

# UNEP/OECD Workshop on Sustainable Resource and Materials Management

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## Sustainable Materials Management

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# SMM

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- The following **working definition** was developed by the OECD Working Group on Waste Prevention and Recycling in 2005 to guide further work in this area:

*"Sustainable Materials Management is an approach to promote sustainable materials use, integrating actions targeted at reducing negative environmental impacts and preserving natural capital throughout the life-cycle of materials, taking into account economic efficiency and social equity."*



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- The subsequent research and discussions in 2006-2008 have concluded that:
  - i) There is currently a lot of activity towards SMM at the level of both government and business;
  - ii) There is a shared view across many countries and companies that they find it difficult to re-engineer their organisations and programmes in order to move from waste to sustainable resource management; and



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- More specifically:
  - Some front-runners have made impressive progress, but for the industry as a whole, SMM is still rather unknown.
  - However, information transfer through life-cycles and supply chains of materials and products remains a major challenge for the private sector, even for front-runners.



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- More specifically (cont...):
  - Governments would need to translate the SMM paradigm into understandable policy messages, but there is considerable uncertainty about governments' ability to deliver integrated solutions that cover the full life-cycle of materials, given the policy integration problems that this will imply.

- **Current SMM studies (2009):**
  - i) Examination of the framework conditions (policy principles) needed for SMM, including the possibilities of applying specific policies (*e.g.* SMM targets) and/or instruments (*e.g.* economic approaches);
  - ii) Case studies on priority materials (aluminium, critical metals, plastics, fibres), aimed at developing a better understanding of “good practices” in these areas and facilitating exploration of policy opportunities and barriers for SMM.



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- Future:

- The OECD will hold a Global Forum on SMM in October 2010, focusing on “policies for implementing SMM” and building on studies that are currently underway.
- The final product from the OECD work on SMM could take a form of an OECD Council Recommendation, compilation of best practices and/or a report of policy options for decision-makers.



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- In 2010 work will be undertaken to ensure incorporation of SMM outputs into the Green Growth Strategy;
- In 2011 further policy analysis will be undertaken to complete these SMM outputs, for submission to OECD Environment Ministerial Meeting in 2012;
- These outputs will provide a basis, together with MFA and RP results, for the report to G8 Ministers in 2011 on implementation of Kobe 3R Action Plan and in 2013 to OECD Council on the implementation of Recommendation C(2008)40.



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Thank you for your attention!

<http://www.oecd.org/env/waste>