

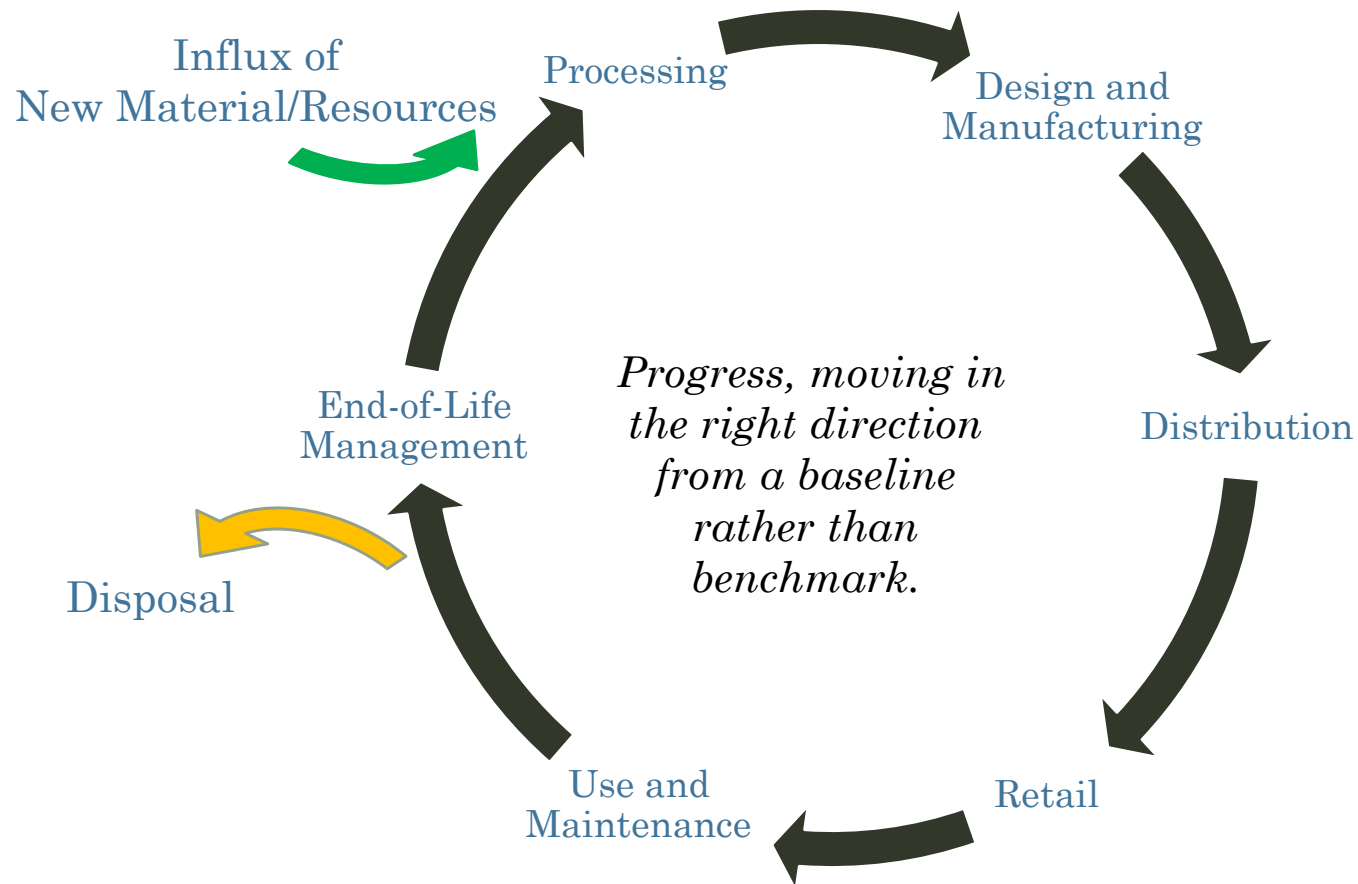
# Sustainable Materials Management

*Three Faces of the Circular Economy Concept*  
*Environmental Law Institute*  
*February 23, 2016*

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U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery  
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# What is Sustainable Materials Management?



*“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)*

# Paris Climate Agreement and SMM

**Paris Goal:** Limit global warming to below 2°C

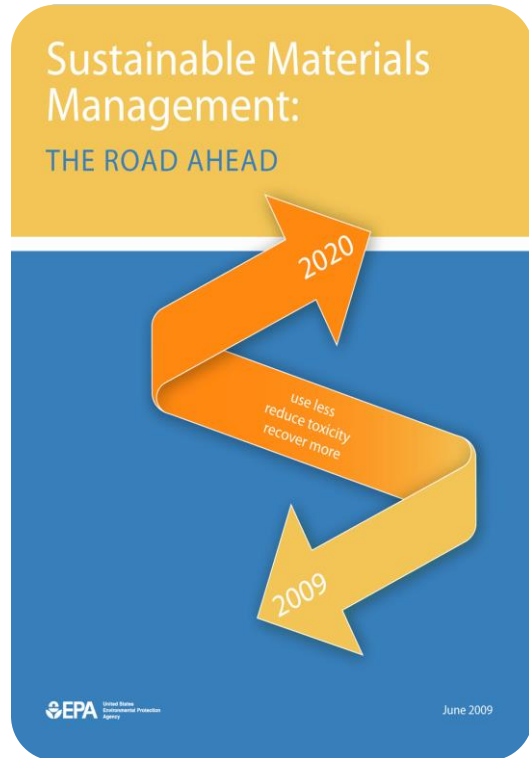
**U.S. Contribution:** Reduce GHG by 26-28% below its 2005 level in 2025 and reduce its emissions by 28%



Actions to mitigate climate change are not enough

United States contributions leave a gap of approximately 6% to 13%




# Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead (2009)





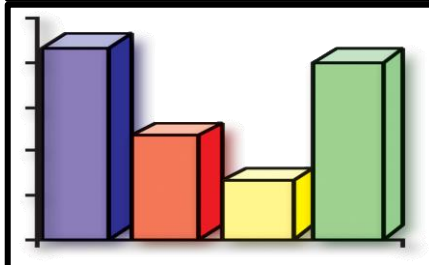
- **Used life cycle assessment to evaluate materials use across the U.S. economy.**
  - 38 materials, goods and services with significant environmental impacts identified.
- **Report also had specific recommendations for Government:**
  - Promote efforts to manage materials and products on a life cycle basis
  - Build capacity & integrate materials management approaches in existing government programs.
  - Accelerate the broad, ongoing public dialogue on life cycle materials management.

# EPA's SMM Strategic Plan 2017–2022

## Strategic Priority Areas

	<b>The Built Environment</b>
	<b>Sustainable Food Management</b>
	<b>Sustainable Packaging</b>

## Additional Emphasis Areas

	<b>Sustainable Electronics Management</b>
	<b>Lifecycle Assessment</b>
	<b>International Efforts</b>
	<b>Measurement</b>

# RCRA Waste Regulations that Support SMM

- 2015 Definition of Solid Waste (DSW) Final Rule
- 2015 Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Proposal



# SMM: A Global Issue

- G7 Leaders' Summit June 2015 -- established the Alliance on Resource Efficiency to:
  - Serve as a forum to share knowledge and create information networks on a voluntary basis.
  - Collaborate with businesses and other relevant stakeholders to advance opportunities offered by resource efficiency, promote best practices and foster innovation.
- U.S. will host an international workshop in March 2016: The Use of Life Cycle Concepts in Supply Chain Management to Achieve Resource Efficiency.
  - Forum to share best practices and explore issues in life-cycle concepts in sustainable supply chain management, using the auto sector as an example.
  - Leading to a findings report that is transferrable across sectors and countries and that will help lay the foundation for future collaboration.

# Thank you!

- **Contact: Coleman.Cheryl@epa.gov**
- **Please visit:**
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  - <http://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-waste>
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