

Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination

Presented At: ILCSWMA Annual Conference, Nov. 1, 2018

Presented By: Walter S. Willis, SWALCO

And

James Jennings, IEPA

Goals of the Task Force

- Develop and disseminate consistent messaging to residential recycling participants
 - To reduce contamination and processing costs
 - To improve marketability of residential recyclables
- Increase participation in residential recycling programs (both curbside and drop-off)

Objectives of the Task Force

- Create a baseline of current contamination rates at MRFs to measure programmatic impacts
- Agree on a general list of acceptable and non-acceptable items and the most effective way to communicate the information to residents
- Develop a statewide education campaign and a way to fund it
- Increase efforts to monitor contamination at the point of collection (cart tagging programs)

Task Force Members

- Approximately 32 people representing 22 organizations
 - Waste Industry – SWANA-IL, NWRA-IL, WM, Waste Connections/Groot, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Republic, Homewood Disposal, Peoria Disposal Co.
 - MRF operators/recyclers – Resource Management, Republic, Waste Connections/Groot, WM, Midwest Fiber, Homewood Disposal, Eagle Enterprises, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Peoria Disposal Co., IRA
 - Government – IEPA, ILCSWMA, IL PSC, USEPA, SWANCC, SWALCO, Metro Mayors, West Cook SWA, City of Chicago, Cook County

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #1, June 6, 2018, Grayslake MRF
 - Co-Chairs, Lisa Disbrow (NWRA-IL) and Walter Willis (SWANA-IL) reviewed the goals of the Task Force
 - Discussed Task Force Objectives document to gain consensus on goals, objectives and potential action items for the Task Force
- Action Items:
 - Agreed to meet a second time and focus on developing consensus on new, more simplified guidelines, and discussing best practices for recycling cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #2, July 16, 2018, IEPA's Springfield Office
 - Each MRF indicated which items it does and doesn't accept, and listed top 5 contaminants
 - Reviewed numerous existing recycling guidelines and how to best disseminate new guidelines
 - Discussed best practices for curbside cart tagging programs
- Action Items:
 - Prepare draft recycling guidelines and cart tag guidelines (Walter Willis)
 - Develop a draft press release (Lisa Disbrow)
 - Develop a draft video script (Marta Keane)
 - Prepare a draft short term marketing/communications strategy (Jennifer Jarland)

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #3, August 29, 2018, Prairie View RDF in Will County
 - Reviewed the “Action Item” documents including recycling guidelines, cart tag guidelines, marketing/communications strategy, press release and video scripts
 - Information provided on Round Lake Beach’s cart tagging program
 - Presentation on IEPA’s website development/proposal
- Action Items:
 - Make minor revisions to recycling guidelines and update press release
 - Prepare a cover letter, with a checklist of “to do” tasks for America Recycles Day launch
 - Have IEPA and IL Dept. of Innovation and Technology continue development of website, and use DuPage County as a case study for presenting more detailed information

CAN I RECYCLE THESE IN LAKE COUNTY?

YES!



METAL

PAPER

- ✓ CLEAN & EMPTY
- ✓ NOT IN BAGS



PLASTIC

GLASS



NO!



No Plastic
Bags or
Product Wrap



No Clothing,
Textiles or
Shoes



No Food,
Liquid, Diapers,
or Needles



No Tangles
(Hangers, Hoses,
Cords, or Chains)



No Big Items
(Electronics, Wood, Furniture,
Plastic, Propane Tanks or Metal)

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING

RECYCLE MORE OF THESE:

PAPER

Newspaper, Magazines, Mail, and Cardboard Boxes



Flatten

PLASTICS

Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers



Empty and Replace Caps

METAL

Aluminum
and Steel

GLASS

Bottles
and Jars



Empty, and Replace Caps

DO NOT RECYCLE:



No Plastic
Bags or
Product Wrap

No Clothing,
Textiles or
Shoes

No Big Items
(Electronics, Wood, Furniture,
Plastic, Propane Tanks or Metal)

YUCK!
No Food,
Liquid, Diapers,
or Needles

NO!
No Tangles
(Hangers, Hoses,
Cords, or Chains)

SWALCO.org

NO PLASTIC BAGS! DO NOT BAG Recyclables



Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.
Return plastic bags to retailers.

SWALCO.org

Roll Out on America Recycles Day

- The goal is to have the following information sent out by November 7th for a roll out on November 15th, America Recycles Day:
 - A cover letter will be sent to all the individuals on the Task Force and the associations they represent with a list of “to do” items for getting the new guidelines distributed via websites, social media, email blasts, etc.
 - The new guidelines with footer space to add you own logo(s)
 - A press release that announces the education effort and the IEPA’s new website, please engage with local media ASAP after receiving the press release to increase coverage by print, radio and TV media on America Recycles Day
 - The IEPA’s new website will be live on November 15th and next steps will be learning how we can optimize it for the detailed instructions many residents will want

IEPA's New Website

- To be discussed by James Jennings, IEPA

Contact Information

James Jennings, james.m.jennings@illinois.gov,
217/524-1852

Walter Willis, wwillis@Swalco.org,
847/377-4951