

# Sustainable and Safe Recycling

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# Sustainable and Safe Recycling

## An Essential Workforce

- Zero waste and climate frontline workers support the green economy
- Across the US there are 21,000 workers sorting recycling material
- This workforce, that is often unseen, maintains the efficiency of recycling system
- Recycling plays a key role in job creation and creates 10x more jobs than landfilling



# Sustainable and Safe Recycling

## Key Issues

- High injury and fatality rates
- Unsafe working conditions
  - Loud, heavy machinery
  - Exposure to hazardous items
- Low wages, few benefits
- Limited advancement
- Common use of temporary workers
  - Fewer workplace protections
  - Less likely to be informed of rights
- The GAIA 2015 report [Sustainable and Safe Recycling - Protecting Workers Who Protect the Planet](#), provides an extensive overview



**SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE RECYCLING:**

**PROTECTING WORKERS WHO  
PROTECT THE PLANET**



GAIA  
Partnership for Working Families  
MassCOSH  
National Council for  
Occupational Safety and Health

# Sustainable and Safe Recycling

## Recommendations

- Require comprehensive worker safety programs and consistent evaluation of health and safety records of recycling companies
- Employ unions and incentives through company ownership, and end the use of temporary, untrained workers
- Minimize dangerous contaminants entering the recycling stream by enact strong community education programs
- Have a policy to empower workers:



***“If you see something, say something”***



# NCRA DEI Efforts

## **TO BE POSTED SOON:**

- **Glossary**
- **Conference DEI Dedication**
- **Presenter Guidelines**
- **Organizational Self-Assessment**
- **How to Hire a Consultant**



[NCRA DEI RESOURCES](#)