

News release

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Metals industry publishes declaration on recycling for sustainable development

Recycled content of metals and alloys is a poor indicator of environmental performance and may discourage the efficient production and use of recycled metals, according to a broad coalition of metal industry associations including the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).

In a declaration issued today, the metals industry has released a set of recycling principles for all stakeholders in the metals value chain concerned with promoting metals recycling.

The declaration states that a product systems approach provides a truer picture of the sustainability of a material or product than simple recycled content. When product-based objectives are based on resource conservation alone, the environmental costs and benefits of recycling may not be adequately addressed.

In welcoming the declaration ICMM President Paul Mitchell said, "Encouraging policy makers and product designers to plan for materials recycling will promote a reduction in the overall environmental impacts of metal-based products."

The group of 18 industry bodies who have released the declaration hope to improve the understanding of metals recycling amongst policy makers and product designers and manufacturers. Metal scrap is a valuable resource that, when transformed into new products, can increase the material and energy efficiency of product systems. The focus needs to be on the fate of products at the end of their initial use and the efficient re-introduction of materials that become available for recycling back into the supply chain.

The declaration is a result of metal producing companies extending their interest beyond the plant gate to a consideration of the whole life cycle of their products. This focus on materials stewardship is in the interests of environmental and economic efficiency, achieving regulatory compliance and enhancing reputation through responsible behaviour.

The declaration by the metals industry on recycling principles is available at <http://www.icmm.com>.

ICMM President Paul Mitchell is available for comment – please contact Ben Peachey (details below).

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Notes to Editors:

The **declaration on recycling principles** has been jointly produced by: American Iron and Steel Institute, Cobalt Development Institute, Eurofer (European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries), Eurometaux (representing the European non-ferrous metal industries), International Aluminium Institute, International Chromium Development Association, International Copper Association, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Iron and Steel Institute, International Manganese Institute, International Molybdenum Association, International Stainless Steel Forum, International Zinc Association, International Tungsten Industry Association, ITRI (formerly International Tin Research Institute), Lead Development Association International, North American Metals Council, Nickel Institute.

The **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)** is a CEO-led organization representing the mining and metals industry internationally. An important part of its mandate is dedicated to sustainable development. ICMM comprises many of the world's leading mining and metals companies as well as regional, national and commodity associations, all of which are committed to improving their sustainable development performance and to the responsible production of the mineral and metal resources society needs. ICMM's vision is a viable mining, minerals and metals industry that is widely recognized as essential for modern living and a key contributor to sustainable development.

ICMM's 15 corporate members are:

Alcoa, Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti, BHP Billiton, CVRD, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Lonmin, Mitsubishi Materials, Newmont, Nippon Mining & Metals, Rio Tinto, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Teck Cominco, Xstrata, Zinifex.

ICMM's 24 association members are:

Camara Minera de Mexico, Chamber of Mines of South Africa, Cobalt Development Institute, Consejo Minero de Chile A.G., Eurometaux, Euromines, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Indonesian Mining Association, Instituto Brasileiro de Mineração, International Aluminium Institute, International Copper Association, International Wrought Copper Council, International Zinc Association, Japan Mining Industry Association, Lead Development Association International, Minerals Council of Australia, Mining Association of Canada, Mining Industry Associations of Southern Africa, Nickel Institute, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Sociedad Nacional de Minería (Chile), Sociedad Nacional de Minería Petróleo y Energía (Peru), World Coal Institute, World Gold Council.