

Committee Print

(SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 2145, AS FAVORABLY FORWARDED BY THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT ON MAY 14, 2026)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2145

To establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2025

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms.
TENNEY, and Ms. MCCLELLAN) introduced the following bill; which was
referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling
accessibility, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recycling Infrastruc-
5 ture and Accessibility Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
5 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
6 mental Protection Agency.

7 (2) CURBSIDE RECYCLING.—The term
8 “curbside recycling” means the process by which
9 residential recyclable materials are picked up
10 curbside.

11 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means—

13 (A) a State (as defined in section 1004 of
14 the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C.
15 6903));

16 (B) a unit of local government;

17 (C) an Indian Tribe; and

18 (D) a public-private partnership.

19 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
20 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
21 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
22 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

23 (5) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “materials
25 recovery facility” means a recycling facility
26 where primarily residential recyclables, which

1 are diverted from disposal by a generator and
2 collected separately from municipal solid waste,
3 are mechanically or manually sorted into com-
4 modities for further processing into specifica-
5 tion-grade commodities for sale to end users.

6 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “materials re-
7 covery facility” does not include a solid waste
8 management facility that may process munic-
9 ipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.

10 (6) PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot
11 grant program” means the Recycling Infrastructure
12 and Accessibility Program established under sub-
13 section (b).

14 (7) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term “recy-
15 clable material” means obsolete, previously used, off-
16 specification, surplus, or incidentally produced mate-
17 rial for processing into a specification-grade com-
18 modity for which a market exists.

19 (8) TRANSFER STATION.—The term “transfer
20 station” means a facility that—

21 (A) receives and consolidates recyclable
22 material from curbside recycling or drop-off fa-
23 cilities; and

24 (B) loads the recyclable material onto trac-
25 tor trailers, railcars, or barges for transport to

1 a distant materials recovery facility or another
2 recycling-related facility.

3 (9) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term
4 “underserved community” means a community, in-
5 cluding an unincorporated area, without access to
6 full recycling services because—

7 (A) transportation, distance, or other rea-
8 sons render utilization of available processing
9 capacity at an existing materials recovery facil-
10 ity cost prohibitive; or

11 (B) the processing capacity of an existing
12 materials recovery facility is insufficient to
13 manage the volume of recyclable materials pro-
14 duced by that community.

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
17 shall establish a pilot grant program, to be known as the
18 “Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program”, to
19 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities
20 to improve recycling accessibility in a community or com-
21 munities within the same geographic area.

22 (c) GOAL.—The goal of the pilot grant program is
23 to fund eligible projects that will significantly improve ac-
24 cessibility to recycling systems through investments in in-
25 frastructure in underserved communities through the use

1 of a hub-and-spoke model for recycling infrastructure de-
2 velopment.

3 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
4 under the pilot grant program, an eligible entity shall sub-
5 mit to the Administrator an application at such time, in
6 such manner, and containing such information as the Ad-
7 ministrator may require.

8 (e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting eligible entities
9 to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall consider—

11 (1) whether the community or communities in
12 which the eligible entity is seeking to carry out a
13 proposed project has curbside recycling;

14 (2) whether the proposed project of the eligible
15 entity will improve accessibility to recycling services
16 in a single underserved community or multiple un-
17 derserved communities; and

18 (3) if the eligible entity is a public-private part-
19 nership, the financial health of the private entity
20 seeking to enter into that public-private partnership.

21 (f) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive
22 a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator
23 shall give priority to eligible entities seeking to carry out
24 a proposed project in a community in which there is not

1 more than 1 materials recovery facility within a 75-mile
2 radius of that community.

3 (g) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity awarded a
4 grant under the pilot grant program may use the grant
5 funds for projects to improve recycling accessibility in
6 communities, including in underserved communities, by—

7 (1) increasing the number of transfer stations;

8 (2) expanding curbside recycling collection pro-
9 grams where appropriate; and

10 (3) leveraging public-private partnerships to re-
11 duce the costs associated with collecting and trans-
12 porting recyclable materials in underserved commu-
13 nities.

14 (h) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
15 entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may
16 not use the grant funds for projects relating to recycling
17 education programs.

18 (i) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A
19 grant awarded to an eligible entity under the pilot grant
20 program shall be in an amount—

21 (1) not less than \$500,000; and

22 (2) not more than \$15,000,000.

23 (j) SET-ASIDE.—The Administrator shall set aside
24 not less than 70 percent of the amounts made available
25 to carry out the pilot grant program for each fiscal year

1 to award grants to eligible entities to carry out a proposed
2 project or program in a single underserved community or
3 multiple underserved communities.

4 (k) FEDERAL SHARE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
6 the Federal share of the cost of a project or pro-
7 gram carried out by an eligible entity using grant
8 funds shall be not more than 90 percent.

9 (2) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive
10 the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1)
11 if the Administrator determines that an eligible enti-
12 ty would experience significant financial hardship as
13 a result of that requirement.

14 (l) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
15 on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot grant
16 program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a re-
17 port describing the implementation of the pilot grant pro-
18 gram, which shall include—

19 (1) a list of eligible entities that have received
20 a grant under the pilot grant program;

21 (2) the actions taken by each eligible entity that
22 received a grant under the pilot grant program to
23 improve recycling accessibility with grant funds; and

24 (3) to the extent information is available, a de-
25 scription of how grant funds received under the pilot

1 grant program improved recycling rates in each com-
2 munity in which a project or program was carried
3 out under the pilot grant program.

4 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
6 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
7 pilot grant program \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal
8 years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until
9 expended.

10 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TECHNICAL
11 ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under
12 paragraph (1), the Administrator may use up to 5
13 percent—

14 (A) for administrative costs relating to car-
15 rying out the pilot grant program; and

16 (B) to provide technical assistance to eligi-
17 ble entities applying for a grant under the pilot
18 grant program.

19 **SEC. 3. RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING DATA COLLECTION.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

22 (A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Admin-
23 istrator” means the Administrator of the Envi-
24 ronmental Protection Agency.

1 (B) COMPOST.—The term “compost”
2 means a product that—

3 (i) is manufactured through the con-
4 trolled aerobic, biological decomposition of
5 biodegradable materials;

6 (ii) has been subjected to medium and
7 high temperature organisms, which—

8 (I) significantly reduce the viabil-
9 ity of pathogens and weed seeds; and

10 (II) stabilize carbon in the prod-
11 uct such that the product is beneficial
12 to plant growth; and

13 (iii) is typically used as a soil amend-
14 ment, but may also contribute plant nutri-
15 ents.

16 (C) COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL.—The term
17 “compostable material” means material that is
18 a feedstock for creating compost, including—

19 (i) wood;

20 (ii) agricultural crops;

21 (iii) paper, such as cardboard and
22 other paper products;

23 (iv) certified compostable products as-
24 sociated with organic waste;

25 (v) other organic plant material;

1 (vi) organic waste, including food
2 waste and yard waste; and

3 (vii) such other material that is com-
4 posed of biomass that can be continually
5 replenished or renewed, as determined by
6 the Administrator.

7 (D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian
8 Tribe” has the meaning given the term in sec-
9 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
10 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (E) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term
12 “recyclable material” means a material that is
13 obsolete, previously used, off-specification, sur-
14 plus, or incidentally produced for processing
15 into a specification-grade commodity for which
16 a reuse market currently exists or is being de-
17 veloped.

18 (F) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling”
19 means the series of activities—

20 (i) during which recyclable materials
21 are processed into specification-grade com-
22 modities and consumed as raw-material
23 feedstock, in lieu of virgin materials, in the
24 manufacturing of new products;

1 (ii) that may, with regard to recyclable
2 ble materials and prior to the activities de-
3 scribed in clause (i), include sorting, collec-
4 tion, processing, and brokering; and

5 (iii) that result, subsequent to proc-
6 essing described in clause (i), in consump-
7 tion by a materials manufacturer, includ-
8 ing for the manufacturing of new products.

9 (G) STATE.—The term “State” has the
10 meaning given the term in section 1004 of the
11 Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903).

12 (2) DEFINITION OF PROCESSING.—In subpara-
13 graphs (E) and (F) of paragraph (1), the term
14 “processing” means any mechanical, manual, or
15 other method that—

16 (A) transforms a recyclable material into a
17 specification-grade commodity; and

18 (B) may occur in multiple steps, with dif-
19 ferent phases, including sorting, occurring at
20 different locations.

21 (b) REPORTS ON COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING IN-
22 FRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Solid
24 Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 4011. REPORTS ON COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING IN-**
2 **FRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITIES.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING ACCOUNT-
5 ABILITY ACT TERMS.—The terms ‘compost’,
6 ‘compostable material’, ‘recyclable material’, and ‘re-
7 cycling’ have the meanings given such terms in sec-
8 tion 3(a) of the Recycling Infrastructure and Acces-
9 sibility Act of 2025.

10 “(2) COMPOSTING FACILITY.—The term
11 ‘composting facility’ means a location, structure, or
12 device that transforms compostable materials into
13 compost.

14 “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
15 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
16 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
17 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

18 “(4) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘materials
20 recovery facility’ means a dedicated facility
21 where primarily residential recyclable materials,
22 which are diverted from disposal by the gener-
23 ator and collected separately from municipal
24 solid waste, are mechanically or manually sort-
25 ed into commodities for further processing into

1 specification-grade commodities for sale to end
2 users.

3 “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘materials
4 recovery facility’ does not include a solid waste
5 management facility that may process munic-
6 ipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.

7 “(C) DEFINITION OF PROCESSING.—For
8 purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘proc-
9 essing’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
10 tion 3(a) of the Recycling Infrastructure and
11 Accessibility Act of 2025.

12 “(b) REPORT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-
14 quest information and data from, collaborate with,
15 or contract with, as necessary and appropriate,
16 States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes,
17 for the provision, preparation, and publication of a
18 report, or to expand work under the National Recy-
19 cling Strategy to include information and data, on
20 compostable materials and efforts to reduce contami-
21 nation rates for recycling, including—

22 “(A) an evaluation of existing Federal,
23 State, and local laws that may present barriers
24 to implementation of composting strategies;

1 “(B) a description and evaluation of
2 composting infrastructure and programs within
3 States, units of local government, and Indian
4 Tribes;

5 “(C) an estimate of the costs and approxi-
6 mate land needed to expand composting pro-
7 grams; and

8 “(D) a review of the practices of manufac-
9 turers and companies that are moving to using
10 compostable packaging and food service ware
11 for the purpose of making the composting pro-
12 cess the end-of-life use of those products.

13 “(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 2 years
14 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
15 ministrator shall submit to Congress the report pre-
16 pared under paragraph (1).

17 “(c) INVENTORY OF MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILI-
18 TIES.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
19 of this section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Adminis-
20 trator, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies and
21 States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes,
22 shall—

23 “(1) prepare an inventory or estimate of mate-
24 rials recovery facilities in the United States, includ-
25 ing—

1 “(A) the number of materials recovery fa-
2 cilities in each State; and

3 “(B) a general description of the materials
4 that each of those materials recovery facilities
5 can process, including—

6 “(i) in the case of plastic, a descrip-
7 tion of—

8 “(I) the types of accepted resin,
9 if applicable; and

10 “(II) the packaging or product
11 format, such as a jug, a carton, or
12 film;

13 “(ii) food packaging and service ware,
14 such as a bottle, cutlery, or a cup;

15 “(iii) paper;

16 “(iv) aluminum, such as an aluminum
17 beverage can, food can, aerosol can, or foil;

18 “(v) steel, such as a steel food or aer-
19 osol can;

20 “(vi) other scrap metal;

21 “(vii) glass; or

22 “(viii) any other material not de-
23 scribed in any of clauses (i) through (vii)
24 that a materials recovery facility processes;
25 and

1 “(2) submit to Congress the inventory or esti-
2 mate prepared under paragraph (1).

3 “(d) INFORMATION ON RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING
4 SYSTEMS.—The Administrator shall, as necessary and ap-
5 propriate, collaborate or contract with States, units of
6 local government, and Indian Tribes to estimate, with re-
7 spect to the United States—

8 “(1) the number and types of recycling and
9 composting programs;

10 “(2) the types and forms of materials accepted
11 by recycling or composting programs;

12 “(3) the number of individuals—

13 “(A) with access to recycling and
14 composting services to at least the extent of ac-
15 cess to disposal services; and

16 “(B) who use, on a percentage basis, the
17 recycling and composting services described in
18 subparagraph (A);

19 “(4) the number of individuals with barriers to
20 accessing recycling and composting services similar
21 to their access to disposal services and the types of
22 those barriers experienced;

23 “(5) the inbound contamination and capture
24 rates of recycling and composting programs;

1 “(6) if applicable, other available recycling or
2 composting programs; and

3 “(7) the average costs and benefits to States,
4 units of local government, and Indian Tribes of recy-
5 cling and composting programs.

6 “(e) RECYCLING REPORTING RATES.—

7 “(1) COLLECTION OF DATA; DEVELOPMENT OF
8 RATES.—The Administrator may use amounts made
9 available under section 3(e) of the Recycling Infra-
10 structure and Accessibility Act of 2025—

11 “(A) to biannually collect, in collaboration
12 with States, to the extent practicable, informa-
13 tion supplied on a voluntary basis to develop
14 the estimated rates described in subparagraphs
15 (B) and (C);

16 “(B) to develop a standardized estimated
17 rate of recyclable materials in States that pro-
18 vide information under subparagraph (A) that
19 have been successfully diverted from the waste
20 stream and brought to a materials recovery fa-
21 cility or composting facility; and

22 “(C) to develop an estimated national recy-
23 cling rate based on the information described in
24 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

1 “(2) USE.—Using amounts made available
2 under section 3(e) of the Recycling Infrastructure
3 and Accessibility Act of 2025, the Administrator
4 may use the information collected and rates devel-
5 oped under paragraph (1) to provide requesting
6 States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes
7 data and technical assistance—

8 “(A) to reduce the overall waste produced
9 by the States, units of local government, and
10 Indian Tribes;

11 “(B) to assist the States, units of local
12 government, and Indian Tribes in under-
13 standing the nuances of the information col-
14 lected relating to diversion activities; and

15 “(C) to increase recycling and composting
16 rates of the States, units of local government,
17 and Indian Tribes.

18 “(f) REPORT ON END MARKETS.—The Adminis-
19 trator, in collaboration or contract with, as necessary and
20 appropriate, relevant Federal agencies, States, units of
21 local government, or Indian Tribes, shall—

22 “(1) provide an update to the report submitted
23 under section 306 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act
24 (Public Law 116–224; 134 Stat. 1096) to include an
25 addendum on the end-market sale of all recyclable

1 materials from materials recovery facilities that
2 process recyclable materials, including, to the extent
3 practicable—

4 “(A) the total, in dollars per ton, domestic
5 sales of bales of recyclable materials; and

6 “(B) the total, in dollars per ton, inter-
7 national sales of bales of recyclable materials;

8 “(2) prepare a report on the end-market sale of
9 compost from, to the extent practicable, compostable
10 materials, including the total, in dollars per ton, of
11 domestic sales of compostable materials; and

12 “(3) not later than 3 years after the date of en-
13 actment of this section, submit to Congress the up-
14 date to the report prepared under paragraph (1) and
15 the report prepared under paragraph (2).

16 “(g) PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMA-
17 TION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Information collected under
19 subsection (e)(1) or paragraph (1) or (2) of sub-
20 section (f) shall not include any privileged or con-
21 fidential information described in section 552(b)(4)
22 of title 5, United States Code.

23 “(2) NONDISCLOSURE.—Information collected
24 to carry out this section shall not be made public if

1 the information meets the requirements of section
2 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
4 tents in section 1001 of the Solid Waste Disposal
5 Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
6 to section 4010 the following:

“Sec. 4011. Report on composting and recycling infrastructure capabilities.”.

7 (c) FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RE-
8 CYCLING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter until 2033,
10 the Comptroller General of the United States shall make
11 publicly available a report—

12 (1) detailing or, to the extent practicable, pro-
13 viding an estimate of—

14 (A) the total annual recycling and
15 composting rates reported by all Federal agen-
16 cies; and

17 (B) the total annual percentage of prod-
18 ucts containing recyclable material, compostable
19 material, or recovered materials purchased by
20 all Federal agencies, including—

21 (i) the total quantity of procured
22 products containing recyclable material or
23 recovered materials listed in the com-
24 prehensive procurement guidelines pub-
25 lished under section 6002(e) of the Solid

1 Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962(e));

2 and

3 (ii) the total quantity of compostable

4 material purchased by all Federal agencies;

5 (2) identifying the activities of each Federal
6 agency that promote recycling or composting; and

7 (3) identifying activities that Federal agencies
8 could carry out to further promote recycling or
9 composting.

10 (d) STUDY ON THE DIVERSION OF RECYCLABLE MA-
11 TERIALS FROM A CIRCULAR MARKET.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
14 shall develop a metric for determining the proportion
15 of recyclable materials in commercial and municipal
16 waste streams that are being diverted from a cir-
17 cular market.

18 (2) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the development of a metric under paragraph
20 (1), the Administrator shall conduct a study of, and
21 submit to Congress a report on, the proportion of re-
22 cyclable materials in commercial and municipal
23 waste streams that, during each of the 10 calendar
24 years preceding the year of submission of the report,
25 were diverted from a circular market.

1 (3) DATA.—The report under paragraph (2)
2 shall provide data on specific recyclable materials,
3 including aluminum, plastics, paper and paperboard,
4 textiles, and glass, that were prevented from remain-
5 ing in a circular market through disposal or elimi-
6 nation, and to what use those specific recyclable ma-
7 terials were lost.

8 (4) EVALUATION.—The report under paragraph
9 (2) shall include an evaluation of whether the estab-
10 ishment or improvement of recycling programs
11 would—

12 (A) improve recycling rates;

13 (B) reduce the quantity of recyclable mate-
14 rials being unutilized in a circular market; and

15 (C) affect prices paid by consumers for
16 products using materials recycled in the circular
17 market.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
20 carry out this section and the amendments made by this
21 section \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
22 2031.

23 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—

24 (1) UNFUNDED MANDATES.—The Adminis-
25 trator or the Secretary of Commerce may not exer-

1 cise any authority under this section or any amend-
2 ment made by this section if exercising that author-
3 ity would require a State, a unit of local govern-
4 ment, or an Indian Tribe to carry out a mandate for
5 which funding is not available.

6 (2) NONDISCLOSURE.—Any information col-
7 lected to carry out this section shall not be made
8 public if the information meets the requirements of
9 section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.