



Recycle and Reuse Policy

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Recently, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has drafted a **National Resource Efficiency Policy**, in order to double the recycling rate of key materials and enable the upcycling of waste.

Key Highlights

- In the backdrop of the concerns over depleting resources in India because of rising factory output, urbanization, and increasing population, the pressure on existing resources has significantly increased.
- In a **circular economy**, the **use and dispose model** won't work further. The emphasis is to be laid upon reusing and regenerating resources as much and as long as possible so as to make the resources sustainable.
 - This can be done in two ways: **firstly, recycling the materials**, and secondly, **increasing the efficiency of usage of these resources**.
 - Recycling is basically dealt with by industries alone but the Resource efficiency needs to be followed across all sectors and demands focused intervention from all the stakeholders.
 - Hence, the government formulated the **National Resource Efficiency Policy** that **envisions** how the existing policies are currently working for the promotion of resources, and how life cycle thinking can be promoted across the different stakeholders so that they do not feel isolated.

The policy helps to develop resource-efficient strategies for different sectors and adopt them into a **three-year action plan**.

Plan of action

Rising factory output, urbanization and population are putting pressure on the country's existing resources.



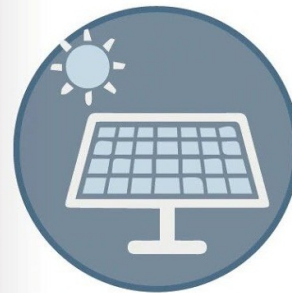
CURRENT STATUS

- **20-25% of recycling rate, much lower compared to 70% in developed countries**
- 1,580 tonnes/acre is India's resource extraction. (World average is 450 tonnes/acre)
- **Third highest CO2 emitter, responsible for 6.9% of global CO2 emissions**
- Highest water withdrawal globally for agriculture
- **30% of land undergoing degradation**



TARGETS

- **50% recycling rate to be achieved by 2025 for aluminium, and 90% by 2030**
- By 2030, domestic scrap to fulfil 50% of the total aluminium scrap requirement
- **40% is the targeted rate of utilization of dross by 2025 and 80% by 2030**
- Zero import of steel scrap for recycled steel production by 2030
- **By 2020 penalty mechanism for violation of e-waste management rules**



POLICY STEPS

- **Setting up solar panel recycling infrastructure**
- Transition to 'zero waste' by converting solid waste to value added products
- **Promotion of aluminium scrappage and recycling**
- Creation of zonal scrap collection, segregation and treatment facilities
- **Quality standards for recycled products, develop codes and standards**

- The **linear production and consumption model** is leading towards a lot of wastage in the entire value chain.
 - Opportunities at each and every stage of the product cycle exist which can be utilized, especially at a time when the economy is going through a rough patch.
- After the National Green Tribunal imposed a ban on more than ten years old diesel vehicles in the National Capital Region, more vehicles life came to an end.
 - Under the framed policy, the government plans to set up:
 - **Collection centres** to collect such vehicles and carry out the deregistration process, and
 - **Shredding centres** which would segregate materials for recycling.
 - The plan is to ensure 75% recycling rate for vehicles made before 1990, 85% recycling rate for vehicles made between 1990 and 2000, and 90% recycling rate for vehicles made after 2000.
- Another concern is related to the **plastic waste** that contributes to **8% of the total solid waste** that is addressed by this policy.
 - The draft policy aims to achieve a 100% recycling and reuse rate polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic by 2025.

- The policy is like a guiding document. The need of the hour is to actively implement the framed rules on ground, by the respective ministries and departments. Also, every sector of the economy must move towards sustainable use of resources and proactively accept sustainable alternatives.

Source: Mint