

ARTICLES

OF

INTEREST

Mary Pitto

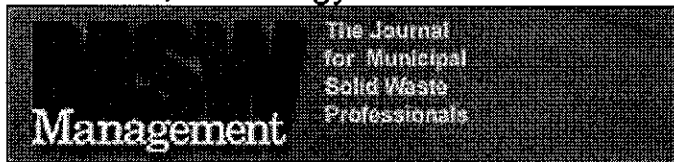
From: Greg Norton
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 9:40 AM
To: Mary Pitto
Subject: FW: Must Reading

FYI

From: Jim Stewart [mailto:jls.bri@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 2:53 PM
Subject: Must Reading

This op-ed piece by Rick Brandes, just retired from the US EPA, constitutes a powerful argument for the passage of California's AB 222, which will expedite the introduction of 21st Century conversion technologies that produce advanced biofuels, electricity and other products from organic waste. The production of biofuels from carbon-based wastes is the only pathway that absolutely can meet or exceed the GHG reduction goals of California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. AB 222 has passed the Assembly and will pass the State Senate and be signed by the Governor, if just two Democrats on the Senate Environmental Quality Committee will vote to bring it to the Senate floor. I would note that AB 222 addresses only non-incineration, non-combustion technologies.

Jim Stewart
 Chairman, BioEnergy Producers Association



March-April 2010

Cooperation, Not Conflict: Municipal Solid Waste Management in the 21st Century

By Rick Brandes

Former chief of the Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, of the EPA.

Having recently retired after 31 years working on waste management regulations and policy at the US Environmental Protection Agency, I'd like to voice a massive frustration on the state of municipal solid waste management policy in this country. Perhaps the observation below, a result of combined experiences in this field, might trigger some steps along a path of reconciliation. Here goes.

You would think there were two battling camps, fighting over the right to establish

3/22/2010

whether cattle or sheep will be the predominant livestock grazing the fertile but constricted grasslands of our particular valley.

In one camp are the “zero wasters.” They see a world where real integrated materials management means all materials are contained in a continuous use/reuse cycle: organics to composting and soil enhancement, recyclables returned to use either in closed or open loop recycling systems, metals and glass back to new metals and new glass, and paper back into paper. They see the public as ready for a massive change to a more sustainable lifestyle, trashwise. And, incineration is viewed as the enemy of zero waste, not a complement.

In the other camp are the “energy recoverers.” They see a practical, realistic world, where real integrated materials management is driven by market forces, where recycling occurs when it makes market sense and energy is recovered from the bulk of the remainder of the non-recyclable municipal wastestream through mass-burn incineration or advanced thermochemical conversion. They see it as a decision on whether to landfill or recover energy, not whether to incinerate or recycle. They see the public as most likely to do what they are currently doing—and that doesn’t include a big change in lifestyle, trashwise.

The zero wasters and the energy recoverers, like the shepherders and the cattle ranchers in the movie "Shane," don’t talk much to each other. Their get-togethers are on the opposite sides of town. When they do run across each other, it is usually in the glare of a public hearing, that hot and dusty main street of interaction, and they are virtually certain to be staring each other down, diametrically opposed as to what is best in terms of waste management for the city or county hosting the hearing.

On its face, it is ridiculous to take such rigid positions on what is a continuous and growing national problem. After all, the trash trucks show up at the gate every morning. Trash continues to flow, even after years and years of effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle. And right now, the less expensive, de facto destination of the majority of this flow is the place of unknown future impact, the cheap out-of-sight, out-of-mind location, and the “America has a lot of land and no pressing need for sustainable materials management” solution: the landfill. It’s way outside of town. These days, it is way, way outside of town, down the lonesome long-haul trucker route and into rural America.

“What should communities do with their municipal solid waste”? It has become almost a religious question. The ranchers and the herders involved are busy demonizing each other over what strategy is best for handling our ever-increasing mountain of trash. It is becoming a fight not just over incremental changes to MSW management, but also of international problems involving climate and health. In meetings and at conferences across the country, I hear individuals thunder that there is only one way to handle municipal waste (their way) and that any other strategy will probably bring down civilization as we know it.

Meanwhile, in the years I have been most actively working on potential energy

recovery solutions, we have buried somewhere near one billion tons of MSW. That represents an estimated 100 billion kWh of potential energy per year, enough to run 8 million homes.

Please! There is so much trash generated (between 240 and 400 million tons per year, depending on how you count it), in so many places (where isn't it generated?), that we need all the materials management solutions we can get. Landfills are many things, convenient, inexpensive, practical, but they should not be seen as permanent solutions. Who knows what environmental legacy they represent? We don't know what will happen with them in the years ahead.

Every day, the US generates a massive amount of material that has served its purpose and is discarded. We all contribute, and it is not a sin. What is unfortunate about it is that much of what we discard is truly wasted. The US invests a huge amount of energy, resources, and money (and the accompanying carbon) in the assembly of products, uses them, and then buries over 50% of them, effectively wasting a vast amount of valuable material that was gathered at a massive cost.

Why are we arguing? Why are we not cooperating? There is no one solution for all communities. You can't expect people in different places to all agree to do the same thing—for the simple reason that people and places are different. The local communities that face the daunting prospect of dealing with all this daily waste are caught in the middle of the argument. We, the professionals in the waste management business, need to supply the necessary information to the local decision makers so they can make the right decision on what to do for their community.

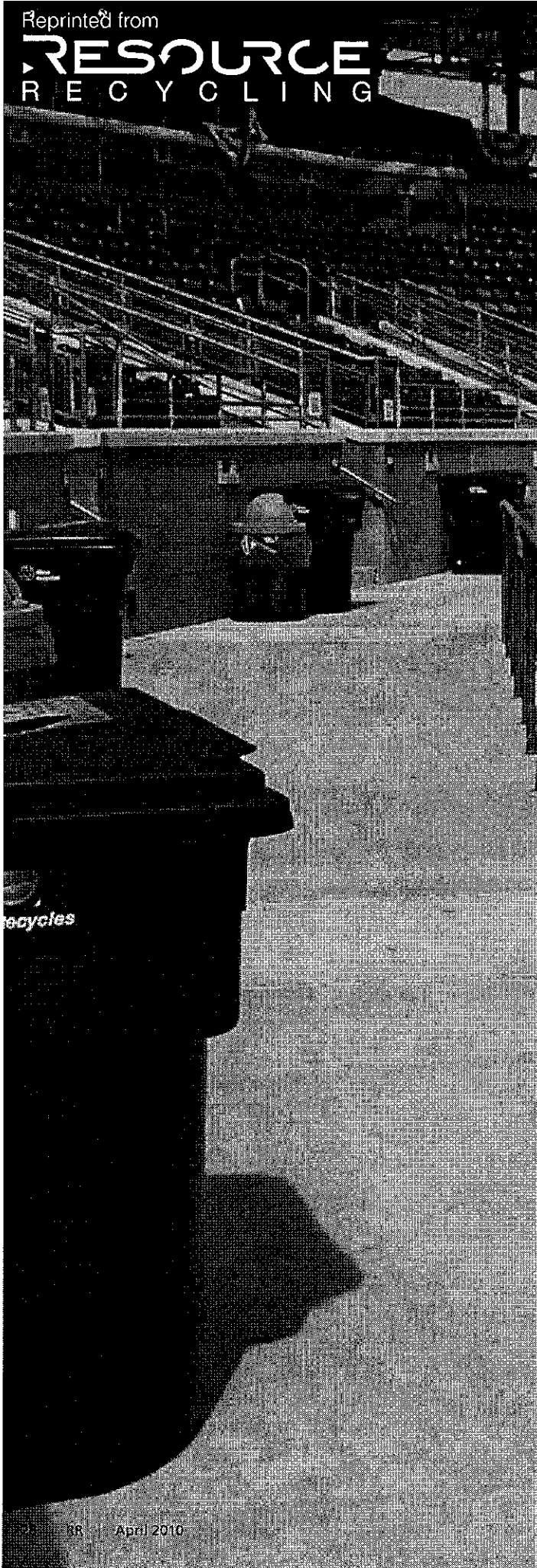
It's not like there are no alternative strategies. There are many, many ways to beneficially use this trash mountain of ours. Augment soil. Generate power. Make paper and save trees. Reduce bauxite mining. Recover even more metal out of the ash. Make park benches and roads. Produce ethanol and biodiesel. Use all alternatives where they make sense. Use different waste management strategies in different places. Do more of some of these things in some places and less of them in other places. But don't editorially gun people down when they don't do what you think they should do. Give communities the best available information, and they will probably do what is best for them. Let them make their trash more valuable.

About the only thing we can say right now is that there exists a massive lack of consensus on what constitutes an effective integrated materials management strategy. That has to change. Ranchers and herders. Are we now just waiting for Shane?

(NOTE: The US EPA recently changed the name of its Office of Solid Waste to the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery – reflecting its new emphasis on sustainability and recovering value from waste materials.)

Reprinted from

RESOURCE RECYCLING



An inside guide to event recycling

With summer fast approaching, outdoors events, such as fairs, concerts and sports matches, are kicking into high gear. Provided are ways to improve recycling at these events.

By Henry Leineweber

Whether they're leaning back in the outfield bleachers with a cold beverage, trying something new at a food cart or packing into a crowded music venue, people inevitably generate waste wherever they are. Get a lot of people together in one place, and the volume of waste and recyclables produced adds up fast. That makes waste management and recycling at special events – from sports games, to music festivals, to county fairs, etc. – one of the most challenging behind-the-scenes jobs for any event coordinator. Whether you're targeting NASCAR fans or wine aficionados, if done right, these event attendees will participate and improve their attitude toward recycling. However, if done wrong, organizers may find themselves with a big mess on their hands.

Fortunately, there are many resources available for cities, organizations and planners looking to add a touch of green to their events. Despite vast differences in size, type, attendee demographics and geographic location, certain challenges are shared between different events. The experiences of many event recycling coordinators can also go a long way toward customizing your collection approach to meet your event's unique needs.

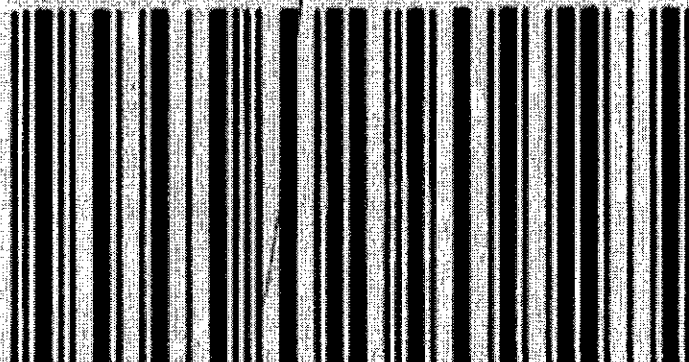
Laying the groundwork

"If you haven't got buy-in from the event organizers, just walk away," cautions Jake Wilson, executive director of Keep

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Mecklenburg Beautiful, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate group located in Charlotte, North Carolina. "There are some people that don't see it as a priority; but, generally, if you bring it up early enough in the planning process, people will go for it."

Wilson's group successfully implemented a tailgate recycling program for its hometown National Football League franchise, the Carolina Panthers, operating at all home games during the 2009-10 season.

Thanks in part to a broad media outreach campaign, strategic partnerships with sponsors and agencies and smart use of volunteers, the recycling program was also expanded to other events in the Charlotte metro area. But, like any successful recycling event, Wilson's work started long before the first tailgaters ever rolled into the parking lots at Bank of America Stadium.

Regardless of the event, be it sports or otherwise, preplanning for events recycling begins by listing the primary stakeholders and contacting their coordinators and event organizers. These might include concert promoters; venue owners; a local parks and recreation department, or municipal, authority; a volunteer or sponsoring organization; or even a sports franchise. In the case of Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful, relevant stakeholders identified at the outset of the program included the Carolina Panthers, the City of Charlotte and the owners of the parking lots around the stadium.

"Several parking lot companies own the space around the stadium. We brought them down to the stadium and sort of wined and dined them to get them on-board. Gave them t-shirts, souvenirs, that sort of thing," said Wilson. "Some parking lot companies were more proactive than others – obviously their first priority is to make money; but, once you start making the environmental argument, and talking about the image associated with that, most people will get on board."

Outreach during this phase in the planning process is essential. A 2008 report on planning event recycling developed by the National Association for PET Container Resources, titled *Venue Recycling in the USA*, stresses that:

Primary stakeholders need to be on board at an early enough point in the planning processes where employees, contractors and other personnel, directly under the control of the stakeholder group,

can understand their responsibilities for recycling and how their responsibilities relate to those of other stakeholders.

According to the report, "once commitment and accountability are established, the relationships among all the stakeholders will be very important and should be well understood, along with the functional responsibilities of individuals for specific tasks."

Across the country in Portland, Oregon, event organizers for the Portland International Beer Festival – a three-day event that annually attracts more than 60,000 attendees – learned the importance of stakeholder outreach the hard way. The Beerfest takes place every year in Portland's trendy, downtown-adjacent Pearl District, attracting over 150 craft brewers from around the world.

"In the beginning – 2001 to 2005 – we used Oregon's bottle bill to handle recycling," says Rick Carpenter, founder of the Portland International Beer Festival. "It was the coolest trickledown theory. Back then, we didn't even have a recycling Dumpster, because all the homeless folks knew about the event. Literally, they would roll up every night with their shopping carts, we would load them up, and off they would go to the redemption center."

But, pushback from local grocers and retailers forced Carpenter to find a new solution. The haphazard method of disposing of the large volume of glass through the homeless population not only negatively impacted the image of local businesses offering redemption services, but also provided ammunition to critics of Oregon's bottle bill, too. In the end, Carpenter and the beerfest organizers were left scrambling for a hauling and recycling contract, with no partners and no sponsors.

"We used Waste Management the first year we used Dumpsters and ended up getting ripped off, in my opinion," laments Carpenter. "We're using Heiberg [Garbage and Recycling] now. We're getting a better deal, but we're still paying a lot of money."

Collecting data before recyclables

The next phase of planning involves determining just what sorts of recyclables are likely to be generated at the event. An accurate assessment of what the waste stream for a given event is likely to consist of is extremely useful in determining what sort

of collection requirements will be needed.

The NAPCOR report has this to say on the topic:

Ideally, venue management and its food service contractors should provide complete beverage container sales data to allow accurate projection of volumes and weights of recyclables ... The venue/event's policy on allowing outside beverages must also be articulated so that these containers can be accounted for as well. These additional containers may be significant in planning for recovery; in fact, some venues with generous outside beverage container policies have reported greater than 100-percent recovery numbers based on beverage sales, illustrating how an accurate accounting for these containers is important.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guide to event recycling also references the importance of conducting a waste assessment. The EPA encourages the use of its volume-to-weight conversion chart (available on the agency's Web site, www.epa.gov) to help coordinators decide which material streams to focus on. Gaining access to this type of data has been shown to aid coordinators in their negotiations with hauling and waste management firms.

However, a bit of common sense also helps determine what to expect from your event.

"The aluminum guys thought it was Christmas," jokes Jake Wilson. "There was some glass, some plastic; but, not surprisingly, it was mostly Aluminum beer cans for our tailgaters. We averaged about three tons of recyclables per game."

Once inside a stadium, the material stream changes slightly.

"We see a lot of water bottles as the temperatures start rising, some aluminum cans, and we now accept plastic cups," says Mariano Reyes, community outreach specialist for the City of Mesa's Solid Waste Management Department. Reyes runs the recycling program for Hohokam Park, the spring training home of the Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball (MLB) franchise. The stadium seats more than 12,500 and, in 2009, the team broke the all-time MLB spring training attendance record by drawing 203,105 fans.

Back in Portland, Rick Carpenter

faces a different set of recyclables. “Unlike most craft beer festivals, which are mainly keg beer, we have about 150 different beers – half of which are bottled. So, we have enormous amounts of glass recycling. There’s no aluminum and the only plastic that’s on site is in the form of the souvenir mugs people use.”

In all of these cases, the type of event has a major impact on the composition of the waste stream. Knowing what your event’s waste stream will be will allow for better negotiations with the contracted recycling and waste hauling firm.

Setting the stage

Once parties are on board and responsibilities have been established, secondary stakeholders and responsibilities can be identified. These can include recycling sponsors, volunteer groups and, if the primary stakeholders do not already have one contracted, a recycling and waste management firm.

Sponsors can, and often are, affiliated groups or organizations, but can also be local businesses. In the case of the latter, financial sponsorship of recycling for an event offers a chance to promote the local business. In many cases, bins or bags bearing a logo or message from the sponsoring firm are used for collection. In cases where it is not practical for collection bins to be distributed, some event recycling coordinators have successfully offered sponsorship messages on signage, souvenir merchandise, video displays, and other communication means.

For these coordinators, securing sponsorships offers a chance to offset some of the costs of recycling at their events. Regardless of the type of event, it is essential that recycling remains cost competitive versus simply processing all material as waste. Prohibitively expensive costs jeopardize the support of the primary stakeholders and the long-term viability of recycling at the event.

Volunteers can be recruited through a variety of means. Some sponsoring businesses may encourage their employees to participate, although this is the exception, rather than the rule. Other good sources of volunteers include local community centers, clubs, lodges, civic organizations, and other similar groups. Those that have organized similar community clean-up days will be able to draw on that same pool of volunteer organizations.

The one common tip offered by

several event recycling coordinators, relating to volunteers, involves compensation. Nearly all agreed that it was important to provide volunteers something for their time. If coordinators don’t have the budget to provide volunteers with a monetary stipend, other incentives are readily available in the form of free admission to the event, merchandise, photo opportunities and meet-and-greets (particularly effective for concerts or sports), and other event-related incentives that have a low financial impact on the success of the event itself.

Spreading the word

Few, if any, events can mandate recycling, meaning true collection success rests on the participation of attendees. Making recycling easy, and effectively communicating with attendees about the program, is essential in making sure people choose to recycle. Like most other elements that contribute to a successful event recycling program, knowing your target demographic will largely determine the method and intensity of media outreach and recycling education.

“We use a multi-pronged approach that follows the entire cycle of a patron’s festival experience. At the event, we reward patrons for picking up recycling through our hugely successful Rock & Recycle program; we have several Rock & Recycle booths throughout the park to encourage recycling; and we have an entire area devoted to greening called ‘Green Street,’ which features eco-friendly art market booths and engaging exhibits,” explains Jody Goode, associate producer for C3 Presents, organizers of the annual Lollapalooza music festival held in Chicago’s Grant Park. Featuring alternative, punk, rock and hip-hop acts, the festival caters to a younger demographic, which boasted 225,000 attendees over the course of the 2009 three-day concert.

“To get the word out, we utilize digital marketing and communication outlets like Web sites, mobile messaging and social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter,” adds Goode. “We feel that using these platforms to broadcast information about the impact of our patrons’ environmental efforts has tremendous potential.”

Jake Wilson took a different approach: “Tailgate recycling for the Carolina Panthers was new, so we didn’t have any trouble getting media coverage. As the season went on, and the footprint grew, it was reported on almost weekly.” In this case,

because the recycling program was pegged to an important event for the local media market (coverage of the football team), coverage of the recycling program accompanied and supplemented an existing story.

Depending on the event, organizers may not need to do much outreach or promotion of the recycling program at all. If the demographics of an event include people who are already likely to recycle, then they already expect it and don’t particularly need much in the way of a refresher course. Wine and gourmet food tastings, or farmer’s markets, are good examples of these; but, it is a good idea for recycling coordinators to develop a demographic profile of their attendees during the planning process, in order to gauge what type of education campaign might be needed.

Once on site, attendees can be reminded of where and how to recycle through the use of bins that form a stark visual contrast to garbage collection. A bright color or an odd shape work well, as do clear streams, which allow passersby to visually see the differences between recyclables and wastes.

Mariano Reyes’ outreach program for the Cubs is extensive and has grown over the last couple of years to include posters around the park – including in all restrooms – regular public announcements, and placing recycling containers and signage by each refuse container around the park. The Arizona training stadium even launched a recycling awareness campaign with its own monkey mascot – “Recycling isn’t monkey business and I should know,” reads the simian’s t-shirt.

Elsewhere in pro baseball, Scott Jenkins, vice president of Ballpark Operations for the Seattle Mariners’ Safeco Field, has had a similar experience:

“Signage is really important,” said Jenkins. “The approach we’re taking is – they’re going to look for a place to discard something and we’re going to keep it real simple. If you have plastic, it’s going to go in our tall bottle shape container – and, it’s hard to put anything but a plastic bottle in that, so that stream stays really clean. The only other option is what they know to be garbage. But that’s going to become compost. So, the behavior of the guest doesn’t really have to change; that’s really the beauty of the system.”

“People don’t come to the game with their recycling cap on,” added Jenkins. “And, even if you’re a good recycler at home, when you walk into a sports venue, you, all of a sudden, forget about that.”

Collection successes

"We were expecting much more food contamination and polystyrene, but there really wasn't much," said Wilson on the quality of material collected. "Everyone had rather large reservations, but that changed after the first couple of loads to the MRF turned out to actually be very clean. In fact, they were cleaner than the residential stream we were used to. We were pleasantly surprised."

Every game day, volunteers and parking lot owners would pass out yellow collection bags to each car. Tailgaters would then fill the bags with their empty containers and leave them by the curb when they walked to the stadium at game time. Containers were then collected by a truck going from lot to lot. By the end of the Carolina Panthers' season, Wilson's program had achieved a diversion rate of 30 percent and collected over 30 tons of beverage containers. Similar programs organized by Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful have been successfully implemented at other events in the Charlotte area, including being piloted at NASCAR's Food Lion Speed Street 600 Festival – drawing an estimated 400,000 fans – where 3.5 tons of aluminum cans were collected in a single day. Altogether, event organizers stated that approximately five to seven tons of plastic bottles, aluminum cans and cardboard were collected.

Lollapalooza, which is expecting another banner year for attendance, is also banking on its strong recycling program. According to Jody Goode, the festival produces between 100 and 150 tons of waste each year, most of which is plastic water bottles, cardboard and wood. The festival generally recycles between 20 percent and 25 percent of all material generated and has set goals to steadily increase its diversion rate every year.

Goode says festival organizers have also taken steps to reduce the waste footprint of the colossal concert by encouraging the use of reusable water bottles, biodegradable bags and containers, and banning expanded polystyrene foam containers. Concertgoers will have access to over 400 specially marked recycling bins as well.

Back in Seattle, Safeco Field has seen

Event: Stadiums/arena sports
Waste stream: Magazines/paper products, food waste, plastic beverage containers
Tips: Locate recycling bins on each level near entrances/exits and concession areas; Remind attendees to recycle via video and public address announcements.

Event: Tailgate parties/ pre-game sport events
Waste stream: Aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles
Tips: Take into account the intensity of the game. Preseason games attract fewer tailgaters than regular season games. Intense rivalries attract more.

Event: Food and beverage tastings/festivals
Waste stream: Glass bottles, paper plates and plastic flatware, food waste
Tips: Coordinate with vendors and volunteers to make sure recycling bins are available for each exhibiting brewer/

vineyard/restaurant; for attendees, visually distinguish recycling bins from waste disposal.

Event: Outdoor music festivals
Waste stream: Plastic water bottles, plastic bags, paper, food waste
Tips: Provide backstage pass for recycling volunteers to encourage quality and a large number of enthusiastic recruits; to reduce overall waste generated, promote the use of reusable water bottles and set up filling stations.

Event: Fairs/carnivals
Waste stream: Food waste, paper and plastic flatware
Tips: Organize several pre-event meetings with volunteers and all event staff to make sure everyone knows the location of bins and can assist with basic questions; Make sure bins can be easily distinguished from waste receptacles.

its diversion rate jump from 12 percent, in 2005, to 38 percent, in 2009, and program officials expect the rate to increase even higher with a switch to an almost completely compostable scrap stream.

The City of Seattle's new food packaging requirements state that, as of July 1, 2010, "all food service businesses must use approved compostable products, recyclable plastic, or recyclable plastic-coated paper products for all one-time-use food service ware." Operations at Safeco are getting ahead of the curve by moving to an entirely compostable line of service ware. In all but a few locations around the stadium, there will only be two options for Mariners fans – recycling or composting.

The non-recyclable and non-compostable portion of the waste stream is negligible, according to Jenkins. Wrappers from licorice rope, plastic chip bags, condiment wrappers, and other items, are handled by pickers cleaning up after the game, and by sorting at the composting facility.

Collection for Hohokam Park and the Chicago Cubs has proved successful as well. Volumes have gone up over the last couple of years, after starting the formal recycling program in 2007. "During the approximately month-long season in 2007, we collected 182 90-gallon containers," said Mariano Reyes. "In 2008, we jumped

up to 218 [of the containers] and, last year, we collected 602 full 90-gallon containers." Reyes attributes the jump in collection to the aforementioned outreach efforts, upgraded containers and signage.

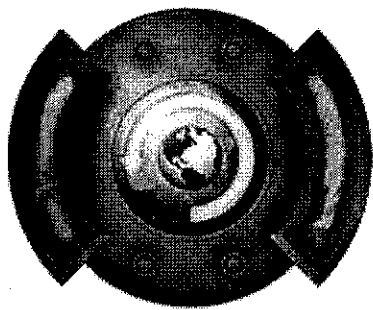
Like organizers of residential, business or special collections already know, each recycling program is unique and specific to certain times, places and communities. Focusing on the challenges common to many event recycling programs, and learning from coordinators that have successfully met them, can go a long way in helping future planners focus on tailoring their recycling program to their event.

Although Reyes wouldn't guarantee *Resource Recycling* a Cubs victory for 2010, he did guarantee the coming season would definitely "another successful recycling year." ♪

For Web sites providing useful information on how to put on a successful special events recycling program, see "Recycling in cyberspace" on page 56 of this month's issue.

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Recycling in Cyberspace



Don't waste your next event

by Roger Guttentag

Henry Leineweber's article "An inside guide to event recycling," found on page 28 in this month's *Resource Recycling*, does a great job of discussing how to reduce the waste created by all types of special events, ranging from small community festivals to giant sport stadiums. Unlike a lot of topics I have dealt with, there has been a lot of good content published on the Web within the last five years addressing special event waste management. A recommended listing of these informational resources can be found at the end of this column. However, there is a lot of overlap between them. So, for the balance of this column, I will focus on recommending where you should go if there are specific tools or techniques you need to know more about.

General information sites

If you are unfamiliar with special event recycling, then the recommended starting points for your research should be the following sites:

- CalRecycle – Venues and events: Reducing Waste
- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) – Event recycling resources
- North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (NCDPPEA) – Event and venue recycling
- Recycle Together – *Venue Recycling in the USA* (NAPCOR report)

All these sites have links to how-to technical guides, as well as other resources that you will find extremely useful.

The most extensive technical reference available is the 2008 National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR)

report *Venue Recycling in the USA*, which can be found on the Recycle Together site. It is oriented to beverage container recycling, but its findings can be applied to any type of venue-based waste reduction program. In particular, the report's analytical approach to venue recycling, by establishing seven distinct venue categories based on location (indoors or outdoors) and infrastructure (transient or permanent), is very helpful.

Another recommended resource is the *Special Events Best Practices Guide* published by the Stop Waste Partnership (Alameda County Waste Management Authority – California), which can be found as a link on many of the general reference sites listed above. It provides a well-organized, succinct overview of all the key issues affecting special event recycling, including a one-page suggested timeline that thoroughly summarizes the key planning milestones.

Case studies

Case studies are a great way of illustrating how theory can be put into practice, as well as highlighting innovations or potential pitfalls. The following sites provide case studies that accomplish these goals.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Special events
- Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) – *Special Events Recycling*
- Race to Recycle – Final report, City of Tampa (Florida), '07-'08
- Recycle Together – *Venue Recycling in the USA* (NAPCOR report)

Waste composition

One of the most important planning tasks to be undertaken, as part of a special events recycling program, is getting a handle on the wastes that can be recycled, composted or reduced through re-use. The references

Web Address Directory

| | |
|---|---|
| CalRecycle – Venues and events: Reducing Waste | www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Venues |
| City of San Jose – Zero Waste Event Program | http://tinyurl.com/zerowasteevent |
| CTDEP – Special Events | http://tinyurl.com/ctdepevents |
| Ecology Action – Special events recycling | http://tinyurl.com/easpecialerevents |
| Festival for the End – Trash Free Primer | http://tinyurl.com/enofest |
| GSA – <i>Waste Minimisation Guide: Events and Venues</i> | http://tinyurl.com/gsaevents |
| NERC – <i>Special Events Recycling</i> | www.nerc.org/tools |
| NCDPPEA – Event and venue recycling | http://tinyurl.com/p2paysevents |
| Race to Recycle – Final report, City of Tampa (Florida), '07-'08 | http://tinyurl.com/tampareport |
| Recycle Together – <i>Venue Recycling in the USA</i> | http://tinyurl.com/napcorevents |
| SE Environment – Special events recycling | http://tinyurl.com/seeventsguide |
| StopWaste.org – <i>Special Events Best Practices Guide</i> | www.stopwaste.org |
| CalRecycle – <i>Targeted Statewide Waste Characterization Study</i> | http://tinyurl.com/calrecycleevents |
| EPA – Special events | http://tinyurl.com/epaevents |
| Waste Awareness Wales – <i>Wales Event Recycling Guide</i> | http://tinyurl.com/walesevents |

listed below can help you with this task, especially the CalRecycle report that includes a detailed discussion of venue-based waste composition. The NAPCOR report is another important resource since it will provide beverage container generation data by venue category.

- Recycle Together – *Venue Recycling in the USA* (NAPCOR report)
- Race to Recycle – Final report, City of Tampa (Florida), '07-'08
- CalRecycle – *Targeted Statewide Waste Characterization Study* (June 2006)

Composting

In general, special events generate food waste. It is for this reason that composting needs to be considered as one of the key strategies in an overall event waste reduction plan. One state that has aggressively promoted the composting of event-based organic waste is California, and it is not surprising that some of the best sources of information on this practice originate from the Golden State. The Cities of San Francisco and San Jose sites not only address how compostable wastes can be recovered from special events, but they also suggest how non-compostable products can be replaced by their compostable equivalents,

such as eating utensils, cups and plates.

- San Francisco Environment – Special events recycling
- City of San Jose – Zero Waste Event Program

Container listings

You can't recover what you don't collect. But, it is equally important to use the right containers for the right purpose. Both the Connecticut and North Carolina sites have online directories of container vendors, with information on container type, function, design and intended location, along with Web addresses and vendor contact data.

- CTDEP – Event recycling resources
- NCDPPEA – Event and venue recycling

International

I like to add some international references, since I believe it is helpful to see how other countries handle the same problems we have. Two non-U.S. based guides on event recycling that I found to be worth reviewing were created respectively by Waste Awareness Wales (U.K.) and Zero Waste South Australia.

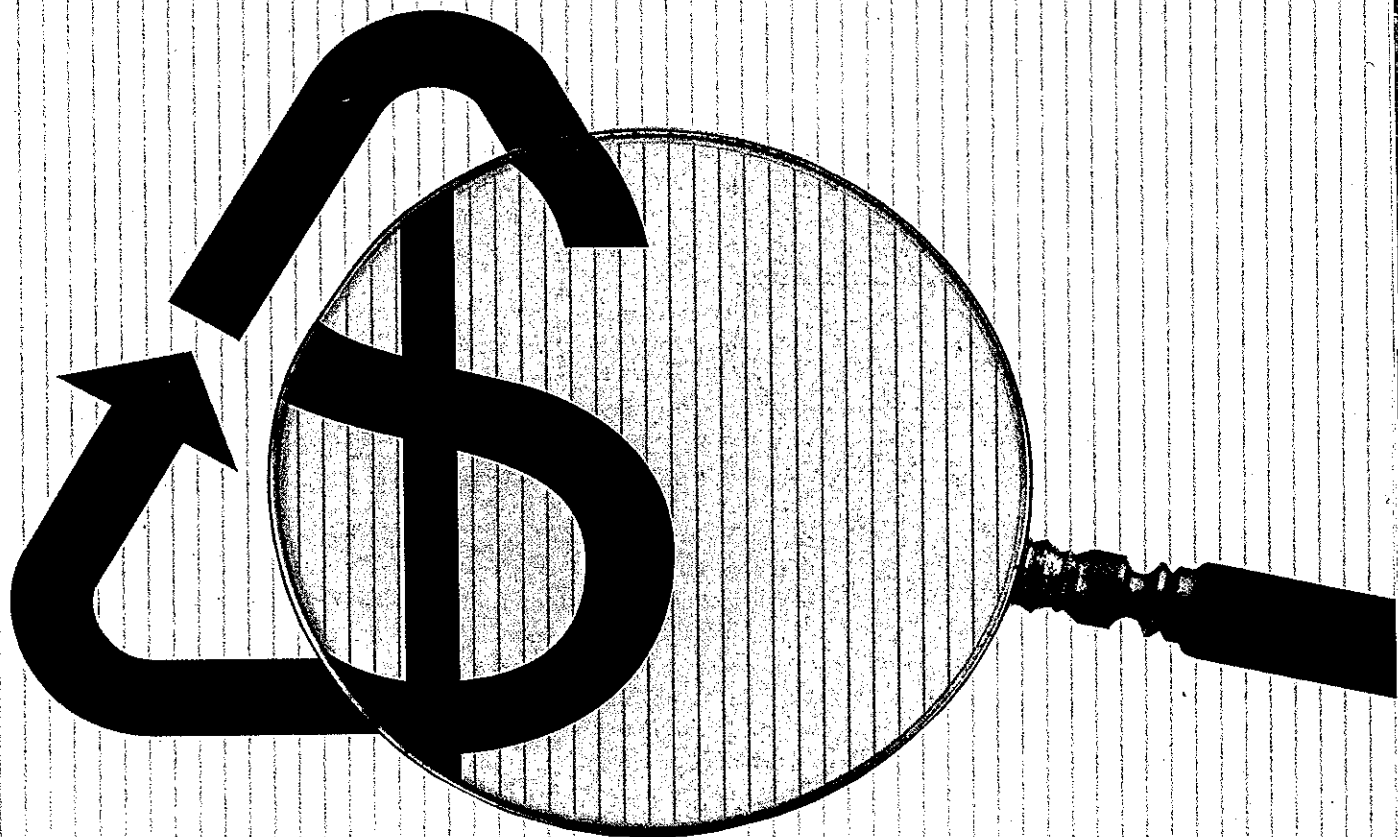
- Government of South Australia (GSA) – *Waste Minimisation Guide: Events and Venues*
- Waste Awareness Wales – *Wales Event Recycling Guide*

Final thoughts

There is no question that successful special event waste reduction requires careful planning and the right tools and people to implement. However, one common element that all the technical guides agree on is that you need the endorsement of event organizers and participating vendors to make it work. Make sure you get those endorsements or your waste reduction goals will become uneventful.

Roger M. Guttentag is a recycling and solid waste consultant located in Harleysville, Pennsylvania. He can be contacted at (610) 584-8836 or rguttentag@comcast.net.

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The true price of reduction,

PART 1

Based on the experience of the nation's biggest recycling program, the first part of this two-part series addresses the institutional barriers to successful municipal recycling by de-mythologizing and de-mystifying the cost of municipal recycling versus municipal refuse disposal.

By Robert Lange

Two of the challenges remaining to the development of recycling on a municipal level are its cost and continued association, in practice and in mind, with the management of waste.

In the early 1980s, as disposal costs appeared to be increasing nationwide and disposal options were diminishing due to changes in federal regulations, the solid waste management community began to explore alternatives to landfill disposal. Almost two decades hence, recycling, now an integrated part of most municipal solid waste management plans, remains costly when compared with the cost of refuse collection and disposal. The major reason for this is that, based on a simple cost-per-ton analysis comparison, recycling is more expensive than refuse disposal operationally.

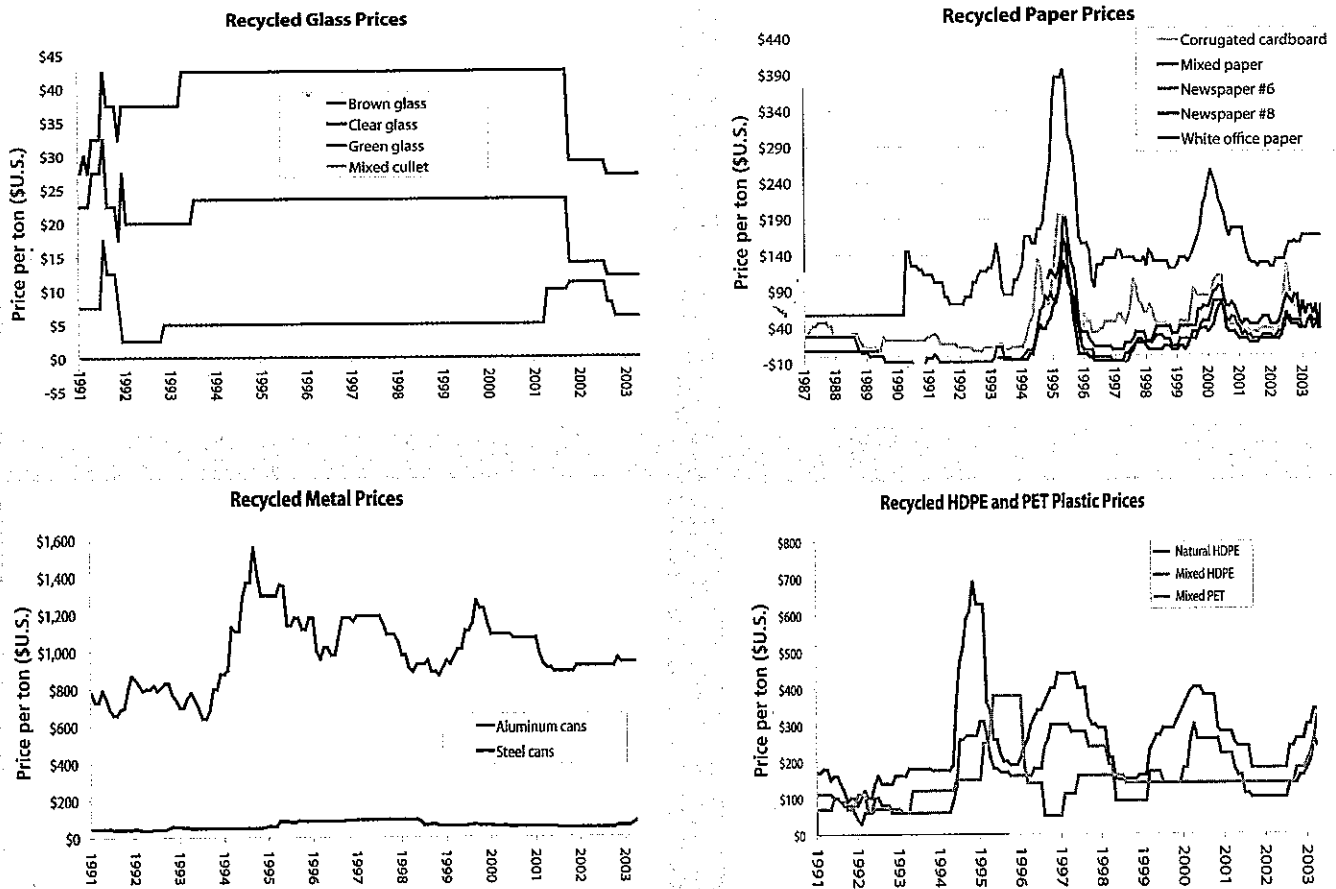
Before continuing further, it is important to address the persistent myth borne of idealistic advocacy: Recycling as a solid waste management practice will pay for itself. The thinking behind this faulty assumption is that, if commodities can be targeted and collected, instead of landfilled, then recycling will pay for itself through commodity revenue. This assumption can be maintained when the model involves voluntary drop-off centers manned by

volunteers, and possibly further subsidized by government funding. However, the elements of a municipal program staffed by unionized employees providing weekly curbside service to all households, regardless of individual household set out, are both fundamentally different and exponentially higher in cost.

The reality is that, in the area of municipal waste management, cost is evaluated annually and funding is based simply on a program's operating cost per ton. This is both traditional and practical, since externalities associated with traditional solid waste management activities are more likely to be addressed as part of the political process rather than through an annual budget process. The responsibility for addressing externalities usually resides with other branches of the government.

Given the institutional constraints placed upon municipal solid waste managers, there are still opportunities for lowering the cost of a recycling system's operation. Recycling has certain cost advantages over waste disposal, particularly its potential for producing revenue from the sale of the recyclables collected. However, getting to that point, and maximizing the value of the end-product for sale, is not as simple as it might first appear.

Figure 1 | Per-ton prices for recyclables collected in the New York Region



Source: New York City Department of Sanitation-Bureau of Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling, 2004

Why recycling costs more than refuse

Collection cost is the primary reason that recycling costs more than refuse to manage. The reason for this is simple, though not always immediately apparent. In the very early 1980s, before recycling began to be instituted on a municipal scale, everything placed out by residents was picked-up and disposed of as refuse. The most residents had to think about was if their refuse was set out in a manner consistent with the rules of the community – bagged if allowed, or in the proper size waste container, and loose materials tied and bundled.

On the collector's side, the primary focus was on whether or not the residents had set items out on the correct day, and in the proscribed manner. However, with the institution of separate recycling collections, it became complex, both for residents who now took on a level of responsibility for

their discards, and collectors who were now collecting materials that required some quality control effort on their part.

With the introduction of recycling on a municipal level, a portion of what was formerly just "garbage" had now been designated for voluntary source separation by the resident and separate collection by the municipality or its contractor or franchisee. However, whatever percentage a municipality targets from the waste stream for recycling will still only be a fraction of the former total. Given the character of municipal residential waste and the markets for post-consumer recyclables collected curbside, the portion targeted is often less than 50 percent of the waste stream. Therefore the crew and vehicle assigned to collect recyclables will be required, per shift, to service (at least double the stops) to achieve the previous cost-per-ton efficiency of refuse alone. Add to this the fact that each household must comply 100

percent with the new set-out requirements to achieve this compromised efficiency.

To the extent individual household compliance is not 100 percent, the efficiency of recycling collections is further compromised and, concomitantly, refuse collections retain a degree of their former efficiency through resident non-compliance with recycling ordinances. When it is further factored in that, nationwide, the capture rate for recyclables targeted by individual municipalities often doesn't exceed 50 percent, regardless of a particular program's age, it is easy to see why the cost-per-ton expenditure for recycling collection presently exceeds that of refuse. There are, of course, exceptions to this generalization, but the exceptions, by their fundamental differences from the norm, prove the rule rather than disprove it.

For example, let's say a municipality targets 50 percent of the waste stream for recycling and achieves a capture rate from

its residents of 50 percent. This means that, on the weekly recycling collection day, each household would be placing out for collection, on average, 25 percent of what was formerly "garbage" or refuse. The recycling collection vehicle assigned to this task will have to service four times as many stops as the former refuse collection vehicle, assuming that four times as many stops can be serviced in a single worker shift. If resident compliance is less than 50 percent, the number of stops required to achieve the same tons per truck load increases further.

There are a number of means that municipalities can attempt to reduce the overall cost of recycling collection, such as single-stream service, the use of dual-bin recycling collection vehicles, or other methods that directly encourage residents to increase compliance, and thereby tonnage, either through positive or negative reinforcement. Regardless of these efforts, on a simple cost-per-ton-collected basis, recycling remains more expensive, because it's

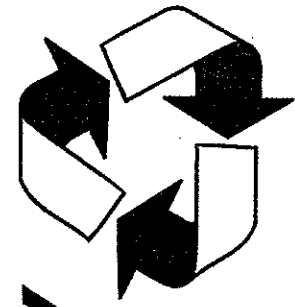
Collection cost is the primary reason that recycling costs more than refuse to manage

targeting a subset of the total waste stream. Plus, when combined with its dependency upon participant compliance for achieving greater efficiency, recycling contributes to a degree of inherent collection inefficiency.

Add to these factors the limitations that time (shift hours) and distance (maximum route coverage) further place upon recycling efficiency and it is easy to see why these inherent operational inefficiencies are difficult to overcome. These challenges to control recycling program costs are no secret to most municipal managers. It is a reality that is frequently lost when recycling as a solid waste management activity is discussed in public forums, most

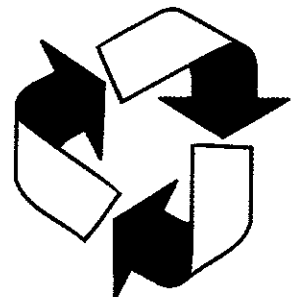
typically in the mainstream media where the myth of recycling paying for itself still asserts itself.

The cost of public education further contributes to the overall cost of recycling versus disposal, as refuse collection service requires almost no public education effort to fully engage its residents in participation. Residents have a compelling interest



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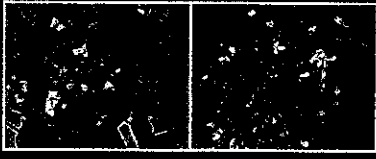
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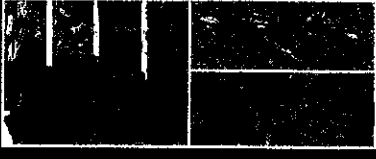
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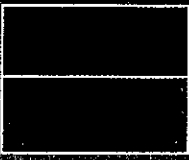


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in seeing their putrecible cast-offs removed from their home and their sight. Recycling, on the other hand, requires that both initial program participation guidelines and frequent reminders be provided. Recycling is fundamentally a matter of motivation on the part of the resident, as residents are solely responsible for the in-home source separating of their recyclables, as well as the curbside placement of that material for collection.

Waste disposal versus the recycling of commodities

While recyclables collected by municipalities have potential worth, most are not collected in a form ready for market, thus must be prepared for market post-collection. This added handling comes with an associated cost per ton that diminishes the end-value to the municipality. Nonetheless, there can be generation of a net revenue amount, depending upon the particular recyclables collected. Metal and plastics are primary examples of recyclable materials that consistently produce

revenue. Glass, on the other hand, is a very low-value commodity. Contaminated material becomes waste, requiring separation for disposal, thus becomes a drain rather than a gain upon revenues per ton, depending on the proportion of contamination per ton of material delivered to a materials recovery facility (MRF).

Per-ton municipal refuse disposal costs are affected by numerous factors, such as access to landfill or incinerator capacity, per-ton transport costs and changes in law. These costs are perceived by municipal budget managers, when allocating annual budgetary resources, to be ones that can be tracked and predicted within reason and, therefore, should be relatively stable in nature.

Recyclables, on the other hand – as post-consumer commodities that are subject to global market forces – are perceived as being more difficult to predict with regard to their final net value, both month-to-month and annually. Therefore, the uncertainty that recyclable post-consumer commodities inject into the mass balance equation of a municipal recycling program's annual budget needs is something that must be resolved if a local recycling pro-

gram is to assure its continued success and funding. The post-collection processing of residential recyclables is an area where municipal managers have an opportunity to stabilize the cost of handling recyclables, per ton, and the revenues produced from this effort. By doing this, it provides local budget management staff with the predictability and stability necessary to assure programmatic expense funds will be available year to year. Figure 1 displays four separate charts related to the pricing for recycled glass, metal, paper and plastics for the New York Region.

In the second article, I will provide suggestions to overcoming the institutional barriers to municipal recycling, including stabilizing processing cost as a means to stabilizing overall program costs; how to go about contracting for recyclables; determining the best solicitation mechanism for securing processing services; and, calculating the monthly value of tons delivered. **RR**

Robert W. Lange is director of the New York City Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling. He can be contacted at (917) 237-5656 or rlange@dsny.nyc.gov.

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County's popular composting program for businesses to cease

By Kurtis Alexander -- Santa Cruz Sentinel

Posted: 03/03/2010 05:40:00 PM PST

WATSONVILLE - Three years ago, county recycling coordinators began collecting leftover food and table scraps at a handful of restaurants to turn into compost and keep kitchen waste from filling up the landfill.

The program has more than 50 participants today, including the likes of large-scale dining halls at UC Santa Cruz, Dominican Hospital and the County Jail. The roughly 100 tons of food scraps picked up each month, county officials say, has added months, if not years to the life of the Buena Vista Landfill.

Now, however, county officials say they don't have the money to continue the program and plan to suspend it after March 15.

"Where are we going to throw everything out?" asked Thomas Vinolus, co-owner and chef of the Bittersweet Bistro in Aptos, who has been sending off six cubic-yards of food scraps for composting a week. "This has been a really great program that I've been pushing for for years. It seems like they've just pulled the rug out from under us."

County officials say they don't want the food scraps to go back into the landfill, being that they make up an estimated 10 percent of the total waste stream. But they say they can't afford the \$200,000 it would take to renew their food scrap composting permit with the state.

For three years, the county has been running the composting operation at the landfill as a "pilot" program. The state says the county now needs a "permanent" permit, which requires costly improvements at the facility. County officials say the state's demands are reasonable, but because they plan to redesign the Buena Vista complex soon, they don't want to make the short-term investment now.

"We were hoping to keep the program going," said Tim Goncharoff, a resource planner for the county. "(But) the county does not have the money. It's very disappointing for everyone."

The proposed so-called Eco Park, which will include a larger composting operation that will serve even more than the 54 outfits now participating, is expected to be built in five or six years. The aim of the new facility is to prolong the life of the landfill, which has from seven to 15 years of space left.

Goncharoff says the good news now is that the pilot food-scrap program has shown itself viable and will lay the groundwork for the expanded program.

"We've come up with a process that works very

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well, and we've demonstrated that there is a composting market for our product," he said.

When the food scraps are picked up by Green Waste Recovery trucks, the food is brought to the composting yard where it is subject to heat and air, then sold to growers and landscapers as compost.

The county's cost of running the food scrap program - which includes outside contractors - is factored in with other waste services and varies year to year. But officials estimate last year's tab, after collecting fees from program participants, was about \$40,000.

UCSC recycling coordinator Dave Wade says suspension of the program has left the university in a lurch.

"We don't want to go back to landfilling this material," Wade said. "We're caught flat-footed here and trying to figure out what our next move is."

Just in the first two months of the year, the campus estimates it has sent 50 tons of food waste off for composting, the bulk of it from three cafeterias. In addition to setting aside scraps in the kitchen, the university had begun taking leftovers from students in the dining halls.

"It just seems a shame we'll have to come to a screeching halt and, at some point, gear back up and start over," Wade said.

The company that does the composting for the county, Vision Recycling, said Wednesday that it's looking for ways to continue the program, perhaps by obtaining private funding.

"When you get a little momentum, you don't want to lose it," said Vision Recycling President Tom Del Conte.

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The Mercury News

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Santa Cruz County's composting program rescued

Kurtis Alexander
 kalexander@santacruzsentinel.com
 Posted: 03/16/2010 08:18:19 PM PDT

Updated: 03/16/2010 10:03:00 PM PDT

WATSONVILLE — Santa Cruz County's popular composting program that for three years has kept the food waste of restaurants and schools from clogging the landfill isn't likely to go the way of an orange peel.

County public works officials are making arrangements for trash trucks to continue picking up kitchen scraps for composting, an initiative that had been scheduled to end this week because of its high cost.

"We anticipate that we will continue the program," Public Works Director John Presleigh said Tuesday. "It's been a good thing. It's extended the life of our landfill." The new plan for food waste, however, is not the same as the old one.

The scraps will no longer be composted alongside the Buena Vista Landfill, as they are now, and instead will be sent to a composting yard in Salinas. The waste would piggyback on trucks that already go back and forth with construction debris that Santa Cruz County recycles for the neighboring city.

Presleigh said the county doesn't have the money to do it any other way.

The continuation of the county program, albeit in a

different version, comes after several people complained about ending an environmental effort that had taken years for the community to embrace but had recently been diverting 100 tons of food waste each month.

"I called and said what can we do to save this program," said Deane Bussiere, executive chef at Dominican Hospital, after being notified in late February that the effort would cease.

The issue came to the fore with the expiration of a county permit to operate the composting yard at the Buena Vista Landfill. Renewal of the permit, because of improvements mandated by the state, would have cost the county \$200,000, a sum public works officials have said they can't afford right now.

Shipping the food waste to Salinas will still come at a cost, Presleigh said, but he called it much more "reasonable."

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Covanta extends free unused pharmaceutical collection

March 26 -- In an effort to keep prescription drugs out of the water supply, Covanta Energy is extending a free service to local governments as it begins a national program to collect unwanted and unused pharmaceuticals.

Covanta, which develops, owns and operates waste-to-energy facilities in the U.S. and Europe, has begun a free disposal and destruction service for prescriptions and medications collected by local governments in drug take-back programs.

When flushed down the drain, or disposed of in landfills, such products contaminate surface waters and have an adverse effect on the environment, studies have shown.

"Studies have shown that pharmaceuticals are present in our nation's streams and rivers. We want to help prevent the discharge of these drugs into the waters that we drink, the waters where we fish and the waters where we swim," said John G. Waffenschmidt, vice president of environmental science and community affairs. "Our facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art combustion controls and air pollution control equipment to ensure the destruction of these drugs in an environmentally sound manner, one that protects the water we depend upon day in and day out. Our facilities ensure that any pharmaceuticals processed in them do not end up in surface waters."

Municipalities interested in participating in the program must obtain appropriate regulatory approvals in order to ensure that such wastes are not classified as hazardous waste from a federal, state or local perspective. Each program would be subject to a due diligence review by Covanta Energy. Municipalities interested in participating should contact Larry DellaVecchia, director of Covanta secure services at 973-882-7310.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Maine passes new product stewardship law

March 25 -- The State of Maine has passed a new product stewardship law requiring manufacturers of certain products to share in the responsibility of the disposal or recycling of their end-of-life products.

The state legislature enacted HP 1159, "Provide Leadership Regarding the Responsible Recycling of Consumer Products" on March 11. Gov. John E. Baldacci signed the act into law March 17.

The law requires producers "take responsibility" for its end-of-lifecycle products, including the "collection, transportation, reuse and recycling or disposal, or both, of unwanted products, including but not limited to a pro rata share of orphan products."

Producers are required to file "product stewardship" plans. Failure to comply means fines of up to \$10,000 per day for producers and \$10,000 per day for retailers that sell their products.

Which products will be covered under the law has not been determined. A state agency has been given authority to determine which product categories will fall under the new law.

To read the law visit, www.legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills_124th/billtexts/HP115901.asp

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

SunChips now uses plant-based, compostable packaging

March 31 -- Snack foods maker SunChips is now packaging its multigrain chips in compostable bags, the company said.

The new bags are made from plant-based polylactic acid. The bags will fully compost in approximately 14 weeks when placed in a hot, active compost bin. The new compostable bags, one of the latest sustainability initiatives from PepsiCo's Frito-Lay division, will be at full distribution in North America by April 22.

To promote the new bags, the SunChips brand is launching a national composting education initiative, thanks to alliances with the U.S. Composting Council and Earth 911. Also, the company will sponsor a video contest with Current TV, challenging consumers to create videos that encourage positive change in the world and feature the SunChips compostable bag.

"With the launch of the world's first 100% compostable chip bag, SunChips is introducing a first-of-its-kind innovation that builds on our commitment to foster a healthier planet," said Gannon Jones, vice president of marketing for Frito-Lay North America. "True progress, however, will require not just corporate leadership, but the actions of millions of individuals. We recognize that education and awareness around green behaviors, such as composting, are critical in helping Americans to take their own steps toward a healthier planet, which is why working with organizations such as the U.S. Composting Council, Earth 911 and the Current Network are so important to us."

The packaging was developed with independent laboratory Wood's End and certified as compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Study says recycled tire crumb is safe in artificial turf

April 6 -- A new study looking at the impact, effectiveness and safety of recycled tire crumb in artificial turf has been released by The Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex) and the Laboratory for Manufacturing and Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley.

The study concludes recycled tire crumb is a safe and cost-effective material for use in artificial turf and may have benefits over grass surfaces in some instances.

"Prior studies have been limited in scope, often assessing artificial turf and crumb rubber in and of themselves rather than in comparison to their real-world substitutes. Instead of focusing entirely on the potential hazards, these materials should be compared against the popular alternative, such as natural turf, for a balanced perspective," said Jonathan Lee, vice president at Manex.

To obtain a copy of the full report, e-mail turfstudy@manexconsulting.com.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Study: PET bottles have less impact than glass, aluminum

April 7 -- PET plastic bottles have less impact on the environment over their lifecycle than aluminum cans or glass bottles, according to a study commissioned by the PET Resin Association.

The study, conducted by Franklin Associates, compared total energy, solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions per 100,000 ounces of soft drinks packaged in typical 20-ounce PET bottles, 8-ounce glass bottles or 12-ounce aluminum cans. The PET bottles showed lower emissions, waste creation and emissions during the process, PETRA said.

The study reports greenhouse gas emissions for the PET bottles registered 59% less than aluminum and 77% less than glass during production.

Energy use for the PET bottles totaled 11 million BTU per 100,000 ounces of soft drink, 16 million BTU for aluminum and 26.6 million BTU for glass.

Solid wastes for the PET bottles totaled 302 pounds, 767 pounds for aluminum and 4,457 pounds for glass. Solid waste volume was 0.67 cubic yards for PET, 0.95 cubic yards for aluminum, 2.14 cubic yards for glass.

"This study again confirms the excellent environmental profile and value of PET for packaging foods and beverages," said PETRA Executive Director Ralph Vasami. "Since 2005, PET containers have been the subject of several independent life-cycle analyses and PET has consistently shown itself to be a sound environmental choice whether compared to glass, metal or other plastics."

The report is available on the PETRA Web site, www.petresin.org/news.asp

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

UPS provides customers with green shipping options

April 15 -- United Parcel Service of America Inc. is now providing customers an opportunity to assess their shipments based on environmental standards.

The Atlanta-based company's Eco Responsible Packaging Program "will evaluate a customer's packaging processes in three areas of sustainability: damage prevention, right-sizing and packaging materials."

The packaging will receive a score and customers meeting requirements can display the program's logo on their packages, UPS said.

The company's assessment methodology and processes are verified by Société Générale de Surveillance, an inspection, verification, testing and certification company, UPS said.

"Our engineers have always directed our customers to use the right kind of packaging to protect their goods," said Bob Stoffel, senior vice president, engineering, strategy, supply chain and sustainability. "This service gives our customers a new way to demonstrate that they are serious about sustainability when it comes to shipment packaging."

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjohnson@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Groups launch website to manage unused medicines

April 20 -- The National Community Pharmacists Association and Sharps Compliance Inc. have launched a new website to help divert prescription drugs from being flushed down the drain or being sent to landfills, where the compounds can leach into the groundwater.

The website, www.disposemy meds.org, is part of the organization's national campaign. The site allows consumers to search for pharmacy disposal programs by state, city or zip code.

The organizations said up to 200 million pounds of dispensed pharmaceuticals aren't used each year. These unused drugs can lead to accidental poisonings, and chemicals from flushed or landfilled pharmaceuticals have been found in the drinking water of more than 50 million Americans.

"Safe and practical disposal programs make a real difference in addressing this growing public health concern," said Joseph H. Harmison, PD, NCPA president and pharmacy owner in Arlington, Texas. "I commend these pharmacies for stepping up for the good of their communities and their patients. And, hopefully, consumers will gain a greater appreciation of their local community pharmacy. I also appreciate the support our allies and sponsors have shown for this effort."

"We are proud to work with NCPA and its membership to more efficiently and effectively address the problem pharmacists, patients and communities face with unused patient medication," said Claude A. Dance, Sharps Compliance Inc. senior vice president of sales and marketing.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Acquisitions lead Stericycle to \$48.1M profit in 1st quarter

April 29 -- Recent acquisitions led medical waste disposal company Stericycle Inc. to a profit of \$48.1 million, or \$0.57 per share in the first quarter of 2010, a 20.2% increase over the same time period last year.

In the first quarter of 2009, the company declared earnings per share of \$0.47.

Acquisitions of several companies made in the last year contributed \$28.9 million in revenues for the quarter, which increased 21% from \$277.1 million to \$335.2 million.

A recording of a conference call discussing the earnings report is available www.stericycle.com.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Waste groups join to oppose methane program changes

April 30 -- Two groups representing the solid waste management industry are teaming up to oppose an idea to change the Landfill Methane Outreach Program operated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Both the Solid Waste Association of North America and the National Solid Wastes Management Association sent joint comments to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson regarding a recent petition filed by the Center for a Competitive Waste Industry and several other environmental groups to restructure the LMOP program.

"The success of EPA's LMOP program in helping achieve greenhouse gas reductions is overwhelming," SWANA Executive Director and CEO John H. Skinner said.

"The LMOP program must be sustained," NSWMA President and CEO Bruce J. Parker said.

The petitioning groups want to refocus the program to divert organics from landfills and rename the effort the Organics Management Outreach Program.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjjohnson@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Ziploc teams with TerraCycle to recycle bags, containers

May 4 -- Plastic bag and container maker Ziploc has teamed with TerraCycle to increase recycling of its products.

The company will sponsor the newest TerraCycle Brigade, which allows schools to collect Ziploc bags and containers and then send them back to the company. For each bag or container collected, Ziploc and TerraCycle will pay two cents to the school actually doing the collection.

"We are really pleased to be adding new materials to our collection programs," said TerraCycle CEO Tom Szaky. "It's exciting to be able to find new uses for more and more materials that would otherwise be ending up in landfills and giving schools a much needed fundraising opportunity at the same time."

Other "brigades" collect drink pouches, chip bags, yogurt cups, glue bottles and sticks, tape dispensers and pens.

For more information, visit www.terracycle.net/brigades.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Website offers tips, encourages at-home composting

May 4 -- A new website has been started to encourage home composting and offering tips and products for home gardeners.

The site, CompostMania.com, offers products and educational resources for people interested in home composting. It was launched in Dallas by Robert Olivier and Karl Warkomski.

"CompostMania.com provides composting products for the most advanced gardener to families who want to teach their children about the importance of being good stewards to the environment," said Olivier, who also is CEO. "Our goal at CompostMania.com is to encourage consumers to re-connect with their local ecosystem through composting and organic gardening, which will promote the Earth's natural lifecycle."

CompostMania.com offers composting, gardening and water harvesting products. To learn more, visit www.CompostMania.com.

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