

Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination

Presented At: ILCSWMA's 27th Annual Conference,
October 30, 2019

Presented By: Walter S. Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake
County and SWANA-IL Board Member

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 and fund a statewide education campaign
- 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, WMI, Waste Connections/Groot, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Republic, Homewood Disposal, Peoria Disposal Co.
 - MRF operators/recyclers – Resource Management, WMI, Waste Connections/Groot, 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, Chicago, Cook County

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #1, June 6, 2018, Grayslake MRF
 - Conducted tour of MRF prior to meeting
 - 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
 - Agreed second meeting should focus on developing consensus on new, more simplified recycling guidelines and discussing best practices for cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #2, July 16, 2018, IEPA's Springfield Office
 - Using The Recycling Partnership's Acceptable Materials Worksheet, 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

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #2, Action Items
 - Prepare draft recycling guidelines and cart tag guidelines (Walter Willis)
 - Contact The Recycling Partnership to better understand its services (Mary Allen)
 - Develop a draft press release regarding the work of the Task Force and new guidelines (Lisa Disbrow)
 - Develop a draft video script on the not acceptable items (Marta Keane)
 - Prepare a draft short term marketing/communications strategy on how to best release the new guidelines and video on a statewide basis (Jennifer Jarland)
 - Provide any updates on state and federal funding options (James Jennings and Chris Newman)

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #3, August 24, 2018, Prairie View RDF in Will County
 - Reviewed the “Action Items” 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
 - Discussed best practices for curbside cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #3, Action Items
 - Make minor revisions to recycling guidelines
 - Prepare a cover letter, with a checklist of “to do” tasks, to be sent along with guidelines to numerous entities throughout the state, shooting for America Recycles Day launch
 - Update the press release
 - 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
 - Consider holding webinar for local government and their IT staff on the IEPA’s website platform

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #4, January 9, 2019, SWANCC Office
 - Reviewed our coordinated education effort on America Recycles Day
 - Began discussions to get MRFs to complete the survey on acceptable/non-acceptable items (using The Recycling Partnerships survey as the model)
 - Began discussions to develop a video for the upcoming Earth Day 2019
 - Continued discussions of cart tagging, the IEPA's website enhancement and legislation

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #5, March 12, 2019, Prairie View RDF
 - Discussed MRF survey which IEPA completed, and how best to connect the MRF data to individual towns and counties
 - Discussed best practices for cart tagging, formed a subcommittee to research BPs and to compile in document
 - This was completed and is available
 - Assembled team to develop script and prepare video on proper curbside recycling
 - This was completed and is available
 - Discussed plans for education push on Earth Day using new video

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #6, June 20, 2019, Village Links of Glen Ellyn
 - Task Force decided to put the development of the MRF database and IEPA website build out on hold
 - Presentation from Ohio EPA and The Recycling Partnership on cart tagging programs
 - Decided to start a series on the “Dirty Dozen” of recycling contaminants to be developed by Task Force members and sent out via social media, etc. (this is ongoing)
 - Discussed lithium battery issue as possible new focus of the Task Force

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)**

To find out what you can do with items not accepted in your recycling cart, including other recycling and reuse programs, visit swalco.org, or contact SWALCO at 847.366.9340.
Published June 2018



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 <small>(Electronics, Wood, Furniture, Plastic, Propane Tanks or Metal)</small> |
|  No Food, Liquid, Diapers, or Needles |  No Tangles <small>(Hangers, Mosses, Cords, or Chains)</small> | |

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

Questions and Contact Information

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