The Carrot and The Cart

Recycling Right

Tactics and Tools for Effective Residential Outreach

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Overview

Tactics and Tools for Effective Residential Outreach

Background

Research

Pilots and Programs

Lessons Learned





Program Design Evolution

Using Social Marketing for effective outreach

- Applying the scientific method to recycling education
- We want to change what people do, not what they think
- Understand the barriers and motivators
- Peer-to-peer engagement
- Measure results, not outputs



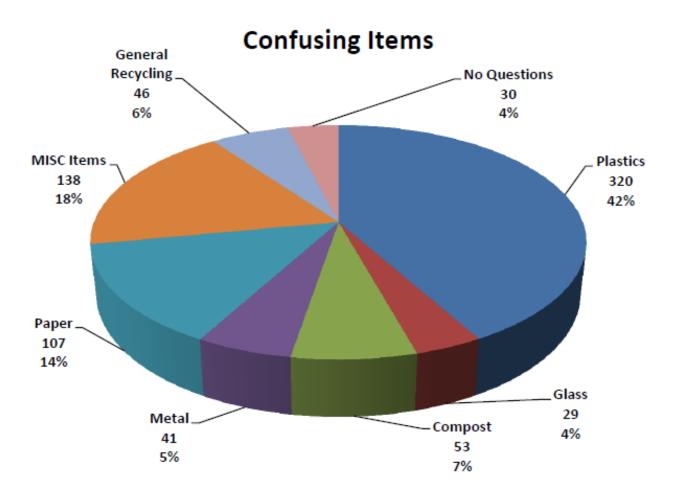
WM Customer Recycling Survey

Understanding residential recycling



WM Customer Recycling Survey

Improving Recycling Education Tools





Applying Survey Learnings

Inspiring questions at events Recycling Information Station THINK GREEN:

Applying Survey Learnings

Addressing specific questions

RECYCLING MYTH BUSTERS

MYTH: All plastics can be recycled.

FACT: Not all plastics can be successfully recycled. At this time only <u>some</u> plastics can be made into new things. **Recycle plastics by shape - bottles, jugs, dairy tubs and cups.**



MYTH: A recycling symbol stamped on plastic means it is recyclable.

FACT:

- There are thousands
 of plastic products and
 packaging, and each one has
 its own unique chemical recipe.
- The number only tells us what the primary ingredient is in the plastic recipe. Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time.

MYTH: It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling — the recycling center will sort everything anyway.

FACT: False.

- There is a lot of garbage sent to the recycling center, and each non-recyclable item is removed by hand by trained staff.
- Garbage placed in the recycling increases the cost of the recycling process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling service.

Garbage and Other Things We Find in the in Recycling

- loose plastic bags
- hoses
- light bulbs
- needles
- toys
- hangers
- straws
- snack wrappers
- cleaning wipes
- food-soiled containers and paper
- non-recyclable plastic

We're here to help!

When in doubt, check your Recycling Guide, call the Waste Management Customer Service Center or email recycling experts at **recyclenw@wm.com**.



WM Incentive-Based Programs

Presentation Overview

- Goals
- Target Audience
- Metrics
- Results
- Lessons Learned





Goal: Increase residential waste diversion and community engagement







The metrics

- Initially measured improvement in diversion rate
- Adjusted metrics to:
 - reduction in garbage tons
 - community outreach activities





Engaging Community

"I love recycling, because...

- it fulfills an ancient wisdom."
- it helps me remember that we're all part of an interconnected whole."
- it **helps our children learn** how to be better inhabitants."
- it keeps us connected to what we make things out of!"
- even "trash" can have a second chance at life on this planet."
- it makes garbage day classier & more sophisticated."



Engaging Community



Engaging Community





Engaging Community



Rewarding Diversion and Outreach

Improved diversion by 1.65%
Engaged 8 of 10 communities
Donated money to 37 non-profits
Completed 127 outreach activities

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Diversion Rate | 64.76% | 64.77% | 65.84% | 66.41% |
| Outreach Activities | _ | 15 | 21 | 127 |
| Active Partners | - | 1 or 2 | 4 | 8 |



Lessons learned

- Look for opportunities to collaborate
- Adjust metrics based on feedback
- Use incentives wisely





Waste Watchers

Goal: Increase residential waste diversion



Waste Watchers

Increasing engagement

Year 1

Target Audience: residential families, less engaged recyclers

Outreach Strategy: collect pledges at events and online (through city promotion)

Incentive: save on garbage bill

Actual Audience: engaged recyclers

Number of Pledges: 129

Downsized Carts: 17

Waste Reduced: 14,000 gal/week

Year 2

Target Audience: residential families with kids

Outreach Strategy: collect pledges online (through city promotion)

Incentive: receiving a lunch kit

Actual Audience: residential families with kids

Number of pledges: over 1200

Number of kits used: still coming

Waste Reduced: still coming

Waste Watchers

Lessons learned

 Collaboration always strengthens a program

 Adjust the metrics based on results and feedback

 Match the incentive to target audience





Goal: Reduce non-recyclables and engage community









The metrics

- Event registration
- Workshop attendance
- Event attendance
- Pounds of recyclables collected





The 2013 results

- More than 450 residents attended
- 50 families received \$3,000 in prizes
- Residents dropped materials to be recycled:
 - 9,200 pounds of documents to be shredded
 - 103 pounds of unwanted or expired prescription drugs
 - 11 cubic yards (210 pounds) of foam blocks
 - 6 car seats (reused) and 22 car seats (recycled)





Lessons learned

- Most people want to do the right thing and appreciate the opportunity to learn
- Direct feedback to customers on their recyclables is a strong teaching tool
- People want to share their experience with others
- Very effective program. We would add a follow up random audit of their recycling at the curb





Zero Waste Partnership Kits

Goal: Increase participation for residential curbside composting service





Zero Waste Partnership Kits

The metrics and results

- Customers without compost service:
 21,761 out of 42,682
- Customers who sign-up for a new compost service receive a Compost Kit
- 500 new compost service sign-ups





Zero Waste Partnership Kits

Lessons learned

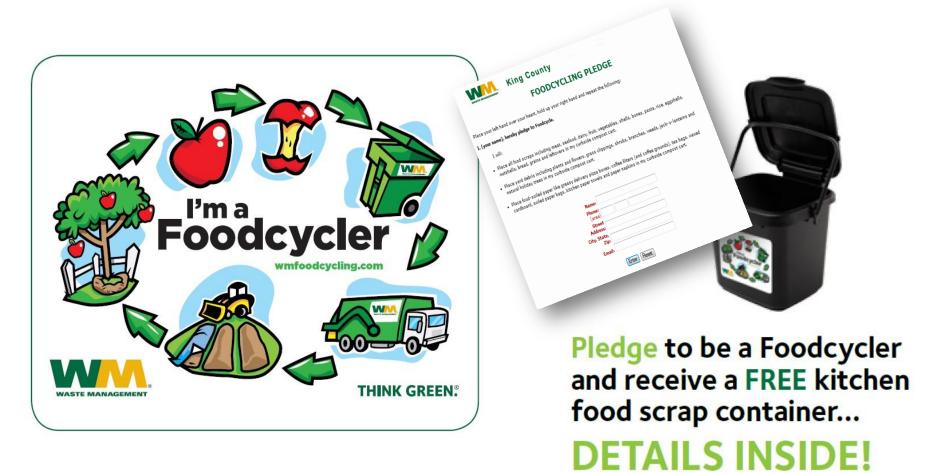
Providing tools that directly incentivize the intended behavior increases participation





Foodcycler Pledge

Goal: Increase diversion through composting





Foodcycler Pledge Engaging community



Foodcycler Pledge Engaging community





Foodcycler Pledge

Engaging community



Foodcycler Pledge

Lessons learned



- Build momentum into your program - plan to keep community engaged
- For scaling, test out the best mechanism for tool delivery
- Be aware of what you promise



Recycle Often. Recycle Right.SM

National campaign





Recycle Often. Recycle Right.SM

Key messages



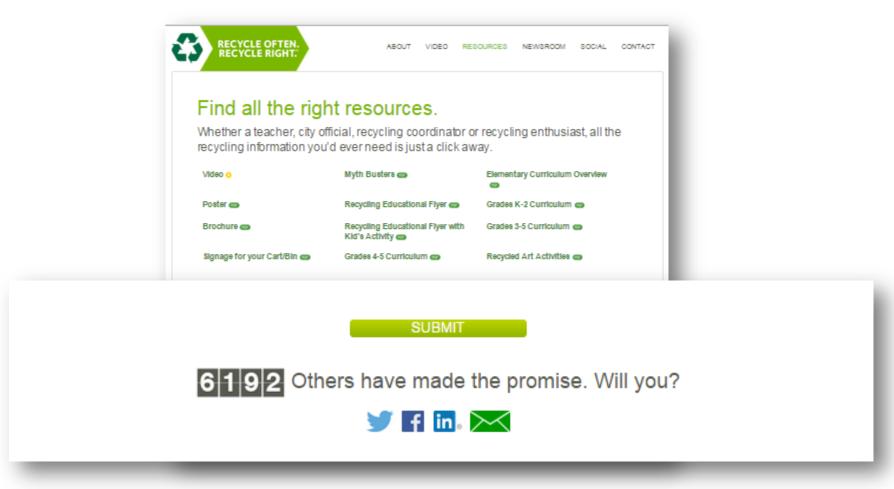
Plastic bottles can turn into clothing Aluminum cans can turn into new ones in 60 days Today's news can become a new cereal box





Recycle Often. Recycle Right.SM

WM open-source resources





More Resources

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