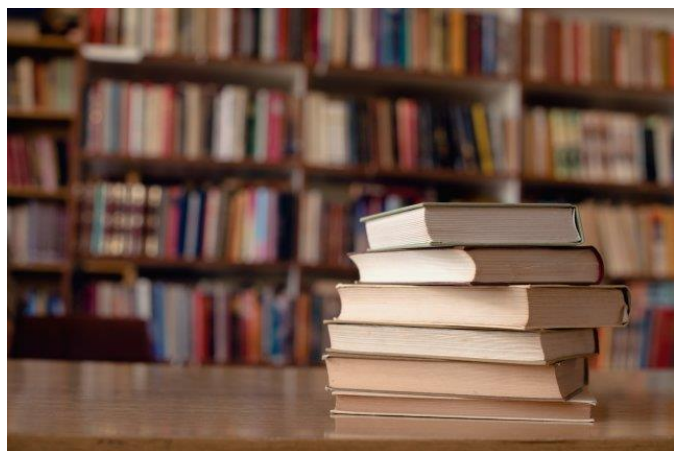


Supporting ORCR's mission through economic and risk analysis, travel coordination, budgeting, human resources, information technology, facilities, and communications work.

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## Supporting the Office's Mission with Economics and Risk Analysis Work

ORCR completed six economic analyses: three for proposed rules, two for final rules, and one for a guidance document. The analyses incorporated quantitative estimates of benefits from reducing a range of health effects. The economic analysis for the updated [Residential Soil Lead Guidance](#) was one of the first such analyses to estimate the number of avoided cases of cardiovascular disease from reducing lead exposure as well as presenting the monetary benefits of reducing the occurrence of this health effect in the United States. The economic analysis also considered the



demographics of areas affected by proposed or final actions, including race, income, educational level, and age of housing stock.

We also provided support on several topics including risks associated with beneficial use of [electric arc furnace slag](#), considerations in the placement of [solar panels](#) on closed landfills, and risks associated with [coal combustion residuals](#). We conducted an analysis of the potential for legacy placements of CCR to pose risk to nearby people. The assessment included a characterization of the risks associated with management practices across the United States beyond currently regulated [landfills](#) and surface impoundments. To accomplish this task, the team used mathematical models to estimate the rate at which constituents are released from CCR, the fate and transport of these constituents through the environment, and the potential risk of adverse effects to people.

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## Supporting Our Mission Through Public Outreach

We highlighted the importance of our work through products like social media, webpages, newsletters, press releases, interviews, and written media responses, bringing the latest information on ORCR to government, industry, and the public.

We made technical materials accessible by improving plain language and adding engaging graphics and photos. We cultivated 28 web areas with over 1,750 webpages explaining our work and provided access to important opportunities such as grants and trainings.

This fiscal year, our webpages were viewed almost seven million times. The top three most-visited web topics were [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#), [Hazardous Waste](#), and [Hazardous Waste Generators](#).



In FY24 we issued 10 press releases, drafted many communications plans, desk statements, video scripts, articles, social media posts, Presidential Proclamations, talking points, slide decks, and briefed senior leaders.

Through our newsletter, “[In the Loop with EPA: Circular Economy Updates](#),” we reached more than 21,000 subscribers and more than 8,200 subscribers with “[EPA Waste Management Updates](#).”

We responded to more than 180 inquiries from reporters in FY24 – with follow-ups, cross-Agency coordination, and media training – providing the press with accurate, fact-based information. We also presented six officewide trainings. Each year, we showcase ORCR’s work, using clear and timely communication to make it easy to understand how ORCR's work protects human health and the environment.

# Advancing Recycling Infrastructure and Conserving Resources

## Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments: Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division



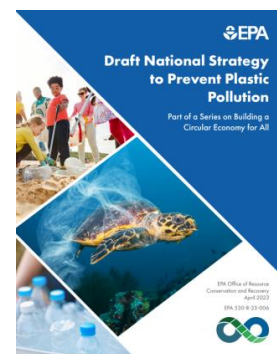
Strengthening the nation’s recycling infrastructure and creating jobs for communities across the country through our work on batteries, plastic pollution, financial needs assessment, food loss and waste prevention, recycling grants, and the Waste Reduction Model.

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## Protecting the Environment and Public Health through Plastic Pollution Reduction, Critical Mineral Recovery, and Improved Science

In FY24, ORCR was instrumental in developing products and hosting sessions that will help our country and other countries prevent plastic pollution, recover critical minerals, and better understand waste generation and materials use in the United States. In 2023, we released the [Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution](#) for public comment. EPA received over 91,000 comments, which we reviewed to produce a finalized strategy in the fall of 2024.

In addition, we hosted a series of working sessions to increase [battery recycling](#). The working sessions began in March 2024 and will continue into 2025. These sessions included broader discussions associated with small-format consumer electric and portable batteries along with more focused conversations about mid-format and large-



format batteries, including those for e-bikes and e-scooters, vehicles, energy storage, and industrial uses. We are developing battery collection best practices that will cover a wide array of small-, medium- (or mid-), and large-format battery chemistries (lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, etc.) and uses (consumer products, e-scooters, electric vehicles, industrial storage).

Finally, we worked to improve the scientific rigor behind the [Waste Reduction Model](#) by releasing version 16 for public comment, as well as a data quality analysis and a peer review of the model.

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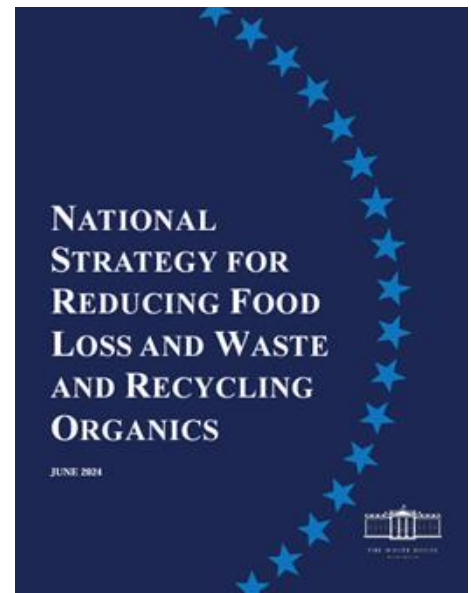
## Protecting the Environment and Public Health through Updated Resources, a National Strategy to Reduce Food Loss and Waste, and Recycling Education and Outreach



Based on the findings of [From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways \(Part 2\)](#), ORCR released a new [Wasted Food Scale](#), a tool to help decisionmakers understand the best options for managing food waste in terms of environmental impacts. The release of the new Wasted Food Scale marked the first update of EPA’s previous Food Recovery Hierarchy since the 1990s, reflecting the latest science, more recent technological advances, and changes in operational practices.

On June 12, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Food and Drug Administration announced the release of the "[National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#)." The goal of the strategy is to prevent the loss and waste of food, increase recycling of food and other organic materials to support a more circular economy for all, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save households and businesses money, and build cleaner, healthier communities.

In September 2024, EPA announced funding through the [Recycling Education and Outreach](#) grant program to focus on preventing the generation of wasted food and increasing its recycling through composting. The program provides \$39 million to fund one cooperative agreement that includes developing and implementing a national consumer wasted food reduction campaign, expanding the market for and sales of compost, and increasing education and outreach to households on composting.



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## Advancing Recycling Infrastructure and Creating Jobs for Communities Across the Country

In the fall of 2023, ORCR [announced more than \\$100 million](#) to expand recycling infrastructure and waste management systems across the country, representing the Agency's largest recycling investment in 30 years. We selected 25 communities to receive grants under the newly created Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity. On November 15, 2023, [we announced 59 selectees to receive over \\$60 million in SWIFR grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia and 25 selectees to receive over \\$33 million in Recycling Education and Outreach grants](#). These grants will improve recycling infrastructure and consumer education for waste management systems across the country as well as meet Congress' goal to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. recycling system.

A year later, in September of 2024, [we announced \\$117 million](#) for two separate funding opportunities to advance recycling infrastructure for communities as well as Tribes and Intertribal Consortia.



We also [finalized a landmark study requested by Congress](#) on the U.S. recycling system. This study found an investment of \$36 to \$43 billion is needed to improve curbside collection, drop-off, and processing infrastructure including manufacturing recycling facilities, composting, anaerobic digestion, and livestock infrastructure. The study emphasized that the nation must make key investments in all aspects of the national recycling system – generation, collection, sorting, processing, and end markets – along with education and policies that disincentivize landfilling materials and that it may be beneficial to focus initial investments in education and outreach in the South, Southwest, and Rocky Mountains, where there are high rates of potentially recyclable material but a lack of infrastructure.