



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

POSITION PAPER — 2005

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results.

GCA SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE WASTE REDUCTION

The Garden Club of America supports legislative initiatives that will encourage conservation of this country's natural resources and reduce our industrial and municipal waste. GCA advocates legislation to encourage environmentally safe and cost effective toxic source reduction as a key strategy for reducing U.S. dependence on increasingly costly waste disposal options: landfilling, incineration and inappropriate ocean dumping.

GCA supports legislation that will encourage businesses to make safe and long-lasting products from renewable sources and legislation that will promote recycling, emphasizing development of new uses and markets for recycled materials.

The Garden Club of America advocates legislation that would:

- Establish guidelines at all levels of government that promote reduction of waste at the source by favoring minimum or reusable packaging, fewer disposables and less toxic, more durable products.
- Reduce tax deductions and government subsidies to logging, mining, petrochemical and other industrial users of depletable resources in order to remove the price advantage given to virgin materials.
- Provide incentives to encourage industries to reuse and recycle the products they produce.
- Establish guidelines for the minimum recycled content of newly manufactured paper, plastic, glass, metal products, packaging and fertilizer.
- Establish uniform labeling standards and definitions for recycled content and hazardous components.
- Encourage identification and proper disposal of toxic materials, and provide adequate funding for cleanup.

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.