

Regional Recycling Acceptable Materials Workshop

January 23, 2019

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Agenda

ltem	Time
Project Status Update	9:00-9:05 AM
Regional Refuse and Recycling Composition	9:05-9:25 AM
Regional Recycling Capture Rate	9:25-9:50 AM
Value of Disposed Materials	9:50-10:10 AM
Break	10:10-10:15 AM
MRF Interviews	10:15-10:35 AM
Acceptable and Prohibitive Materials Discussion	10:35-11:20 AM
Conclusions and Next Steps	11:20-11:30 AM



Project Status Update



Project Status Update



COMPLETED TASKS

- Kick-off Meeting; Workshops 1 & 2
- Launch Re-TRAC Survey
- Waste Sorting Event
- MRF Interviews
- Data Analysis

ONGOING TASKS

- Review Completed Re-TRAC Surveys
- MRF-shed Mapping
- Pre-testing Focus Group
- Customize Campaign Assets
- Deployment of Regional Messaging Review
- Final Workshop

Educational Campaign Pretesting Focus Group Workshop

- 1:30pm today, Regional Forum Room, Centerpoint
 2
- Workshop highlights
 - Overview of previous campaigns conducted by The Recycling Partnership
 - Review of Communication Tools
 - Review Current Communities Outreach
 - Discuss Regionally-focused Communication Tools



Regional Refuse and Recycling Composition



Waste Characterization Study Overview

- Coordinated with 10 participating cities to
 - Collect samples and track pickups
 - Transport samples
 - Deliver samples
- Participating cities selected based on population, annual tonnage, service type, and willingness to participate
- Participating cities represent 45 percent of total single family households in North Central Texas region



Waste Characterization Study Methodology

- Cities represent variety of different service offerings and collection frequencies to generate a valid data set
 - Curbside cart collection
 - Curbside bag collection
 - Private subscription
- Sort team physically segregated and weighed 50 samples;
 200 pounds each
- Refuse samples collected included diverse range of households, programs, and set-out types
- Developed estimates of total tonnage of each material category generated annually in North Central Texas



Participating Cities Program Information

				Criteria			
Cities	Single Family Households	Recycling Collection frequency	Refuse Collection Frequency	Refuse Program Type	Set Out Type	Refuse Service Provider	Existing Data
Dallas	265,524	1x/wk	1x/wk	Automatic Enrollment	Carts	City	WC and Audit
Fort Worth	214,440	1x/wk	1x/wk	Automatic Enrollment and PAYT	Carts Waste Management		WC and Audit
Arlington	91,379	1x/wk	2x/wk	Automatic Enrollment	Carts Republic		Audit
Garland	61,968	Every Other Week	1x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Carts City of Garland		Audit
Grand Prairie	46,084	1x/wk	2x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Bags	Grand Prairie Disposal	None
Irving	41,403	1x/wk	2x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Bags	City	None
Frisco	46,639	1x/wk	1x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Carts	Waste Connections	None
Mesquite	37,352	1x/wk	2x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Carts	City	Audit
Allen	26,623	Every Other Week	1x/wk	Auto Enrollment	Carts	Community Waste Disposal	None
Weatherford	8,363	1x/wk	2x/wk	Subscription	Carts	City	None



Refuse Delivery Schedule

Prior to sorting, participating cities met to develop schedule and logistics

City	Μ	Т	W	Th	F	Total
Dallas	3	3	3		3	12
Fort Worth	4		4	1		9
Arlington	2		2	2		6
Garland				4		4
Grand Prairie	1	1	1	1		4
Irving	1	2		1		4
Frisco		2		2		4
Mesquite	1	1	1	1		4
Weatherford	2					2
Allen				1		1
Total	14	10	11	13	3	50

The table above shows number of samples delivered by each city daily during the week of sorting.



Waste Characterization Data Analysis

- Data compiled to estimate the regional waste profile
- Participating cities were provided individual composition and capture rate (as available)
- Individual cities waste and recycling composition profiles represent a snapshot
 - i.e. not valid to use one city's data to estimate annual tonnage of individual material generated by that city
- To maintain confidentiality of individual city's data all waste composition information presented has been aggregated
- A big thanks to the City of Dallas for hosting the study and all of the participating Cities for supporting the effort to collect this valuable data!

Results from Sorting Event

- Sorted 50 samples, or approximately 10,800 lbs (5.4 tons) of refuse, generated from single family homes
 - Five days of sorting at the McCommas Bluff Landfill
 - About one ton of recyclables were pulled from waste were processed at the FCC MRF
- Visual observations from the sort include
 - The largest portion of the waste stream is organic material
 - There are is a clear opportunity to divert traditional paper, plastic and metal recyclables generated by single family residences



Waste Delivery







Fines Screens



Weight Data Collection



Sorting Bins From Participating Cities

S.S.

Four What

WEATHERFOR

CITY OF DALLAS

MESQUITE

Estimated Single Family Refuse Tonnage Disposed in Region

Category	Disposal Estimate	Source
Total Annual MSW Disposed in North Central Texas Region	10.7 million tons	Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: 2017 Data Summary and Analysis
Percentage of Single Family Residential Refuse	41%	2003 Metroplex Area Sub- Regional Solid Waste Study
Total Annual Single Family Residential MSW Disposed in North Central Texas Region	4.3 million tons	Calculated

Regional Waste Composition



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Breakdown of Recyclable Materials Disposed



Regional Recycling Composition Overview

- Tonnage of recycled material compiled from reports provided by MRFs in region
- Analyzed materials sold to market (i.e. postprocessed tons, excluding residue)
- Approximately 450,000 tons are sold to market annually from MRFs in the region



MRF Audit Data Analysis

- MRF audits gather data to generate a composition profile of a city's recycling stream
 - MRF audits may be required contractually to determine revenue sharing agreements
- Data provided by five cities that participated in the waste sorting study

A **big thanks** to the cities of Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Garland, and Mesquite for providing this information

 Calculated weighted average of composition profile based on total recycling tons collected

The Recycling Partnership Benchmarking

- Pounds per household per year is a key performance metric of curbside recycling programs
- According to The Recycling Partnership, single-family households generate an avg 800 lbs/yr recyclables
- The composition profile of each city in this study varied based on
 - Households
 - Recycling tonnage generated
 - Material categories

0	No Curbside 800 lbs lost
٥	Curbside Opt-In 800 lbs lost in most homes
0	Curbside in Bins 600 lbs lost
	Curbside in Carts, No Education 400 lbs lost
	Curbside in Carts, Good Education 200 lbs lost THE RECYCLING



Single Family Pounds per Household per Year



BURNS MEDONNELL Source: Recycling Partnership State of Curbside Report

Regional Recycling Composition



Note: see handout for detailed recycling composition profile.



Regional Recycling Capture Rate



Regional Capture Rate Formula

Capture Rate provides an understanding of how effectively a curbside recycling program operates



Significance of Regional Capture Rate Metric

- Capture Rate provides direction on individual recycling materials to target for increased recovery and could shape education/outreach campaign materials provided by The Recycling Partnership
- Low capture rate indicates significant opportunity to increase recovery through single stream recycling
 - Attend the Educational Campaign Pretesting Focus Group Workshop at 1:30pm today to join the discussion



Where Are the Recyclables?





Overall Capture Rate Results What percent of available materials are captured?





Opportunity

CAPTURE RATES MORE ACCURATELY INFORM ACTION THAN RECYCLING RATE.



NCTCOG – regional capture rate for residential curbside recyclables = **32.0%**

BURNS MEDONNELL Source: Recycling Partnership

Paper Capture Rate Results





Plastic Capture Rate Results



Metal Capture Rate Results





Glass Capture Rate Results




Individual Materials Capture Rate Results



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Value of Disposed Materials



Economic Impact of Recycling

- 2016 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling
 - Estimated quantity of recyclable materials disposed in Texas
 - Examined economic value disposed recycling material
- The following provides same analysis for North Central Texas



Recyclable Materials with Highest per Ton Value



Five Year Average Commodity Values

Commodities	Five Year Average (\$/ton)	Percentage of Recycling Stream
OCC ¹	\$107	14.3%
Mixed Paper ²	\$55	36.4%
PET	\$272	5.1%
HDPE-N	\$687	1.3%
HDPE-C	\$422	1.7%
Aluminum	\$1,331	1.3%
Steel/Tin	\$108	1.6%

¹ Current rate slightly lower due to China import restrictions

² Current rate significantly lower due to China import restrictions



Value of Glass on Secondary Material Market

- After initial processing at the region's MRFs the value of glass ranges from -\$5 to \$12 per ton
- Glass processed by MRFs in the region are sent to a secondary processing facility
- After secondary processing, where the segregated material is sold as feedstock to manufacturers, the value is much higher at around \$90 per ton
- Value of glass not included in the following analysis to provide conservative estimates



Value of Plastic #3-#7 on Secondary Material Market

- Plastics #3 #7 range in value depending on the region, mix of materials and location of end markets
 - Certain portions of the #3 #7 mix are more valuable than others
- While market indices are currently close to \$0 per ton, some MRFs in the region are selling material in the range of \$75 to \$250 per ton
 - Market conditions depend on the material quality, transportation cost, existing contracts and configuration of the manufacturing facility
- Value of Plastic #3 #7 not included in the following analysis to provide conservative estimates



Potentially Recyclable Material in Refuse (Tons)

Material	Potentially Recyclable Tons	20% Recovery	40% Recovery	60% Recovery
Recyclable Paper	350,660	70,132	140,264	210,396
Recyclable Plastic	183,614	36,723	73,446	110,168
Recyclable Metals	72,746	14,549	29,098	43,647
Recyclable Glass	238,848	47,770	95,539	143,309
Total	845,868	169,174	338,347	507,521



Additional Recycling Potential Within the Regional Waste Stream (includes currently recycled tons)



Multiple Reasons to Recycle

- Financial value
- Minimize disposal
- Environmental benefits
- Policy/diversion goals

Financial value of materials is only one of several reasons to recycle



Potentially Recyclable Material (Value, Million \$)

Material	Total Value Disposed	20% Recovery	40% Recovery	60% Recovery
Recyclable Paper	\$25.4	\$5.0	\$10.1	\$15.2
Recyclable Plastic	\$50.6	\$10.1	\$20.2	\$30.3
Recyclable Metals	\$46.8	\$9.3	\$18.7	\$28.1
Total	\$122.8	\$24.4	\$49.0	\$73.6



Value Potential of the Regional Waste Stream





Individual Materials Value



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Valuable Material Going to Disposal

- Estimated \$122 million potentially recyclable material disposed annually
- Recyclable plastics and metals represent highest value material with lowest capture rates in region
- Opportunity to recover this value at the regional level through coordinated education and outreach campaign



MRF Interviews



MRF Interviews Overview

- Coordinated with the MRFs in the region to understand preferences on material throughput
- Will inform the development of regional education and outreach campaign
- Quality of the material impacts ability for the region to realize the value of material that is improperly disposed
- Nine MRFs process the region's single family residential recyclables



MRF Interviewees

- Contacted the MRF operators in the region
 - Republic
 - Waste Management
 - Balcones
 - Waste Connections
 - Pratt
 - CWD
 - FCC

All data provided by MRF operators has been aggregated to maintain confidentiality



Moving from Survey to Harmonized Messaging

The Recycling Partnership MRF Accepted Material Survey provides basis for discussion between MRF(s) and communities

What works at the MRFs?

- **Bale Quality**
- Processing Efficiency
- Worker Safety
- Contract

POTENTIALLY **ALIGNED MESSAGING**

What works in the communities?

- Commitments/Goals/ Bans
- Resident Knowledge
- Consistency
- Contract

Align messaging for opportunities to establish:

Everyone hears and sees same messages

1.

REGIONAL MESSAGING 2. MODULAR MESSAGING

Predictable categories with slight variety

Aim for: Clear • Prioritized • Consistent • Searchable

BURNS MEDONNELL Recycling Partnership Harmonized Messaging Model

MRF Survey

- Region's MRF operators completed MRF Survey developed by the Recycling Partnership
- Information provides understanding of the problem materials MRF operators encounter
- Collects information on each individual product generally accepted in single stream recycling programs
- Provides indicator of materials to focus on targeting throughout the region



MRF Survey Categories

- For each individual material, the respondent checked a box to indicate if each was
 - Accepted (i.e. acceptable material for processing)
 - Not accepted and not detrimental (i.e. can be processed but is not highly marketable)
 - Not accepted and detrimental (can not be processed without risk of damage to equipment or personnel safety)
 - Do not want on list but accept (accepted based on agreement with generator but is not highly marketable)



MRF Survey Analysis

- Focus on identifying materials that were most frequently categorized as
 - Accepted by four or more MRFs
 - Not accepted and detrimental by one or more MRFs
- The following slides review the MRF Survey Analysis according to these color-coded legends

Number of Companies Identifying Not Accepted and Detrimental					
Three or more					
Two					
One					

Number of Companies Identifying Accept					
Seven					
Six					
Five					
Four					



Acceptable Paper Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept	
Mail	7	0	0	0	
Kraft Bags	7	0	0	0	
Magazines	7	0	0	0	
Newspaper	7	0	0	0	
OCC	7	0	0	0	
Office Paper	7	0	0	0	
Paperboard Boxes	7	0	0	0	
Paperback Books	6	1	0	0	
Shredded Paper	6	0	0	0	
Pizza Boxes	5	1	1	0	
Cartons	4	2	0	1	
Hard Cover Books	2	1	2	2	
Cold Cups	1	3	2	1	
Hot Cups	1	2	3	1	Identifying Accept
Ice Cream Container	1	3	2	1	Seven
Take-out Conatiners	1	1	3	2	Six
Tissue Paper	1	4	1	1	Five
Other	0	0	0	1	Four

Acceptable Metal Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept
Aluminum				
Can	7	0	0	0
Aerosol	4	0	3	0
Foil or Foil-like Container	2	4	1	0
Other Aluminum Containers	3	3	1	0
Other:	0	0	1	1
Steel				
Can	6	1	0	0
Aerosol	4	0	3	0
Pots and Pans	3	3	1	0
Spiral Wound Container	2	2	2	0
Scrap Metal	0	3	2	2
Other:	0	0	1	0

Number of Companies
Identifying AcceptSevenSixFiveFour



Acceptable Plastic Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept	
HDPE Bottles & Jars	6	0	0	1	
Non-Bottle PET Containers & Lids	6	0	0	1	
Non-bottle HDPE Containers & Lids	5	0	1	1	
Other Drink Bottles (e.g. juice in #7)	5	1	0	1	
Other Food Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	
Other Household Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	
PET Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	
PET Thermoform	5	2	0	0	
PP Bottles	5	2	0	0	
Other Tubs & Lids	4	2	0	1	
PP Containers & Lids	4	2	0	0	
Buckets	2	1	2	2	
Bulky Plastic	2	0	2	2	
Flower Pots	2	3	1	1	
Other Containers & Packaging	2	2	0	1	
Bags, Wraps Film (bag in bag)	1	0	4	2	Number of Companies
EPS Foam Blocks & Shapes	1	4	1	0	Identifying Accept
Plastic Bags	1	1	4	1	Seven
Produce, Deli & Bakery Containers, Cups, Trays	1	4	1	0	Six
Toys	1	4	2	0	Five
EPS Foam Food Service & Other Containers	0	4	2	0	Four

Acceptable Glass Material Categories

		Do Not	Do Not	Do Not Want	
Material	Accept	Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Accept (Detrimental)	on List but Accept	Number of Companies Identifying Accept
Bottles and Jars	5	1	0	1	Seven
Drinking Glass	1	4	1	1	Oiu
Mugs	1	4	2	0	51X
Other	1	1	1	0	Five
Window	0	3	3	0	Four



Prohibitive Paper Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept
Take-out Containers	1	1	3	2
Hot Cups	1	2	3	1
Cold Cups	1	3	2	1
Hard Cover Books	2	1	2	2
Ice Cream Container	1	3	2	1
Pizza Boxes	5	1	1	0
Tissue Paper	1	4	1	1
Cartons	4	2	0	1
Mail	7	0	0	0
Kraft Bags	7	0	0	0
Magazines	7	0	0	0
Newspaper	7	0	0	0
OCC	7	0	0	0
Office Paper	7	0	0	0
Paperback Books	6	1	0	0
Paperboard Boxes	7	0	0	0
Shredded Paper	6	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1

Number of Companies Identifying Not Accepted and Detrimental Three or more Two One

Prohibitive Metals Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept	
Aluminum					
Aerosol	4	0	3	0	
Foil or Foil-like Container	2	4	1	0	
Other Aluminum Containers	3	3	1	0	
Other:	0	0	1	1	
Can	7	0	0	0	
Steel					
Aerosol	4	0	3	0	
Scrap Metal	0	3	2	2	
Spiral Wound Container	2	2	2	0	
Pots and Pans	3	3	1	0	
Other:	0	0	1	0	
Can	6	1	0	0	

Prohibitive Plastic Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept	
Plastic Bags	1	1	4	1	
Bags, Wraps Film (bag in bag)	1	0	4	2	
Buckets	2	1	2	2	
Bulky Plastic	2	0	2	2	
EPS Foam Food Service & Other Containers	0	4	2	0	
Toys	1	4	2	0	
EPS Foam Blocks & Shapes	1	4	1	0	
Flower Pots	2	3	1	1	
Non-bottle HDPE Containers & Lids	5	0	1	1	
Produce, Deli & Bakery Containers, Cups, Trays	1	4	1	0	
HDPE Bottles & Jars	6	0	0	1	
Non-Bottle PET Containers & Lids	6	0	0	1	
Other Containers & Packaging	2	2	0	1	
Other Drink Bottles (e.g. juice in #7)	5	1	0	1	
Other Food Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	Number of Companies
Other Household Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	Identifying Not
Other Tubs & Lids	4	2	0	1	Accepted and
PET Bottles & Jars	5	1	0	1	Detrimental
PET Thermoform	5	2	0	0	I hree or more
PP Bottles	5	2	0	0	Тwo
PP Containers & Lids	4	2	0	0	One

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Prohibitive Glass Material Categories

Material	Accept	Do Not Accept (Non- Detrimental)	Do Not Accept (Detrimental)	Do Not Want on List but Accept	Number of Companies Identifying Not
Window	0	3	3	0	Detrimental
Mugs	1	4	2	0	Three or more
Drinking Glass	1	4	1	1	
Other	1	1	1	0	Two
Bottles and Jars	5	1	0	1	One



Acceptable and Prohibitive Materials Discussion



Acceptable and Prohibitive Materials Lists

- The following slides are meant to guide discussion to come to a consensus of
 - List of acceptable materials to focus on capturing in recycling
 - List of prohibitive materials to focus on properly disposing in refuse



Top Regionally Accepted Materials

Paper	Plastic	Metal	Glass
000	Plastic Bottles	Aluminum Cans	Bottles/Jars
Mail, Magazines, Newspaper	Plastic Jugs	Steel/Tin Cans	
Kraft bags			
Office Paper			
Shredded Paper			

Note: based on materials ranked 6 or 7 in MRF Survey analysis – for discussion purposes only (i.e. this **does not** suggest all communities in the region change their outreach to match this list)



Brainstorm Local Programs to Increase Capture Rate of Acceptable Materials

- Time permitting spend 5-15 minutes
- Request each attendee provide one, specific idea
- Ok to provide ideas on notecards

1:30pm today, Educational Campaign Pretesting Focus Group Workshop Regional Forum Room, Centerpoint 2



Top Five Prohibitive Materials

- Respondents of the MRF Survey identified their top five prohibitive items
- The responses from the MRF Surveys show which materials are most detrimental
- The following slides show the top five prohibitive materials and explain why they are problematic



Prohibitive Sharps Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
5	Needles/Medical	Sharps and material that contains
Equipment	hazardous fluids	





Prohibitive Sharps Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
5	Needles/Medical Equipment	Sharps and material that contains hazardous fluids



© Can Stock Photo - csp2316236

Explanation

Sharps present a sticking hazard for MRF employees that are picking material off the line. The safety of those working at the MRF is the highest priority of MRF operators.
Prohibitive Food Contaminated Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
Λ	Eacd/Vard Wasta	Food contaminated material or other
4	TOUU/TAIN WASIE	organic material





x75147037 www.fotosearch.com



Prohibitive Food Contaminated Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
4	Food/Yard Waste	Food contaminated material or other organic material



Explanation

Food contaminated material contributes heavily to the amount of residue material that is disposed in landfills and is often mixed with other small particle materials such as glass.

Prohibitive Explosive Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
3	Propane Tanks	A metal tank used to store propane for grilling









Prohibitive Explosive Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
3	Propane Tanks	A metal tank used to store propane for grilling



Explanation

Propane tanks that enter a processing system can act as other steel cans through the processing equipment. If they are not screened out, they become an *explosion hazard* if they are baled with other metal material.

Prohibitive Film Plastic Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
2	Plastic Bags	A bag that is manufactured from plastic film material







Prohibitive Film Plastic Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
2	Plastic Bags	A bag that is manufactured from plastic film material



Explanation

Oftentimes acts as paper and contaminated clean recyclable bales. When China increased the standard of paper bales, the contamination caused by plastic bags became much more problematic than it had recently.

Prohibitive Wrap-able Materials Explained

Rank	Materials	Definition
1	Wire, Hose Cords	Post consumer product that extends
•	Rope, Chains	during use and coils for storage





Prohibitive Wrap-able Materials Explained

	natoriais	Demilion
1 Wire	, Hose Cords	Post consumer product that extends



Explanation

This material wraps around MRF equipment, screens, and gears; causes unexpected breakdowns; equipment is stopped for operator to cut away material by hand

Conclusions and Next Steps



Conclusions

- Reducing contamination creates more capacity to process valuable materials
 - Less operational interruptions
 - Higher equipment efficiency
 - Less contamination in bales
 - Increased safety
- Target least captured, most valuable materials to realize \$122 million value of items currently disposed on secondary material market
- Effective education and outreach campaign would provide most value to regional system if over time:
 - Tonnage of prohibitive materials sent to MRFs decreases
 - Tonnage of plastic and metal bottles/cans increases

Update on Recycling Survey

- Compiling data from Re-TRAC surveys including
 - Regional waste flows
 - Regional recycling flows
 - Current education and outreach material
- Thank you to those who registered and completed the survey!
- Opportunity to renew subscription for Re-TRAC to become regional data tracking tool

Educational Campaign Pretesting Focus Group Workshop

- 1:30pm today, Regional Forum Room, Centerpoint
 2
- Workshop highlights
 - Overview of previous campaigns conducted by The Recycling Partnership
 - Review of Communication Tools
 - Review Current Communities Outreach
 - Discuss Regionally-focused Communication Tools



Questions?

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