

Presidential Policy Brief:

Infrastructure



Aluminum is a unique and foundational element of American manufacturing, with growing demand driven by innovative applications that support aerospace, transportation, construction, defense, packaging, infrastructure and many other segments of the U.S. economy.

The Aluminum Association represents the U.S. aluminum industry across the entire value chain. The U.S. aluminum industry generates more than \$70 billion in direct economic output, directly employs more than 166,000 workers across the country and indirectly supports an additional 494,000 workers.

Aluminum Workers Need Sustainable Infrastructure Investments

The U.S. aluminum industry strongly supports increased public and private infrastructure investment and incentives for operational efficiencies and sustainable material choices.

Electrical Grid Modernization

For decades, aluminum has been used for wiring power grids, including long distance power transmission lines as well as local power distribution systems. Further adding to the aging grid's challenges is the fact that Americans are utilizing more distributed power technologies than ever before. Investments in the electrical grid will support further development of clean energy opportunities and help support the modernization needed to ensure U.S. electricity supply stability.

Department of Energy should:

- Carry out projects related to the modernization of the electric grid, including for distributed system technologies, and accommodating rapidly increasing renewable electricity generations.
- Promote the development of microgrid systems for isolated communities and increase the resilience of critical infrastructure.
- Establish a strategic transformer reserve to improve grid resilience.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Despite the growing demand for electric vehicles, the nation does not yet have the necessary charging infrastructure to support widespread adoption.

The Council on Environmental Quality should:

- Lead an interagency working group to develop a strategy to transition the vehicle fleets of the Federal agencies to electric vehicles where practical.

The Department of Transportation should:

- Incentivize states and cities to strategically deploy alternative fuel vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure.

The Department of Energy should:

- Update model building codes to account for electric vehicle supply equipment, electric vehicle parking and electric vehicle power.
- Provide financial assistance to states that are incorporating electric vehicles into their energy plan.

Public Transportation Building Construction

Aluminum is used extensively as a building material in large public transportation building projects, with a high strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance and desirable thermal properties – plus the durability to serve for decades, reducing maintenance costs. Our nation’s airports will require an estimated \$130 billion of investment by 2023, with more than half of that investment directed at aging terminals. Sustainable investments in our nation’s transportation infrastructure will increase capacity while reducing carbon pollution.

The Department of Transportation should:

- Utilize the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to create a new Airport and Airway Investment Program to invest in airport and airspace capacity.
- Support the buildout of charging infrastructure at airport facilities to assist rental car fleets to transition toward electric vehicles.
- Support investments in bus and transit facilities.
- If efforts are undertaken to strengthen “Buy America” requirements, to allow domestic industries to benefit from federal investments in infrastructure, it is vital to the U.S. aluminum industry that global and regional supply chains are taken into consideration.

Recycling Infrastructure Revitalization

Recycling is a core business operation of the aluminum industry, and the industry recycles more than 5 million tons of aluminum each year across the United States and Canada – most of which goes back directly into aluminum manufacturing operations as a feedstock material. And yet, Americans throw away more than \$700 million worth of aluminum cans every year. More efficient and cost-effective recycling will reduce waste and emissions, save energy, and return a critical input material to U.S. manufacturers. Federal investment could increase recycling rates, expand curbside recycling programs and collection points and improve recycled material quality through material segregation.

The Environmental Protection Agency should:

- Establish a recycling infrastructure fund that awards grants on a competitive basis to state and local governments to support and expand recycling infrastructure and recycling programs.
- Provide grants or tax credits for capital investment into recycling equipment by manufacturers.

The Department of Energy should:

- Promote the efficient production, use and recycling of designated critical minerals by providing grants for capital expenditures by secondary aluminum producers as well as accelerated tax treatment for investments in new recycling technology.