

**American Medical Student Association  
House of Delegates 2022  
Resolution:**

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**Subject:** Principles Regarding the Environment

**Type:** Addition to Principles

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WHEREAS it has been found that the United States only recycles about 32.1% of recyclable materials. [1]

WHEREAS about 25% of the things Americans attempt to recycle is too contaminated to go anywhere but the landfill. [2]

WHEREAS Recycling Across America reports that standardized recycling labels for recycling bins and receptacles (like compost, landfill, and glass/paper/cans labels) help increase recycling more than 50% and significantly decrease the amount of trash or incorrect recyclable thrown into recycling bins and polluting that once valuable material. [3]

WHEREAS climate change has health consequences including but not limited to temperature-related illness, water-related illness, air quality impacts, food safety impacts, vector-borne diseases, and mental wellness impacts. [4]

WHEREAS recycling is beneficial to the climate crisis by limiting the amount of raw materials being used and limiting the amount of waste going into landfills. [5]

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding the Environment (pg. 127-129) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

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1. **SUPPORTS** a national standardized labeling system for recycling and composting receptacles.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

1. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (n.d.). *National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling*. Facts and Figures about Materials, Waste and Recycling. Retrieved January 19, 2022, from [https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#:~:text=The%20recycling%20rate%20\(including%20composting,person%20per%20day%20for%20recycling.](https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#:~:text=The%20recycling%20rate%20(including%20composting,person%20per%20day%20for%20recycling.)
2. Bell, B. (2018, April 6). *The battle against recycling contamination is everyone's battle*. Regional Recycling & Waste Reduction District. Retrieved January 21, 2022, from <https://regionalrecycling.org/the-battle-against-recycling-contamination-is-everyones-battle/>
3. Recycling Across America. (2022). *Recycling facts*. Recycle Across America. Retrieved January 22, 2022, from <https://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/recycling-facts>
4. Climate Health Program. (2020, July). *Preparing for the regional health impacts of climate change in the United States*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved January 23, 2022, from [https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/docs/Health\\_Impacts\\_Climate\\_Change-508\\_final.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/docs/Health_Impacts_Climate_Change-508_final.pdf)
5. North Carolina Environmental Quality. (2021). *Recycling and Climate Change*. Retrieved January 23, 2022, from <https://deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling/recycling-climate-change>