

Recycling For All

Moving Seattle's Commercial Sector to Full Recycling and Composting

May 21, 2013

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

LIBRARIES, UTILITIES, AND CENTER COMMITTEE

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Acknowledgements

Seattle Office of Sustainability
& Environment

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And numerous others: Seattle Public
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managers, Haulers, Tenants, and others

Seattle's recycling rate goals

- 2007 **Zero Waste Resolution** (Resolution 30990) established Municipal Solid Waste recycling rate goal of

60% by **2012**

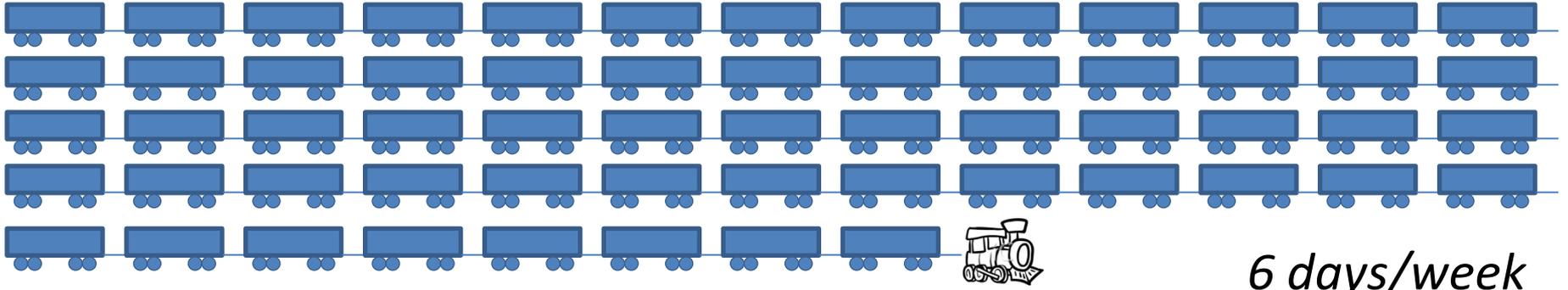
- 2013 proposed **Seattle Climate Action Plan** includes goal to achieve a recycling rate of

70% by **2022**

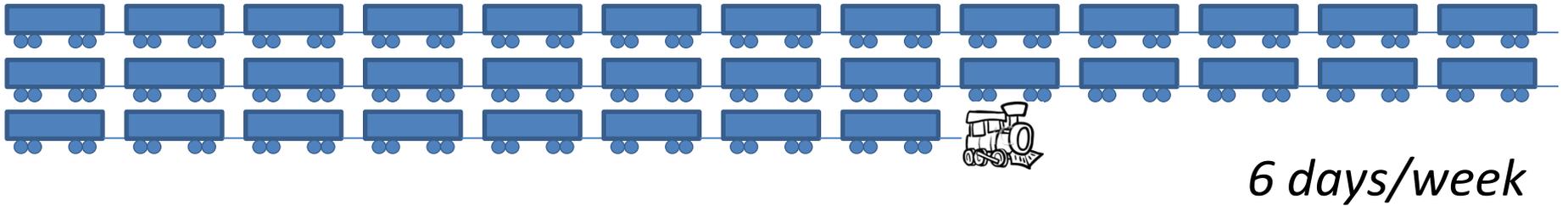


www.seattlepi.com/local/323082_trashtrain10.html

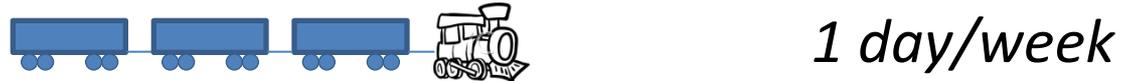
2006



2012



2030



Focus of our project

Getting same behavior at work as at home

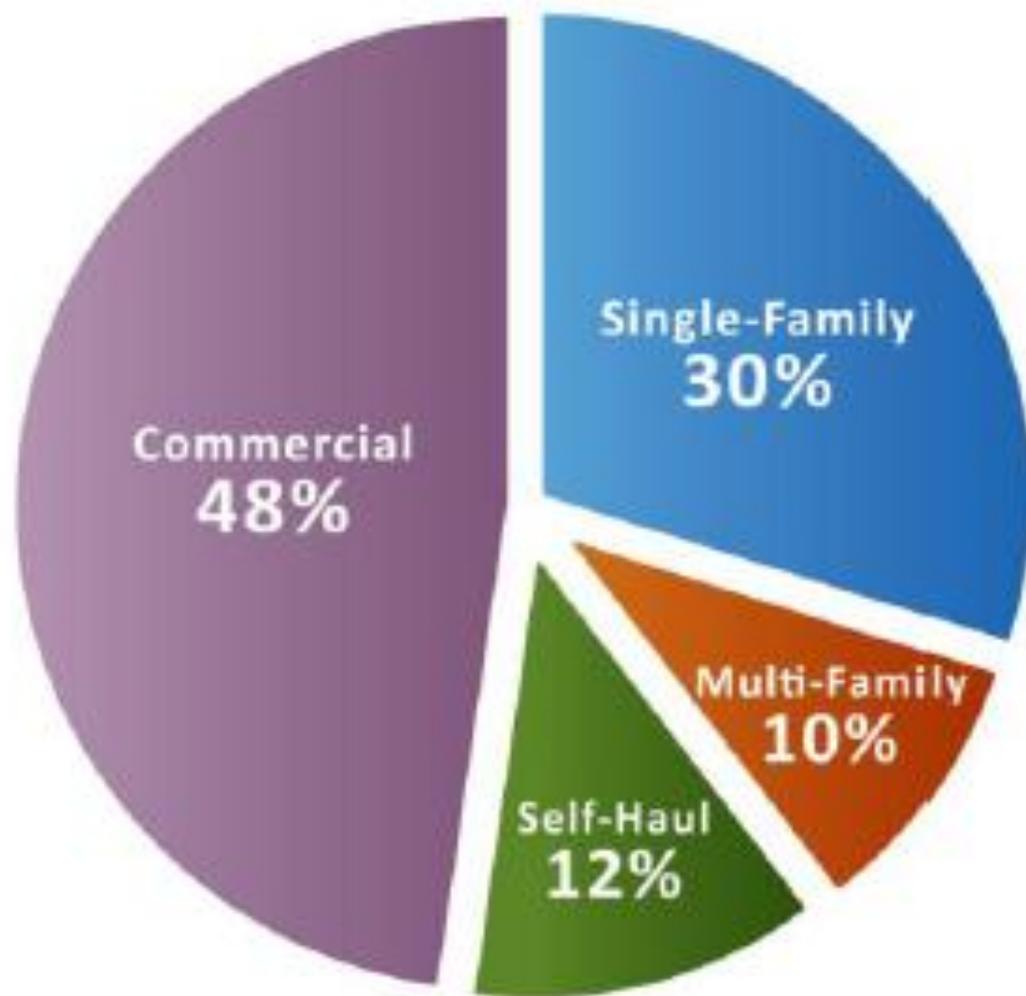
- Higher recycling/compost rates
- Less contamination



Key Findings

- Downtown buildings have recycling and composting *available*
- Need *blue plastic recycling bins* at desks, *not* cardboard recycling boxes
- Need good *composting bins* in kitchens
- Let's do *paper towel composting* in restrooms
- People are confused about *coffee cups*

Seattle MSW Generation by Sector 2010



Recycling Rates

Residential						
Year	Single Family	Multi Family	Res Total	Self Haul	Commercial	Overall
2000	58.0%	17.8%	47.8%	17.2%	41.6%	40.0%
2001	57.0%	22.0%	48.5%	17.8%	39.6%	39.3%
2002	57.5%	21.5%	48.3%	18.1%	40.7%	39.7%
2003	57.5%	22.2%	48.4%	18.1%	37.3%	38.2%
2004	58.9%	22.2%	49.4%	18.8%	42.5%	41.2%
2005	61.4%	25.2%	52.1%	19.2%	46.6%	44.2%
2006	64.0%	26.3%	54.3%	18.8%	51.7%	47.6%
2007	64.8%	27.6%	55.1%	19.2%	52.5%	48.2%
2008	65.4%	28.3%	55.9%	18.4%	54.7%	50.0%
2009	68.7%	27.0%	58.4%	16.7%	54.9%	51.1%
2010	70.3%	29.6%	60.3%	13.5%	58.9%	53.7%
2011	70.6%	28.7%	60.2%	13.1%	61.4%	55.4%
2012 Goal	70.0%	37.0%	60.0%	39.0%	63.0%	60.0%

Current Situation: Commercial

Only requirement:

- Paper and cardboard are NOT allowed in garbage stream

HOW:

- Large businesses: contracted haulers
- Small businesses: Contracted haulers OR can use city's residential program

2008 Commercial: Composition

75% was recyclable/compostable!

- 24.1% paper products
- 12.8% plastics
- 38.9% organic

City's Solid Waste Plan Goals: Commercial

(in March 2012 draft)

- Ban of recyclables in garbage: 2014
- Ban of organics in garbage: 2016



Cost - compost

Approximately 32% below garbage prices. (Non contract prices vary.)



Our Project: Method

- Interviewed Seattle staff, haulers, and others
- Went building-by-building in downtown and in specific neighborhoods (153 buildings) and interviewed 19 property managers
- Conducted Stakeholder meetings
- Conducted pilot



Overall research findings

- All [**153**] buildings offered full recycling at loading area
- Tenants were not always aware of the existing infrastructure and/or did not use the infrastructure correctly.
- **150 buildings** offered compost to their tenants, most retail tenants did not have the appropriate bins within their business.

Tenant Surveys

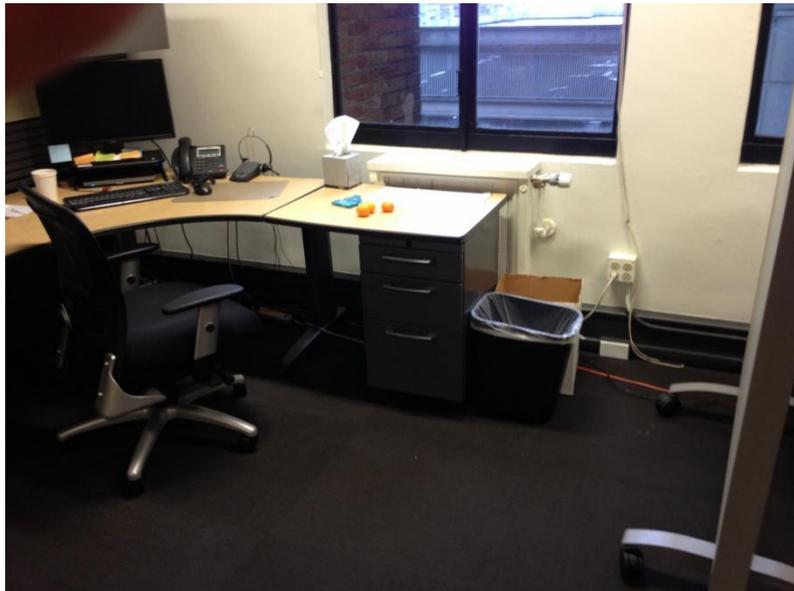
Barrier to implementation/ increased diversion	Office N=12		Restaurant N=24 <i>All buildings offered recycling and compost</i>		Retail N=25	
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
Compost Smell	5	7	4	8	11	14
Space	6	6	11	13	14	11
Price	3	9	18	6	15	10
Convenience	9	3	19	5	17	8
Aesthetics	1	11	4	20	21	4
Unnecessary	2	10	1	23	25	0



BARRIERS

Highest barriers

- **Confusion** by tenants about what goes in which bin
- Need improved **infrastructure** in offices



Recycling

Put these items in your recycling container

Paper & Cardboard



Plastic



Glass



Metal



Waste Management Business Recycling Guidelines



Clean Paper and Cardboard

Cardboard (flattened), copy paper, file folders, magazines, newspaper, brochures, envelopes (windows, paper padding OK), phone books, paperback books, catalogs, paper bags, and shredded paper (ONLY in securely tied clear plastic bags).



Paper Food Containers

Clean paper cups, milk & juice cartons, juice boxes, frozen food boxes (rinse out, no caps or lids).



Plastic Containers, Bags and Film

Plastic cups, bottles and jugs (no caps or lids), plastic jars and tubs, 5-gallon buckets, plastic plant pots and bagged plastic bags and film (clean only).



Glass Bottles and Jars

Bottles & jars (all colors and sizes) (No caps or lids, labels ok).



Aluminum, Tin Cans and Clean Scrap Metal

Aluminum & tin cans, empty non-toxic aerosols (limit 2x2x2 ft, 35 lbs). Please rinse and empty cans.



The Following Items Are Not Accepted:

Non-Accepted Paper

- Food-soiled paper towels, napkins and non-coated paper plates (oil in food waste)
- Typewritten envelopes

Non-Accepted Plastic

- Plastic clamshell containers and deli trays
- Plastic plates, utensils
- Prescription vials
- Styrofoam

Non-Accepted Glass

- Ceramics, dishes drinking glasses
- Windows, mirrors

Non-Accepted Metal

- Sharp metal or greasy items

Other Non-Accepted Items

- Clothing, shoes (donate instead)
- Electronics (recycling options: ecydewashington.org)
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes (recycling options: takeitbacknetwork.org)
- Carburetors
- Hoses
- Needles, syringes (disposal options: medwaste.wm.com)
- Toxic containers (paint, oil, antifreeze, pesticides, etc.)

Electronics, Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes and Hazardous Waste

Fluorescent bulbs and tubes, cell phones, TVs etc.), batteries and hazardous products (do not go in the recycling or garbage) information visit:

- wmnorthwest.com
- ecydewashington.org
- takeitbacknetwork.org
- lamptacker.com
- thinkgreenfromhome.com
- medwaste.wm.com
- 1-800-Recycle

Please visit wmnorthwest.com or call 1-800-592-9995



RECYCLING

Cans & Bottles



Empty Cups



Clean Plastic Containers & Large Lids



Paper & Empty Cartons



Recycling Instructions

YES - Place these items in the recycling container.

Paper & Cardboard	Plastics	Metal	Glass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean paper and mail (include window envelopes OK) Magazines, brochures and flyers Shredded paper in paper bags (no cartons) Flattened cardboard (size limit: 3x3) Milk cartons and juice boxes (rinse and empty) Frozen food boxes (liner removed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic bottles, jugs and jars* (water, pop, milk) Plastic dairy tubs* (yogurt, margarine, no lids) Plastic retail bags (disposed in one plastic bag, tied securely) Plastic film, shrinkwrap, bubblewrap (disposed in one plastic bag, tied securely) Empty & Rinse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum cans (rinsed) Tin cans (rinsed) Scrap metal (max size: 2x2, 35 lbs. No greasy parts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottles & jars (rinsed, no lids)

NO! - Place these items in the garbage.

aerosol cans • batteries • carbon paper • CDs • ceramics or dishes • detergent boxes • diapers • empty motor oil containers • greasy car parts • lids or bottle caps • light bulbs or fluorescent lights • medical needles or "sharps" • mirrors or window glass • paper towels • plates or napkins • plastic or waxed cardboard • plastic cups, plates or containers • Styrofoam blocks or packaging peanuts • tissue or full sleeping paper • tissues or toilet paper • basic containers • soiled paper or cartons

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KEEP IT CLEAN

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seaeceptor0710



PILOT PROJECT

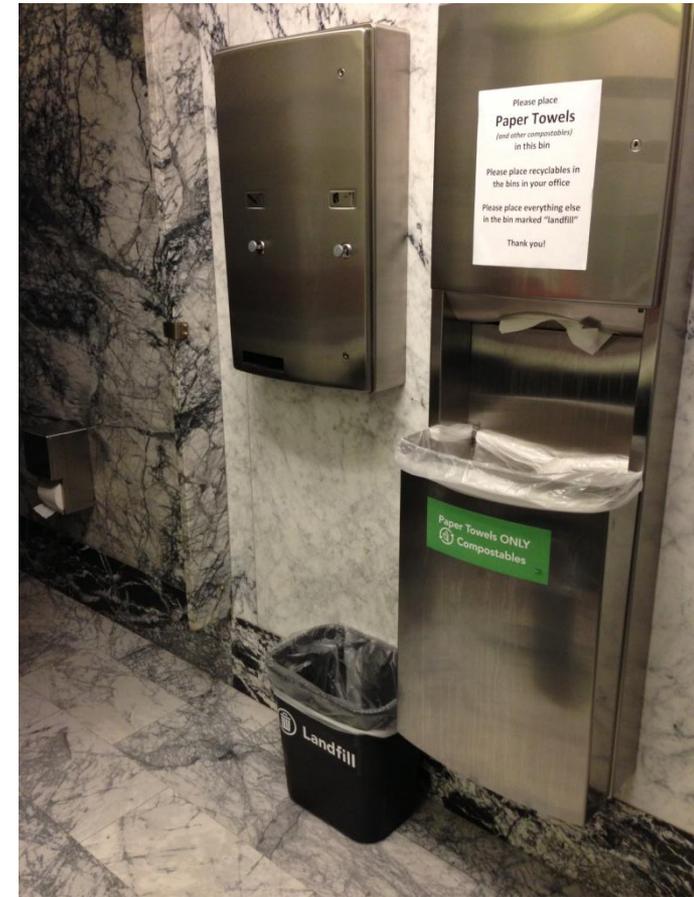
1. Landfill NOT Garbage:



2. Large compost bins NOT tiny bins:



3. Paper towel composting in bathroom:



4. Blue plastic recycling bins replacing cardboard boxes:



5. New posters:

Food+ Compostables

WHY WASTE A GOOD THING?

Food

Food-soiled Paper & Compostable Containers

Uncoated paper plates

Approved Compostable Packaging

Plant Waste

NO Metal. NO Glass.

Collection Tips

- Collect food scraps and food-soiled paper in paper or approved compostable bags, or a washable, lidded container.
- Compostable packaging must be approved.

For more information and tips, visit www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste

Seattle Public Utilities | Resource Venture | www.resourceventure.org | 206-343-8505

Recycling

RECYCLE. IT'S NOT GARBAGE ANYMORE!

Cans, Bottles & Jars

Empty Cups

Clean Containers & Lids

Paper & Empty Cartons

Lids (wider than 3 in.)

Paper food containers must be rinsed clean

NO Food. NO Liquids.

Empty & Clean Recyclables Only

- Put all recyclables loose in the recycling bin.
- All recyclable food containers must be rinsed clean.

Seattle Public Utilities | Resource Venture | www.resourceventure.org | 206-343-8505

Garbage

PURCHASE LESS ... WASTE LESS

Snack bags | Wrappers | Ziplock, food & single plastic bags

Condiment packages | Straws | Plastic disposable utensils

Food-soiled coated paper | Food-soiled plastic | Soiled foil | Plastic wrap

Foam containers | Ceramics & glassware (broken or unusable)

Lids, caps & tops (less than 3 in. wide) | Prescription vials | Empty toxic materials containers

NO Recyclables. NO Compostables.

STOP

THINK

Sort

Packaging Must be Clean to be Recyclable

Recyclable	Garbage
Clean!	Dirty!

Seattle Public Utilities | Resource Venture | www.resourceventure.org | 206-343-8505

Seattle Tower Pilot Project

- 27 floors
- 4 methods:
 1. No change at all on the floor



Paper towel composting in restrooms + big compost

bin in kitchen + no trashbin at desk:

2. Cardboard recycling box at desk
3. Blue plastic bin at desk
4. No bins at desk

Pre-audit and two post-audits



“Landfill” bin

Findings from Pilot

We saw significant shift in building:

↓ Landfill down from **44% to 21%** of the total waste stream for the entire building

↑ Compost up from **9% to 24%**

Overflowing compost bags in alley



Findings from Pilot

Less contamination in recycling:

- Less than **1%** on floors with improvements
- **3% and 14%** on control floors



Findings from Pilot

Blue bins or NO bins netted **tripling** of compost to landfill shift relative to cardboard boxes which **doubled** the shift



Findings from Pilot

Restroom **composting paper towels**
caught on quickly



Findings from Pilot

Coffee cups in wrong bins:

Coffee cup



Take-Home Messages

- Blue plastic bins (or no bins) work best
- Big compost bins in kitchens
- Need coffee cup clarity
- Move to bans on recyclables (2014) and compostables (2016) in landfill waste stream

To see report:

www.zerowasteseattle.org



CBRE

Opportunity: Bathroom towels

- Cedar Grove:
 - Protocol that they have to sign off on. For example: People who are diabetic (have to use sharps) – sharps container and a trash container readily available with sign.
 - Program has been going very well.
- The paper towels are a good source of carbon in compost recipe.
- The paper towels actually help absorb some of the liquid coming in from the wet food waste.



Restroom Paper Towel Compost Program



1. It's an Easy No Cost/Low Cost Solution!
2. It may reduce your waste stream up to 20%.
3. Composting is less expensive than waste.

Flat Fees v. Price per Ton

No Tax on Composting



CBRE



NOTICE SOMETHING NEW?

CBRE

Paper towels are compostable. Please use the restroom bin labeled Paper Towels ONLY.



Everything else goes in the bin labeled Landfill.



WIN THE NEW iPad!

Battle of the Floors WASTE COMPETITION

March 19th – April 19th
STOP, THINK, SORT!

Stop, Think & Sort your waste into the proper compost, recycle or garbage containers. Random waste audits will be conducted per floor during the month long competition.

The floor which reduces their garbage the most will be the winner!



All names on the winning floor will be entered into a drawing on Friday, April 20th.

Prizes include:

The New iPad

1 Year of FREE Fitness Center Membership

PRIZE DRAWING ON APRIL 20th!