

Generic Municipal Recycling Accountability & Transparency Ordinance

Supporting Transparency and Accountability Regarding Recyclable Materials

WHEREAS, Arkansas, The Natural State, made a commitment to recycle with ACT 749 of 1991 requiring every state agency, college or university, county, city and public school have in-house recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, The Arkansas House of Representatives made a commitment regarding recycling accountability and transparency in 2013 with HR 1043.

WHEREAS Arkansas citizens and businesses are vital in protecting our natural resources and in the success of promoting reduction and reuse as well as reducing litter, and proper disposal of garbage, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste and the recycling of various materials such as batteries, paper, plastic, cardboard, and metals; and

WHEREAS, municipal recycling programs designate various types of materials to be separated from the waste stream with the intent that these materials will be recycled; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arkansas recognize that materials are not truly recycled until they are made into a new product and returned to the market place; and

WHEREAS, a public trust exists when Arkansas citizens participate in municipal or county recycling programs and these citizens rightfully expect that materials collected will in fact be recycled; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the materials collected for recycling by municipal or private companies contracted by government entities are **not** being recycled, either because collected materials are contaminated or there is no economically viable market for the materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the Natural State deserve transparency and accountability regarding the ultimate destination of their collected recyclable material, whether collected by a government entity or a private company and deserve transparency and accountability regarding the percentage of collected recyclable materials being diverted to landfills, used as landfill cover, or burned in an incinerator or waste-to-energy (WTE) facility.

WHEREAS, it would be a lie to tell citizens that recycling is free. There are costs involved with recycling just as there are costs in collecting garbage such as trucks, fuel, employee salaries, insurance, equipment capital, maintenance, workers compensation, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF _____, Arkansas the following will be required via contractual agreement of the entity, whether private or public, that collects, processes, and/or sells recyclables for our community:

1. To have a recycling accountability and transparency clause in the contract which permits access to facilities, allowing citizens the opportunity to view the loads of recyclable materials.
2. That all trucks carrying recyclable materials be equipped with global positioning systems (GPS) so citizens can see in real time the location of the trucks, thus being assured recycles are **not** going to a landfill or incinerator, but rather to a recycling facility that will bale and sell them to be made into new products.
3. Recycling facilities shall be equipped so there is real time camera coverage of all recycling trucks dumping their contents, making it possible for citizens to see in real time and clearly what exactly is being dumped.
4. Billing for waste and recycle services, whether public or private, shall clearly denote the cost of recycling, separate from the cost of waste collection. To this end, recycling and waste collection shall be listed as separate line items.
5. Quarterly reports will be posted on the city website accounting for the volumes collected, as well as the volumes recycled, as well as the buyer for each material.