

## New Year's resolution list: Team behind Global Recycling Day ask world leaders to put recycling commitments first

World leaders are being asked to put recycling at the top of their 2018 New Year's resolution list, by committing to seven changes to help save the planet. The first ever Global Recycling Day, to be held on 18th March, is an international initiative, designed by the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) to raise awareness of the need to shift the global perception of what we consider as waste into one of the earth's most valuable resources.

The Earth has six primary natural resources – water, air, oil, natural gas, coal and minerals – but they are rapidly running out. The Seventh Resource – the goods and materials around us which we have a duty to use and reuse – can be used time and time again, sometimes indefinitely. BIR, through Global Recycling Day, is asking the world to collectively think Seventh Resource and to prioritise its use across the planet.

BIR has created a list of seven concrete commitments it is presenting to world leaders, changes needed to prioritise Seventh Resource, and changes which will be central to Global Recycling Day's mission. The commitments are:

- Implement and strengthen international agreements that promote recycling and negotiate new ones as needed;
- Support and promote the sustainable trade of recyclable materials to ecologically sound companies across the globe;
- Educate, from the grass roots up, the public on the critical necessity of recycling;
- Agree to a common language of recycling (same definitions, same messages);
- Make recycling a community issue, supporting initiatives which help households and businesses provide Seventh Resource materials for repurposing;
- Work with the industry to encourage 'design for recycling' in the reuse of materials – reducing waste and integrating 'end-of-life' functionality at the design stage;
- Support innovation, research and initiatives that foster better recycling practices.

To learn more, head to [www.globalrecyclingday.com](http://www.globalrecyclingday.com)