Public/Private Sustainability Partnership
Columbus, Georgia
Columbus Recycling

- 1994 – Initiated residential curbside pickup
  - Processing and marketing of materials in partnership with Goodwill Industries (distributed 40,000 – 18 gal. containers)
- 2008 – Goodwill terminated contract for processing due to economy
  - City pursued private contractors for processing
  - No Responses
  - City initiated basic processing operation within 6 months in cooperation with Pratt Industries, no interruption in service
  - Capacity of facility limited opportunity to promote recycling
  - Developed strategy for future operations
Recycling Strategy

- To take a leadership position on sustainability
- Divert materials from solid waste landfill through recycling to extend landfill life
- Propose development of a large capacity Regional Recycling Facility and Sustainability Educational Center to educate the public on the benefits of living more sustainable lifestyles
- Pursue private partnerships with expertise in recycling to assist with recycling operations and educational programs
- Goal of 40% diversion from landfill, current level 5.5%
Current Operation

- 2013 – Opened new $8.5 million 60,000 sq. ft. LEED Certified Recycling/Sustainability Center funded through LOST, only MRF within 100 miles

Operations
- Curbside single stream pickup – 60,000 residents (14,000, 95 gallon cans)
- 4 drop off trailers in community
- 18 apartment complexes
- 28 schools
- 6 bars and restaurants
- 4 Big Belly cans
Current Operation

- Education
  - Sustainability Educational Center
  - Exhibits
  - Programs and tours for community and school groups
  - Host annual recycling conference
- Recycling tonnage and revenues are up over 225% since opening of the new facility, projected to increase to 300-400% in FY15
- Fort Benning residential curbside program to begin in Oct.
- Additional agreement for processing are pending
- Diversion of recycling materials from landfill at current level is projected to extend the landfill life by a year
Operational Partnership

- Processing of Recyclables
- Regular Maintenance of Equipment
- Curbside Residential Pickup
- Drop of Trailers
- Apartments, Business, Schools
- Curbside Res. Pickup at Fort Benning Scheduled for Oct. 2015

- Equipment Lease & Major Maintenance
- Marketing of Recycling Services
- Sale of Recycling Material
- Annual Education Symposium
- Minimum Monthly Sales Guarantee
- Fee for Processing and Baling Services
Community Partnerships

- Pratt Industries
- Fort Benning
- Local Businesses
- Schools
- Keep Columbus Beautiful
- Auburn University
- Coca Cola Recycle and Win

City of Columbus
Paper plus cardboard COMBINED make up 73% of the materials in a LANDFILL.
Partnership Benefits

- Provides -
  - Industry expertise not available within City Govt.
  - Exposure to current industry trends
  - Exposure to additional markets
  - Additional revenue opportunities

- Reduces –
  - Taxpayer capital investment
  - Taxpayer financial risk

- Provides community with expanded and improved services
“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

—Native American Proverb.