



## Update on the SWEEP Standard

The SWEEP (Solid Waste Environmental Excellence Performance) Standard is a voluntary market transformation standard designed to identify and reward local government and industry leaders in sustainable materials management.

On Monday, November 5th, the SWEEP Pilot Standard for Local Government and Materials Management Industry was released for ballot in advance of the launch of the SWEEP Pilot Program in early 2020. The Standard can be viewed here: [SWEEP Pilot Standard Ballot Draft](#).

The SWEEP development process is being led by The Institute for Market Transformation to Sustainability (MTS). MTS is an ANSI-Accredited standard-setting body that is conducting the National Consensus Standard process (non-ANS) for SWEEP. The National Consensus Standard process (non-ANS) was established approximately 10 years ago to allow for the development of comprehensive leadership standards in a consensus manner fully protecting due process. More information on SWEEP's Trade Association Policy can be viewed here: [Trade Association Policy](#)

As part of the National Consensus Standard process, interested professionals may vote on the SWEEP Pilot Standard, after first joining the National Consensus Committee (NCC-free of charge). The NCC is comprised of diverse experts from Local Governments, as well as professionals representing all facets of the waste management industry. To register for the NCC click the following link: [Join the NCC](#).

NCC members will have at least 30 days to vote on the SWEEP Pilot Standard. NCC membership will remain open until December 13th. Balloting will remain open for members until December 15th; there are four ways NCC members can vote on the SWEEP Standard:

- Approve
- Approve with comments
- Disapprove with comments
- Abstain

For more information on how to effectively comment on the SWEEP Pilot Standard please view the following link: [Guide to Effective Commenting](#).

### Key Changes to the Standard

In response to NCC comments submitted during the last balloting process, SWEEP implemented some important substantive changes:

1. SWEEP was originally designed as two complementary standards, one for Local Government and one for Industry. Based on the significant overlap that has emerged in the standard development process, the two standards have been merged into a single SWEEP Standard for Local Government and Materials Management Industry.
2. SWEEP added PCR Prerequisite 1: *Minimum Diversion Rate (Required) (Non-Reciprocal)*, which requires that entities seeking certification achieve a minimum 30% diversion rate.
3. SWEEP removed two credits that pertained to energy efficiency and emissions of thermal conversion facilities. PCD Credit 1: *Waste to Energy Combustion Efficiency (Reciprocal)* and PCD Credit 3: *Minimize Waste to Energy Emissions (Reciprocal)*.



In addition, increased clarification on reporting requirements and specific best practices was heightened throughout the Standard. For example, SMMP Credit 10: Industry: *Comprehensive Public Reporting of Corporate Sustainability* (Non-Reciprocal) is a new Industry-only credit that incentivizes the publication and dissemination of corporate sustainability reports.

### **The SWEEP Development Process**

The SWEEP Steering Committee was convened in 2016 and in February 2019, SWEEP held its first National Public Meeting in Washington DC to review the standard. In June, SWEEP held its first NCC meeting in Los Angeles and then balloted the Local Government Standard in July, which resulted in substantive changes, triggering the current ballot on the combined SWEEP Pilot Standard. The SWEEP Pilot Program is being prepared for launch in early 2020, with the full release of the standard expected in 2021.