RECYCLING ECONOMIC INFORMATION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

Recommendations for conducting a study of the U.S. recycling and reuse industries

Northeast Recycling Council

April 10, 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1. Overview	5
1.2. Report Organization	5
2. THE NEED FOR A STUDY OF THE U.S. RECYCLING AND REUSE INDUSTRIES	
2.1. Types and Uses of Economic Information	7
2.2. Shortcomings of Currently Available Information	8
2.3. Goals and Intended Uses of the Study	9
3. RECOMMENDED METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING THE STUDY	
3.1. Overview of the Recommended Methodology	11
3.2. Recommendations for Recycling and Support Businesses	12
3.3. Recommendations for Reuse Businesses	14
3.4. Recommendations for Using Economic Models	15
3.5. Clarification of Key Implementation Issues	17
3.6. Estimated Time line and Costs to Implement the Methodology	20
3.7. Additional Recommendations	23
4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TYPES OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED	
4.1. Overview of Information Priorities	25
4.2. Information Obtained in Past Studies	26
4.3. Summary of a Survey of Potential Study Users	27
4.4. Defining Value Added and Other Data Types	28
5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TYPES OF RECYCLING AND REUSE BUSINESSES	
COVERED IN THE STUDY	
5.1. Overview of the Business Categories Included	31
5.2. Business Categories Included in Past Studies	32
5.3. Definition of Recycling and Reuse Activities	33
5.4. Drawing Consistent Boundaries for Each Material and Product Type	33
5.5. Scrap Materials and Used Products Included	34

6. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RECOMMENDED APPROACHES TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INFORMATION

6.1.	Overview	37
6.2.	Republishing Data Obtained from Existing Information Sources	37
6.3.	Coordinating with Existing Survey Programs	38
6.4.	Developing a Database of Business Establishments and Conducting New Surveys	38
6.5.	Using Desk-Top Extrapolation Techniques	39
6.6.	Using Economic Models	40
6.7.	Evaluation of Information Gathering Options for Each Business Category	41

APPENDICES

A. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLING AND REUSE BUSINESS CATEGORIES

B. A REVIEW OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF RECYCLING ECONOMIC INFORMATION

- B.1. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census
- **B.2.** Other Federal Agencies
- B.3. State Economic Data Agencies
- **B.4.** State Recycling Agencies
- **B.5.** Industry Associations
- B.6. Non-Profit Organizations and Universities
- B.7. Periodicals and Regularly Published Reports
- **B.8.** Private Financial Data Companies
- B.9. Additional References and Bibliographies

C. SOURCES OF DIRECTORIES AND DATABASES LISTING RECYCLING AND REUSE BUSINESSES

D. SUMMARY OF A SURVEY OF POTENTIAL STUDY USERS

- D.1. Overview
- D.2. Summary of Survey Results
- D.3. Survey Form

E. CONSULTANT REPORT: ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH DETERMINING VALUE ADDED AND THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF RECYCLING INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES

F. PRIVATE BUSINESS DATA SOURCES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Examples of Types and Uses of Economic Information	ĺ
Table 3.1.	Recommendations for Limited Data Collection Approaches Covering	
	Recycling Collection and Support Businesses	14
Table 4.1	Results of Data Users Survey	27
Table 5.1	List of Recycling and Reuse Business Establishments Included in the	
	Recommended Methodology	31
Table 5.2.	Examples of Scrap Materials and Used Products Included	35
Table 6.1	Approaches for Obtaining Economic Information on Each Business Category	42
Table A.1	Descriptions of Industry Segments and Business Categories of the Recycling	
	and Reuse Industries	
Table C.1	Sources of Directories and Databases Listing Recycling and Reuse Businesses	
Table D.1	Results of Data Users Survey	