

Best Practice: Overall Recycling Program/Disposal Ban on Target Recyclables

Jurisdiction: City of Durham

Brief Description: The Solid Waste Management Department (SWM) contracts with a private company, TFC Recycling, to collect, process and market commingled recyclables from over 60,000 households (curbside collection), ten recycling drop-off centers, and multi-family cluster collection locations in 64 apartment complexes. TFC owns and operates a complete materials recovery facility (MRF) located in Durham. The Department coordinates a recycling program for City offices and also provides free corrugated cardboard collection from the City's stationary container customers. A disposal ban on target recyclables has been in place since 1997.

Background/Findings/Goal: The City has had a recycling collection program in place since 1988. As a result of the state requirement for cities to implement measurable waste reduction goals and the closure of Durham's landfill, the Durham City Council passed an ordinance in 1997 that bans the disposal of target recyclables. The City's goal is to reduce waste by improving Durham's recycling program, increasing recycling program participation, and enforcing the recycling ordinance.

Ordinance/Policy: In 1997, the Durham City Council passed an ordinance Ban on the Disposal of Recyclables (appendix 4a), an accompanying manager's memo (appendix 4b) and resolution for penalty fees (appendix 4c) which makes it unlawful for residents, businesses and industries to throw away any of the following "target" recyclables that must instead be reused or recycled :

- Aluminum cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel cans
- Newspaper
- Corrugated cardboard

Implementation Details: A permanent sticker has been placed on all roll-out trash carts and City-serviced stationary containers (dumpsters) to inform residents and businesses of the recycling ordinance. Solid waste collection crews tag trash carts containing banned recyclables. After three educational tag warnings and a personal consultation with a supervisor, residents may receive fines of \$15 per violation if they continue to be in violation of the ordinance. In a similar process, businesses are given educational letters and site visits. Businesses are also given three chances to start recycling service with a local provider, and will be fined \$50 per violation if no recycling program is implemented within ninety days. At the City's Transfer Station, loads that are contaminated with target recyclables will be assessed a doubled tipping fee.

Materials collected by TFC Recycling curbside and at drop-off centers include: glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles #s 1, 2, 5 & 7, steel cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins, gable-top beverage containers, aseptic containers, plastic 6-pack rings,

newspaper, glossy magazines & catalogs, white and colored office paper, and corrugated cardboard. In addition, mixed paper drives are held seven times a year at rotating recycling drop-off center locations and the City has two permanent drop-off locations for mixed paper.

Results: The amount of materials recycled by the City recycling programs is shown in Table 7.

Table 7. City of Durham Recycling Tonnages, FY 01-02	
Program	Amount (in tons)
Curbside and Drop-off Centers	10,144
City Interdepartmental Collection	2,500
Corrugated Cardboard (commercial)	35
Total Tons	12,679

The ordinance was amended in the fourth quarter of 1999 to extend the start date of enforcement to January 1, 2000. Since that time over 14,975 educational tags have been given to violators. No citations have been issued yet, although tipping fees have been doubled for loads at the Transfer Station that have been contaminated with target recyclables.

Next Steps/Future Plans/Collateral Practices: The City will begin to more actively enforce the recycling ordinance and will request that fees from enforcement be used to directly subsidize recycling programs. The City will continue to encourage residents to recycle special items such as computers, textiles, construction waste, and scrap metal. Additional future plans include: coordination of special collections for mixed paper and electronics; expansion of the recycling program incrementally as markets and budgets allow, while enhancing general levels of awareness about waste reduction; working with the Development Review Board (DRB) to stipulate that all site plans for new businesses and multi-family developments allow room for on-site recycling; and contracting with a drywall product manufacturer for recycling of gypsum; and increasing C&D recycling opportunities for businesses in Durham.

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Quarterly Recycling Tonnage for the City of Durham (calendar year)

