U.S. EPA
Advancing Sustainable Materials Management

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“An approach to serving human needs by using/reusing resources productively and sustainably throughout their life cycles, generally minimizing the amount of materials involved and all associated environmental impacts.”

Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead, EPA (2009)
SMM Offers New Perspectives on GHG Emissions

- Materials Management accounts for 42% of U.S. GHG emissions
- “Industrial Sector is the 3rd largest near term abatement opportunity with materials efficiency and waste reduction as one of the significant levers.” – WRI, May 2015

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
U.S. EPA’s SMM Strategic Plan

Priority Areas:

• **Built Environment** (buildings, roads, bridges, infrastructure)

• **Sustainable Management of Food**

• **Sustainable Packaging**

• **Sustainable Electronics Management**

Cross-cutting Initiatives:

• **Life Cycle Thinking**

• **Measurement**

• **International Collaboration**
Spotlight on Food Waste, Public Procurement and Innovation