BUSTING CONTAMINATION

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Two key factors that have an impact on contaminating single stream.

1. Education of the customers

2. Money

Education of the customers

Challenges

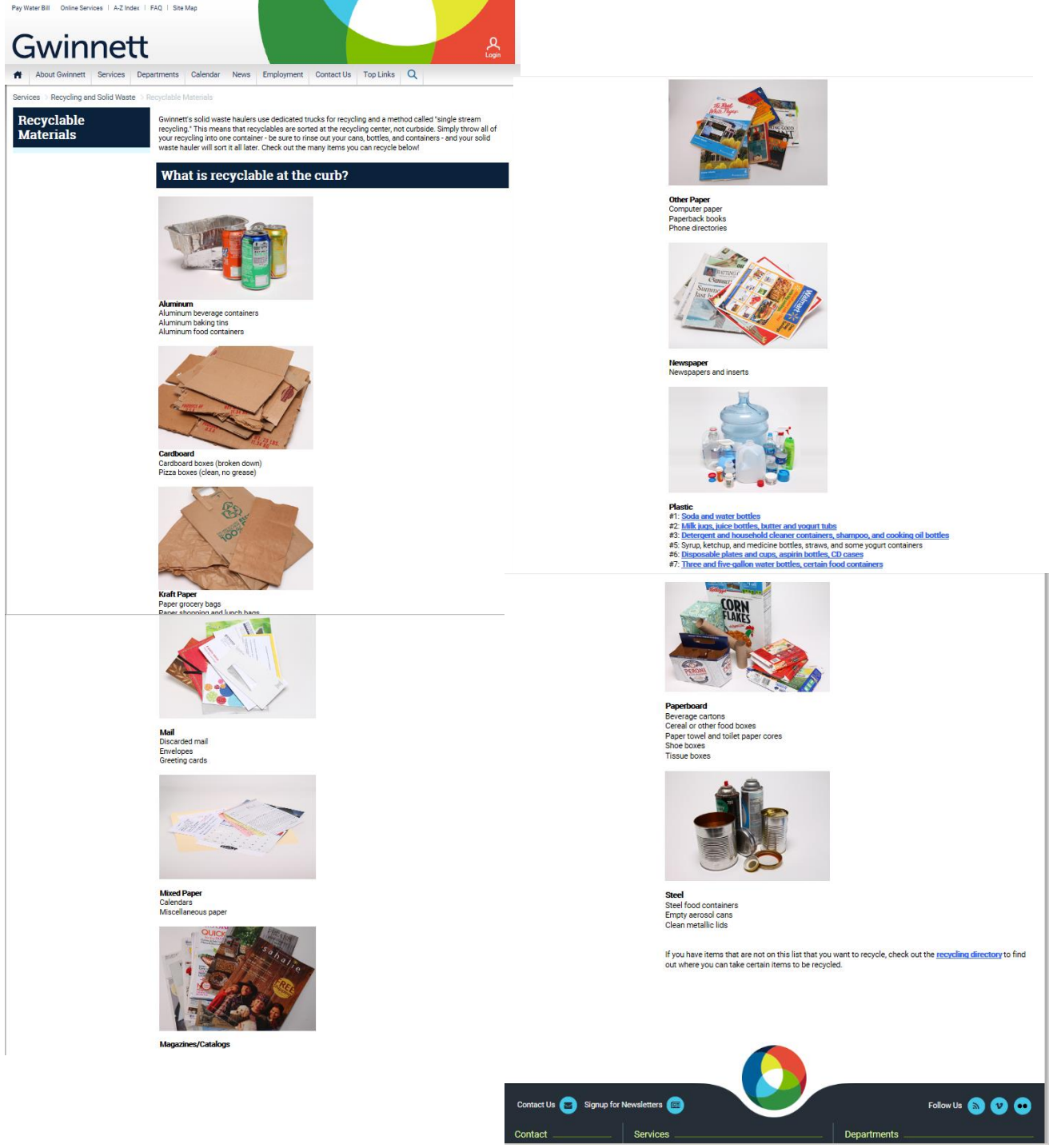
- There are so many different guidelines put out by local governments and organizations that creates so much confusion
- There are so many processing plants with different abilities to process
- Many companies advocate their products and how they are recyclable

City of Atlanta

- Glass
- Metal
- Paper
- Plastic

Gwinnett County

- Aluminum
- Cardboard
- Kraft Paper
- Mail
- Mixed Paper
- Magazines
- Other Paper
- News Paper
- Plastics (1-7)
- Paperboard
- Steel



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Recyclable Materials

Gwinnett's solid waste haulers use dedicated trucks for recycling and a method called "single stream recycling." This means that recyclables are sorted at the recycling center, not curbside. Simply throw all of your recycling into one container - be sure to rinse out your cans, bottles, and containers - and your solid waste hauler will sort it all later. Check out the many items you can recycle below!

What is recyclable at the curb?

Aluminum
Aluminum beverage containers
Aluminum baking tins
Aluminum food containers

Cardboard
Cardboard boxes (broken down)
Pizza boxes (clean, no grease)

Kraft Paper
Paper grocery bags
Paper shopping and lunch bags

Mail
Discarded mail
Envelopes
Greeting cards

Mixed Paper
Calendars
Miscellaneous paper

Magazines/Catalogs

Other Paper
Computer paper
Paperback books
Phone directories

Newspaper
Newspapers and inserts

Plastic
#1: Soda and water bottles
#2: Milk jugs, juice bottles, butter and yogurt tubs
#3: Detergent and household cleaner containers, shampoo, and cooking oil bottles
#5: Syrup, ketchup, and medicine bottles, straws, and some yogurt containers
#6: Disposable plates and cups, aspirin bottles, CD cases
#7: Three and five-gallon water bottles, certain food containers

Paperboard
Beverage cartons
Cereal or other food boxes
Paper towel and toilet paper cores
Shoe boxes
Tissue boxes

Steel
Steel food containers
Empty aerosol cans
Clean metallic lids

If you have items that are not on this list that you want to recycle, check out the recycling directory to find out where you can take certain items to be recycled.

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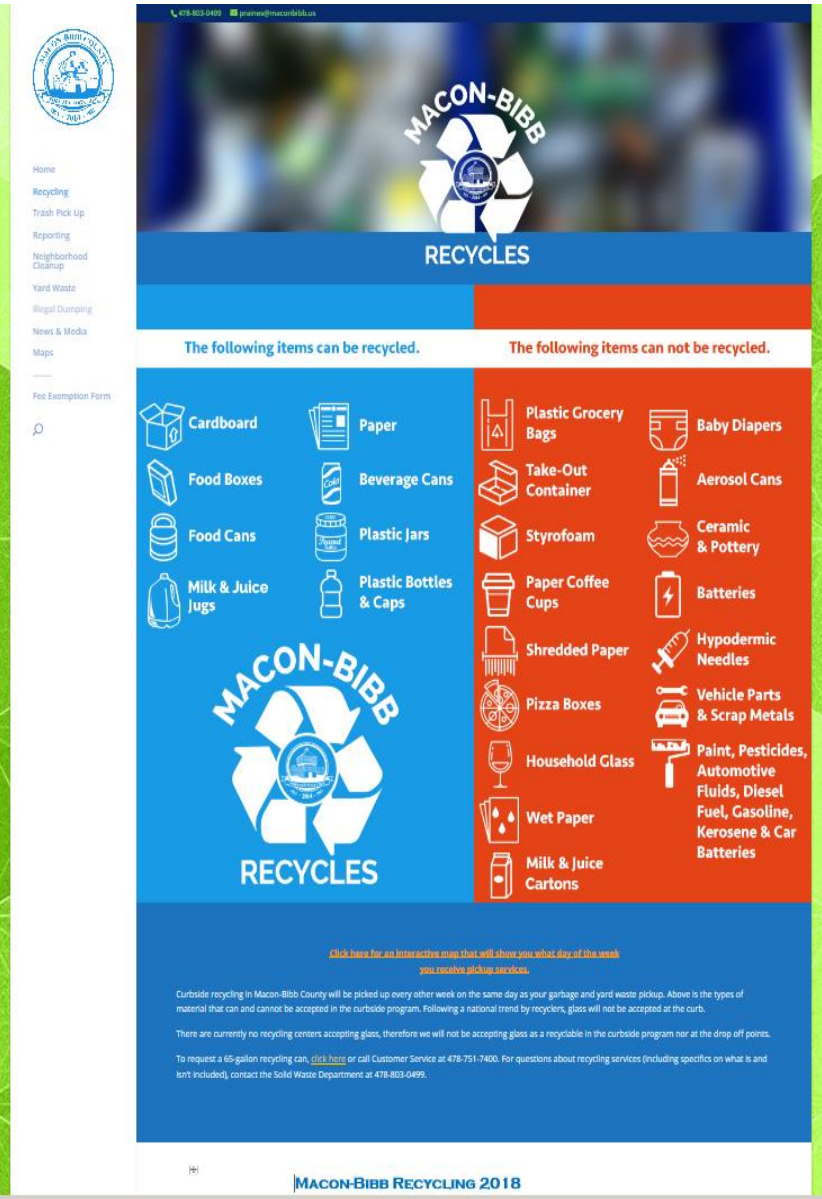
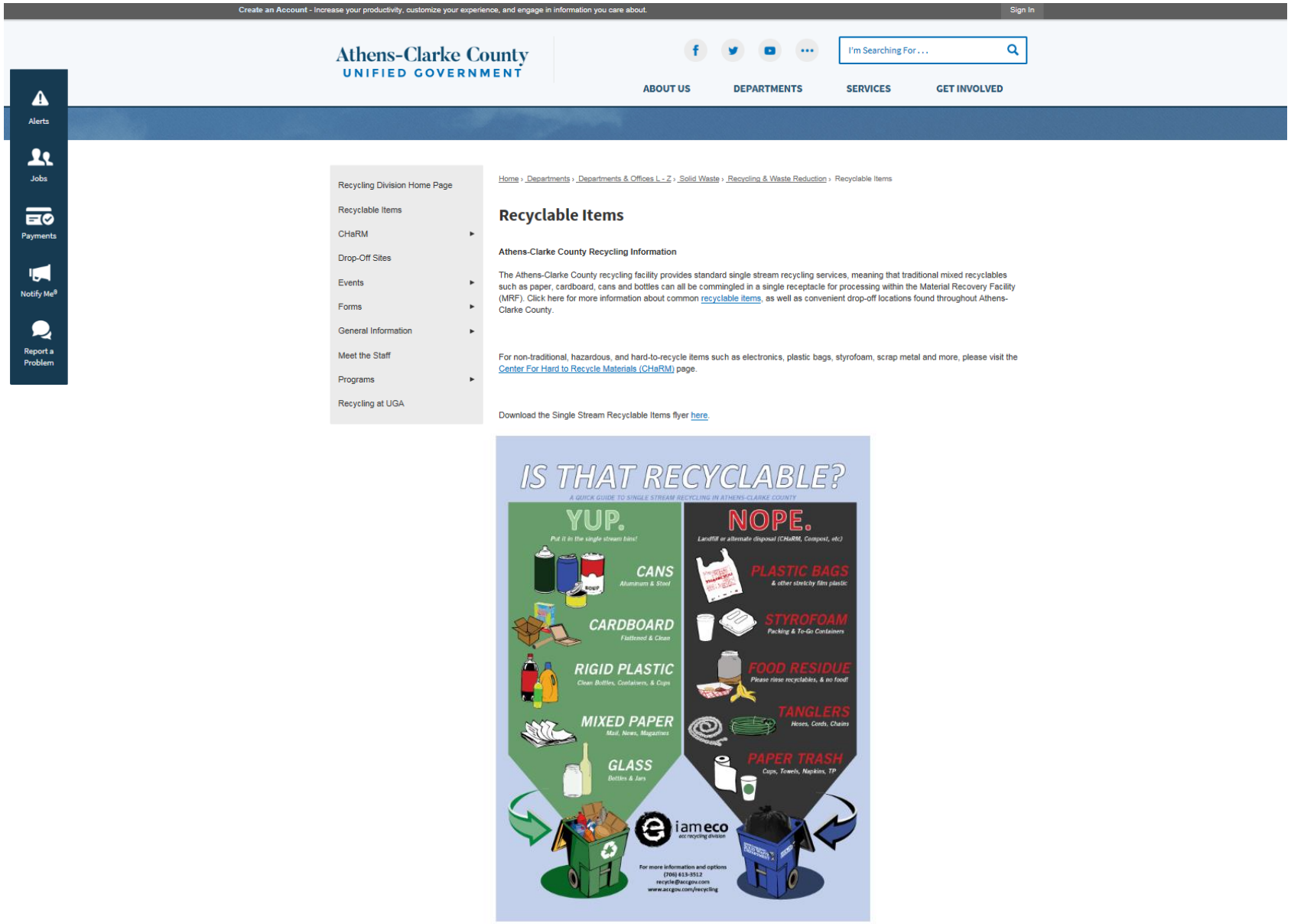
Macon - Bibb

- Cardboard
- Food Boxes
- Food Cans
- Milk Jugs
- Paper
- Beverage Cans
- Plastic Bottles &Caps



Athens-Clarke County

- Cans
- Cardboard
- Rigid Plastics
- Mixed Paper
- Glass



Each of these different local governments have very different guidelines.

None of these are wrong but you can see they are all different.

Here are some variances:

- 2 have glass (Atlanta and Athens-Clarke County)
- 3 have Dos and Don’ts (Atlanta, Macon-Bibb and Athens-Clarke County)
- Some have detailed information on types of plastics and others just plastics and one has an incorrect plastic name. (Athens-Clarke County has listed “ridged plastics” and that is a separate plastic)
- Some say empty and rinse food jugs, jars and containers

Modern MRF

Optical Sorts

Sorts color plastics, e-scrap and other small particles of plastic

Sorts office paper by color generating white ledger

Sorts brown and printed cardboard as well as contaminates from news paper grades.

Companies advocating 100% recyclable

Money

Education

- This is a great way to get the message out about recycling to of individuals, residents, and businesses
  - Websites – a preferred method and cheap
  - Mailers – depends on the mailing size and can get costly
  - Inserts – can be put into utility bills and is a cheaper method
  - Newspaper – newspapers are not as popular
  - Billboards – can be costly but great audience
  - News or Radio – can be a great public service opportunity and sometimes cheap
  - Door to door campaigns – great responses but timely

These are just some ways to educate, but these take money.

MRF expenses