Recycling Coordinator Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather information from the administrators of curbside recycling in the sampled communities. The survey is divided into three sections. Section I applies to all communities. Section II applies to communities that currently have a curbside recycling program. Section III applies to communities that do not currently have a curbside recycling program.

Section I. General Questions

1. What is the name of your community? What state is it located in?

2. Do you work for the Public Works department? If no, what organization do you work for? What is title of your position?

3. Does your community have centralized drop-off facilities? Describe the nature of the facilities.

   • Note 1: If the community does not have centralized drop-off facilities, then skip to question 4.
   • Note 2: Drop-off facilities are all public, private or non-profit operations that accept recyclable materials.

   • Note: Make sure the following questions have been answered.

      a. Approximately how many drop-off facilities are located within the city?

      b. What types of materials are currently collected at the drop-off facilities?

      c. Do residents currently receive money from the sale of their recyclables at any of these facilities? If so, which items can they receive money for?

4. Does your community dispose of its solid waste in a landfill located within your county or does it transport the waste to another location outside of your county? If your solid waste is transported outside of your county, then to where is it shipped and by which transport method (i.e. rail, truck, ship, etc.)?

END OF SECTION I
Section II. Communities That Currently Have a Curbside Recycling Program

5. How many years has the community in which you currently work been serviced by a curbside recycling program?

• Note: By “a curbside recycling program” we also mean the years during which the community might have had a curbside recycling program in place before the current one.

6. Please describe the nature and history of the current recycling program.

• Note: Make sure the following questions have been answered.

   a. Type of collection system used (e.g., split cart, separate cart, coded bags, etc.)?

   b. Mandatory or voluntary participation of households?

   c. Recyclable materials that are collected in the curbside program?

   d. Are green waste items collected?

   e. Frequency of collection (e.g., weekly, bi-weekly, etc.)?

   f. Privately or publicly operated (e.g., private contractor collects and processes materials, or city’s public works department does, etc.)?

   g. Curbside recycling program administered on community or county level?

   h. How household participation is monitored and enforced?

   i. Pay-as-you-throw rate structure? If so, then what is the pricing schedule (e.g., rate for 30-gallon container, 50-gallon container, 80-gallon container, etc.).
j. Have any studies (e.g., by an outside consulting firm) been made of your community’s waste management system? If yes, did the studies include a survey of recycling and/or solid-waste management issues?

k. Have any ballot initiatives in favor of adopting curbside recycling been conducted in the community?

l. Are there any state-mandated recycling goals that the community is required to reach?

9. What is the current household fee for the curbside recycling program?

   • Note: Make sure to distinguish between a monthly, quarterly or annual fee.

10. Which method is currently used to collect the household fee for curbside recycling (e.g., monthly charge on utilities bill, annual tax levy, etc.)

11. In most years, have the revenues from the curbside recycling program covered the costs?
Section III. Communities That Currently Do Not Have a Curbside Recycling Program

12. Please describe in detail the history and current status of curbside recycling advocacy in your community.

• Note: Make sure the following questions are answered.

  a. Have any studies (e.g., by an outside consulting firm) been made of your community’s waste management system? If yes, did the studies include a survey of recycling and/or solid-waste management issues?

  b. Have any ballot initiatives in favor of adopting curbside recycling been conducted in the community?

  c. Are there any state-mandated recycling goals that the community is required to reach?

13. What are the main reasons that have prevented your community from adopting a curbside recycling program?