

Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination

Presented At: SWANA-IL 2018 Fall Workshop, Oct. 12, 2018

Presented By: Lisa Disbrow, Waste Management of Illinois
Inc. and NWRA-IL Chapter Vice-Chair

Walter S. Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and
SWANA-IL Board Member

Goals of the Task Force

- Develop and disseminate consistent messaging to residential recycling participants
 - To reduce contamination and processing costs
 - To improve marketability of residential recyclables
- Increase participation in residential recycling programs (both curbside and drop-off)

Objectives of the Task Force

- Create a baseline of current contamination rates at MRFs to measure programmatic impacts
- Agree on a general list of acceptable and non-acceptable items and the most effective way to communicate the information to residents
- Develop and how to fund a statewide education campaign
- Monitor contamination at the point of collection (cart tagging programs)

Task Force Members

- Approximately 32 people representing 22 organizations
 - Waste Industry – SWANA-IL, NWRA-IL, WM, Waste Connections/Groot, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Republic, Homewood Disposal, Peoria Disposal Co.
 - MRF operators/recyclers – Resource Management, Republic, Waste Connections/Groot, WM, Midwest Fiber, Homewood Disposal, Eagle Enterprises, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Peoria Disposal Co., IRA
 - Government – IEPA, ILCSWMA, IL PSC, USEPA, SWANCC, SWALCO, Metro Mayors, West Cook SWA, City of Chicago, Cook County

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #1, June 6, 2018, Grayslake MRF
 - Conducted tour of MRF prior to meeting
 - Co-Chairs, Lisa Disbrow (NWRA-IL) and Walter Willis (SWANA-IL) reviewed the goals of the Task Force
 - Discussed Task Force Objectives document to gain consensus on goals, objectives and potential action items for the Task Force
 - Agreed second meeting should focus on developing consensus on new, more simplified recycling guidelines and discussing best practices for cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #2, July 16, 2018, IEPA's Springfield Office
 - Using The Recycling Partnership's Acceptable Materials Worksheet, each MRF indicated which items it does and doesn't accept, and listed top 5 contaminants
 - Reviewed numerous existing recycling guidelines and how to best disseminate new guidelines
 - Discussed best practices for curbside cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #2, Action Items
 - Prepare draft recycling guidelines and cart tag guidelines (Walter Willis)
 - Contact The Recycling Partnership to better understand its services (Mary Allen)
 - Develop a draft press release regarding the work of the Task Force and new guidelines (Lisa Disbrow)
 - Develop a draft video script on the not acceptable items (Marta Keane)
 - Prepare a draft short term marketing/communications strategy on how to best release the new guidelines and video on a statewide basis (Jennifer Jarland)
 - Provide any updates on state and federal funding options (James Jennings and Chris Newman)

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #3, August 29, 2018, Prairie View RDF in Will County
 - Reviewed the “Action Items” documents including recycling guidelines, cart tag guidelines, marketing/communications strategy, press release and video scripts
 - Information provided on Round Lake Beach’s cart tagging program
 - Presentation on IEPA’s website development/proposal
 - Discussed best practices for curbside cart tagging programs

Overview of Task Force Meetings

- Meeting #3, Action Items
 - Make minor revisions to recycling guidelines
 - Prepare a cover letter, with a checklist of “to do” tasks, to be sent along with guidelines to numerous entities throughout the state, shooting for America Recycles Day launch
 - Update the press release
 - Have IEPA and IL Dept. of Innovation and Technology continue development of website, and use DuPage County as a case study for presenting more detailed information
 - Consider holding webinar for local government and their IT staff on the IEPA’s website platform

CAN I RECYCLE THESE IN LAKE COUNTY?

YES!



METAL

PAPER

- ✓ CLEAN & EMPTY
- ✓ NOT IN BAGS



PLASTIC

GLASS



NO!



No Plastic
Bags or
Product Wrap



No Clothing,
Textiles or
Shoes



No Food,
Liquid, Diapers,
or Needles



No Tangles
(Hangers, Hoses,
Cords, or Chains)



No Big Items
(Electronics, Wood, Furniture,
Plastic, Propane Tanks or Metal)

To find out what you can do with items not accepted in your recycling cart, including other recycling and reuse programs, visit swalco.org, or contact SWALCO at 847.366.9340.
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THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING

RECYCLE MORE OF THESE:

PAPER

Newspaper, Magazines, Mail, and Cardboard Boxes



Flatten

PLASTICS

Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers



Empty and Replace Caps

METAL

Aluminum and Steel

GLASS

Bottles and Jars



Empty, and Replace Caps

DO NOT RECYCLE:

 No Plastic Bags or Product Wrap	 No Clothing, Textiles or Shoes	 No Big Items <small>(Electronics, Wood, Furniture, Plastic, Propane Tanks or Metal)</small>
 No Food, Liquid, Diapers, or Needles	 No Tangles <small>(Hangers, Hoses, Cords, or Chains)</small>	

SWALCO.org

NO PLASTIC BAGS! DO NOT BAG Recyclables



Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.
Return plastic bags to retailers.

SWALCO.org

Next Steps

- Schedule 4th meeting of Task Force in late October to finalize guidelines, press release and marketing/communication plan for America Recycles Day launch
 - Plan to wait for videos being developed by The Recycling Partnership on the major contaminants in recycling
- Continue working with IEPA and IL Dept. of Innovation & Technology on website development
 - Schedule webinar for local government on how to use the site
- Schedule additional meetings of Task Force to develop strategy and funding for a statewide campaign on recycling and reducing contamination, goal of fall 2019

Contact Information

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