Strictly Commercial

Athens-Clarke County
Solid Waste Department
Recycling Division
Joe Dunlop
• Commercial Recycling Ordinance
  • The Ordinance
  • Implementation/Reception
  • Status
  • Challenges/Successes/Surprises
• Sustainable Industry Roundtable
“It is the intent of ACC to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and disposed by undertaking aggressive source reduction and recycling activities.”
Trying to throw out less stuff

The Why

11/2010 – Waste Diversion Goals adopted, to reduce from 2010 levels:

40% by 2015
60% by 2018
75% by 2020
The How

- 9/1995 – PAYT
- 1/2009 – SWTF formed, recommended mandatory commercial recycling
- 11/2011
  - PAYT rate changes
  - SS Recycling begins
- 9/2012 CR passed
The What

- **Requirements:**
  - Provide collection infrastructure (bins)
  - Provide transport of material to processor (hauler)
  - Education – (multi-family must provide to tenants annually, and/or at new lease signing)
  - Plan filed with ACC Solid Waste Department (me)

- **Funded by Waste Minimization Fee**
  - $0.60/month residential
  - $1.60/month commercial
• Affects entities with an ACC business license – Churches, private schools, non-profit organizations
  • (ACC government offices required to recycle )
• Compliance deadline – Jan. 1, 2014
• Exemptions
  • Home offices
  • Multi-Family fewer than 5 (duplexes, quadplexes)
The ordinance does NOT require customers to:

- Pull recyclable material from the trash
- Enforce participation
- Use ACC Solid Waste Department services
- We’re not trying to poach your scrap metal, and I don’t care what you’re doing with your medical red-bag waste.

The intent is to provide those who want to recycle the opportunity to do so.

- BUT- *There must be adequate capacity for all recyclable material generated at site.*
What ACC Can Provide

- Education for customers and staff
  - Literature
  - Electronic (Web links, pdf, e-mail)
  - Tours of the MRF
- Interior Bins (sort of)
- Me
  - Presentations for staff
  - Audits/analysis
Roll-Out, Current Status

- SW Mailings in April 2013
- News, radio articles
- News, radio ad buys
- Business license renewals Dec. 2013
- 33% of businesses have an approved plan on file
Challenges

- People
  - Illegal Dumping
  - Free-standing Dumpsters
  - Contamination
- Not Enough Space
- Not Enough Containers (trash and recycling)
- Not Enough Trash Collection Service
- Older boxes configured for OCC only*
- Awareness - some haulers better than others
SMILE
You Are On
Camera
Challenges

- Confusion over specialized material streams
  - Medical/Dental
  - Auto
  - Kitchens
- Strip Malls
- Institutional kitchens
Problem Materials
- Stretch film
- EPS
- Shredded Documents
- And most recently, food – urf.
**Successes**

- Beechwood Pines Apartments – 280 residents
  - Prior to ordinance, added ACC SS carts at request of residents.
  - Now, 8 CY SS x 2
  - Average of one less compactor pull/month
- Laurel Oaks Apartments
  - Consistent Illegal Dumping/contamination resolved
- 909 Broad
  - 383 residents on 2.5 acres. Roll-Carts!
- Days Inn – Bins in every room!
Surprises

- Most seem ok with it
- Check Expectations/Assumptions at the door
- The Good
- The Bad
- The Ugly
Recycling

When the recycle bins are full, please either keep the items in your apartment until the bins are emptied or dump them down the trash chute.
Failures

- I haven’t given up on anyone yet
A 2-year-old can do it...
Sustainable Industry Roundtable

- No-cost, information-sharing group
- Quarterly meetings, tours
- ListServe
- Networking
- Material exchange
We’re Gonna Need a Bigger Truck