

DRAFT

Municipal Recycling Transparency & Accountability Ordinance

Supporting Transparency & Accountability Regarding Recyclable Materials

WHEREAS, (your city or state) citizens and businesses are vital in protecting our natural resources by successfully promoting reduction, reuse, minimizing litter, and proper disposal of garbage, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, etc. and the recycling of various materials such as batteries, cardboard, electronic waste, food waste, glass, metals, paper, plastic, etc.; (the “Recyclables”) 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 (your city or state) recognize that materials are **not** recycled until they are made into a new product and returned to the marketplace; and,

WHEREAS, public trust exists when (your city or state) citizens participate in recycling programs and these citizens rightfully expect that materials collected will in fact be recycled; and returned to the marketplace for resale; 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 (your city or state) deserve transparency & 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 each type collected recyclable material being disposed of in landfills, or used as landfill cover, or burned in an incinerator or waste-to-energy (“WTE”) facility; and,

WHEREAS, it is untruthful to tell citizens that recycling is free since there are costs involved with recycling such as trucks, tires, fuel, employee salaries, insurance, equipment and facility capital, equipment, facility maintenance, and workers compensation, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ (governing body) OF _____, (your city or state) that the following will be required via contractual agreement of the entity, whether private or public, that collects, processes, and/or sells recyclables for (your community):

1. The only Recyclables collected are those for which two proven, domestic markets have been secured and verified.
2. The collection methods used shall maintain the value and marketability of all Recyclables, thereby ensuring that end-users receive only high-quality feed stock for which they will pay top dollar.

3. Billing for garbage and recycling services, whether public or private, shall clearly denote the cost of recycling, separate from the cost of garbage collection. To this end, **recycling and garbage collection shall be listed as separate line items**. Customer bills will list these costs, recycling and garbage, as **separate line items with separate fees**.
4. Quarterly reports will be posted on the city website, accounting for the volumes collected, contaminated volumes of each type recyclable collected, the volumes or tonnage of each type recyclable actually sold for remanufacturing, destination and product produced from each type recyclable collected.
5. Unannounced visitation to Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) by citizens as well as elected officials or staff shall be allowed so processing procedures can be witnessed by any interested party in real time.
6. Recycling facilities shall provide real-time camera coverage of all recycling trucks dumping their contents, showing citizens in real time both the recyclables and the contaminants.
7. All trucks collecting recyclable materials shall be equipped with global positioning systems (GPS) so citizens can track the routes of the trucks, thus validating that recyclables are **not** going to a landfill or incinerator or Waste-to-Energy facility, but rather to a recycling facility that will bale and sell them to be made into new products.