

Draft Generic Municipal
Recycling Transparency/Accountability Ordinance

WHEREAS, citizens and businesses are vital in protecting our natural resources and in the success of promoting reduction, reuse, minimizing litter, and proper disposal of garbage, tires, household hazardous waste, etc. and the recycling of various materials such as batteries, electronics, food waste, glass, metals, paper, plastic, textiles, etc. and

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

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

WHEREAS, a public trust exists when citizens participate in 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 are owed transparency and accountability regarding the ultimate destination of their collected recyclable material, (whether collected by a government entity or a private company), and are owed accurate documentation regarding the percentage of collected recyclable materials actually recycled and percentage being disposed of in landfills, or 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 maintenance, workers compensation, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE (**elected ruling body**) OF _____, the following will be required via contractual agreement of the entity that collects, processes, and/or sells recyclables for _____:

1. 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 recyclables are not going to a landfill or incinerator, or WTE facility, but rather to a recycling facility that will bale and sell them to be made into new products.
2. Recycling facilities shall show real time camera coverage of all recycling trucks dumping their contents, making it possible for citizens to see in real time both the recyclables and the contaminants. This real time coverage will educate the public about both the hazards facing recycling workers and contamination.
3. Billing for waste and recycle services, whether public or private, shall clearly denote the cost of recycling, separate from the cost of garbage collection. To this end, recycling and waste collection shall be listed as separate line items on customer bills.

4. Quarterly reports will be posted on the city website accounting for the volumes collected, volumes recycled, the buyer for each material, and the price paid for each material.
5. The quarterly report will also state the volume of contamination of each material collected.
6. Trucks shall have a separate compartment for each type recyclable, thus reducing contamination rates to 3% or less, thereby ensuring end-users with high quality feed stock, thus increasing the price for each material collected.
7. The only recyclables that are collected are those for which there are two proven secure, domestic markets.

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