Begun more than 30 years ago, the Recycled Materials Association’s Design for Recycling® initiative encourages manufacturers to account for the end of their product’s useful life during the design-stage of a product’s development.

Design for Recycling® PrincipleS

ReMA believes that the following principles should be applied:

**1**

**Making Consumer Products Recyclable**Manufacturers must ensure that consumer products can be safely and economically recycled, using existing recycling technology and methods, when removed from service. Recyclers of consumer products should not have to incur unnecessary costs due to the use of hazardous constituents in the products. Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, consumer products should be recyclable without creating risks to human health or the environment from hazardous constituents.

**2**

**Reducing Environmental Risks from Consumer Products**All newly manufactured durable consumer products should have demonstrated recyclability. In most cases, if a product is found to present environmental risks that make it uneconomical to recycle the product, it should not be sold without design or manufacturing changes that will remove those risks.

**3**

**Controlling Special Environmental Problems**Some products may not be capable of being redesigned so as to eliminate risk to the recycler. For example, for some applications, there may be no feasible substitute for a hazardous constituent in the product. In these cases, there should be new cooperative arrangements between manufacturers and recyclers to ensure recycling, and recyclers should be relieved of the resulting risks of environmental liability.

**4**

**Assistance to Manufacturers of Consumer Durables**Manufacturers who are required to alter the design or manufacture of their products should receive transitional assistance, when appropriate. Small business, in particular, should be afforded economic and technical assistance in ensuring their products’ safe recyclability. Manufacturers should not be asked to bear all the costs of **Design for Recycling®**, any more than recyclers should be required to continue to bear all the environmental risks of recycling in that absence of appropriate product design. **Design for Recycling®** will benefit all of society, and it is therefore fitting that society assist manufacturers in its implementation.

ReMA Design for Recycling® Award  
  
The Design for Recycling® Award is ReMA’s most prestigious award that is given annually to the most outstanding contribution to products designed with recycling in mind. It recognizes the proactive steps made by manufacturers who have actively incorporated Design for Recycling® principles into their products and manufacturing processes.

**2025 Criteria**

To be eligible for ReMA’s Design for Recycling**®** Award, a company’s product(s) must be designed/ redesigned and manufactured to:

* Contain the maximum amount of materials that are recyclable.
* Be easily recycled through current or newly designed recycling processes and procedures.
* Be cost effective to recycle whereby the cost to recycle does not exceed the value of its recycled materials.
* Be free of hazardous materials that are not recyclable or impede the recycling process.
* Minimizes the time and cost involved to recycle the product.
* Reduce the use of raw materials by including recycled materials and/or components.
* Have a net gain in the overall recyclability of the product while reducing the overall negative impact on the environment.

Previous Design for Recycling® Award Winners

2024 – REMADE Institute

2023 – Award not presented

2022 – Sonoco Alloyd

2021 – Cascade Engineering

2020 – Lexmark

2019 – Nestlé Waters North America

2018 – Dell, Inc.

2017 – EcoStrate SFS, Inc.

2016 – Samsung Electronics America, Inc.

2015 – LG Electronics, Inc.

2014 – Dell, Inc.

2013 – Award not presented

2012 – Cascades Fine Papers Group2011 – Wind Simplicity2010 – Coca-Cola Recycling Company2009– The Herman Miller Company2008–Award not presented2007 – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency2006 – Hewlett Packard

2025 Design for Recycling® (DfR) Award Entry Form

# Company Information

Company Name:

Company Address:

Company Contact (name/ title / email / phone):

# Product information

Product Name(s):

Product Description(s) (please attach product photos or video if available):

Narrative overview on why product(s) meets DfR Criteria:

# Questions about your product

1. How has your company implemented the principals of DfR into your product(s)?
2. Has your company increased the recycled material content of the product(s)? Explain.
3. Can you quantitatively measure the increase in recycled content in the design/redesign of your product(s)? Please provide quantitative documentation.
4. Has your company reduced or eliminated hazardous materials from the product(s)? Explain.
5. Is your product(s) widely accepted in current recycling programs in the United States?
6. Is there an increased recyclability of your product(s) due to its design or the changes you’ve made to the product(s)? Explain.
7. Has the design of your product(s) made it easier to recycle the product(s) under current technology? Explain.
8. Has the design/redesign of your product(s) reduced the overall percent of virgin materials needed to produce the product(s)? Explain.
9. Can you quantitatively measure the decrease in raw material content in the design/redesign of your product(s)?
10. Has the design/redesign of your product(s) reduced the negative impact on the environment once the product(s) is recycled? If so, how?

Additional comments and documentation supporting your product(s) entry:

1. If requested, would you be willing to provide the DfR Award Review Committee with a sample of your product for a closer review?

Yes No

Signature of company contact:

By my signature above, *I hereby certify that I have the authority to sign on behalf of the applicant. I further certify that all information provided by applicant is truthful and accurate. I acknowledge that, should it be determined at any point in time that any information provided by the applicant is inaccurate or untruthful, the applicant agrees to indemnify, defend and otherwise hold ReMA and its officers, directors, employees, and members harmless from any claims, demands or liabilities that may arise therefrom. Should it be determined that the applicant provided inaccurate or untruthful information, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc., dba Recycled Materials Association (ReMA), may revoke the award and all indicia of the award provided to the applicant shall be returned to ReMA. The applicant certifies that it has ownership of, or the rights to use, any patent, trademark or copyright associated with the product nominated by the applicant and the applicant agrees to indemnify, defend and otherwise hold ReMA and its officers, directors, employees, and members harmless from any claims, demands, or liabilities arising from applicant's not owning or having the rights to use such intellectual property.*

2025 Design for Recycling® Award Timeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| December 16, 2024 |  | Call for entries. |
| March 3, 2025 |  | Deadline for submissions. |
| March 21, 2025 |  | Request for additional information deadline. |
| March 24 - 28, 2025 |  | Application review. |
| March 31, 2025 |  | Notification to applicants. |
| May 12, 2025 |  | Award Presentation at ReMA2025 Convention and Exposition in San Diego. |

Please note that ReMA reserves the right to accept or reject any applications for the Design for Recycling® Award. Furthermore, ReMA reserves the right to not give the award if, in its sole determination, no application sufficiently meets the criteria for the award.

**For more information**, contact David Wagger at [DWagger@recycledmaterials.org](mailto:DWagger@recycledmaterials.org) or at (202) 662-8533.