

**HB342: Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program**  
**House Environment & Transportation Committee**  
**February 22, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports HB342 to increase the market for recycled materials in Maryland.

Post-consumer recycled content requirements are an important piece of developing economically sustainable recycling markets to ensure that materials that are technologically recyclable actually get recycled, especially in light of the changing recycling markets in the past several years.

Setting minimum standards for post-consumer content in various product sectors creates a market for recycled materials that makes recycling operations more economically viable and expands the opportunities for local facilities to find markets for their products. This has a wide variety of external benefits that support the need for state action.

For example, producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from raw materials. One ton of recycled plastic saves 5,774 Kwh of energy, 16.3 barrels of oil, 98 million BTU's of energy, and 30 cubic yards of landfill space. A ton of PET plastic containers made with recycled plastic conserves about 7,200 kilowatt hours. Manufacturing one ton of office and computer paper with recycled paper stock can save between 3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt hours over the same ton of paper made with virgin wood products. Requiring that products contain a minimum content of recycled materials is an effective way to ensure that more materials are recycled, and fewer virgin materials must be drilled or harvested from the environment, saving energy and the environment.

We encourage the committee to pass HB342 to promote and create new markets for recycled materials, developing the Zero Waste future in Maryland.

Thank you,

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