

December 14, 2020

Mayor and City Council
City of Tucson
255 W Alameda Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Comments on City of Tucson, AZ Decision to Remove Glass from Curbside Recycling

I am reaching out on behalf of Strategic Materials, the largest glass recycler in North America. We recycle over 3 million tons of glass per year, and among our nearly fifty locations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, we operate a glass recycling facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

We are the benefactors of Tucson's residential and industrial glass, which goes back into glass container manufacturing and fiberglass insulation. The use of recycled glass in both of these applications provide environmental benefits including energy reduction and CO2 emission savings. Did you know if today an Arizona resident purchases and enjoys one of the several leading beer brands in glass, it is made from Arizona's recycled glass? This creates a true circular economy.

We saw with great disappointment the recent decision of the City to cease curbside glass recycling in February 2021. We are saddened to also learn the City's glass will be pulverized and used as aggregate, ending the life of glass. Glass is 100% recyclable, endlessly. Glass does not belong in the ground or the landfill.

Further, we need more glass in our operations. The decision made earlier this month will reduce our inbound glass supply, hurting jobs and negatively impacting the environment.

We encourage you to gather more information from industry experts to evaluate the current glass recycling program, potential improvements, and alternative options, before moving forward with the current decision. We are happy to provide more information about glass, glass recycling and our operation in Arizona.

We'd also like to formally invite you to tour our facility in Phoenix and/or view [this video from the City of Phoenix \(1:09 – 4:00\)](#).

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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