BMPs for Public Space Recycling Collection

Athens Clarke County, GA
Solid Waste Department
Joe Dunlop
Waste Reduction Administrator
• ‘For 85% of people, recycling is a vaguely ‘good thing’ they’re more or less inclined to do if they are presented a choice.’

• Keep America Beautiful
10% CONTAMINATION = SUCCESS

• General Considerations for Public Space Pedestrian Trash & Recycling Containers
• Goal – More recovery, less contamination, less litter
• Slow them down, and think just a tiny bit
Downtown Pedestrian Trash and Recycling Collection

• Don’t blend them into the scenery
• Color code (black trash and green recycling; black/blue)
• Consistent messaging
• Material specific opening (UFO opening for recyclables)
• Protect the Recycling
• Make it easier to use trash
• Attached combo (trash/recycling) bins best
• Unique to location (attractive and artful)
• Lockable (for security reasons & prevent homeless item storage)
• Durable
• Rust, sticker, paint resistant
• Easy to maintain and empty
• No Flat Tops
• Economical
• ADA Height
Other considerations

• Cigarette butt/Dog Waste bag connections to the trash & recycling containers
• Standard placement 3-4 per block (corners and spread in middle)
• Bin Sponsorship
• City grit
Other public spaces

- Parks – Paired metal containers
- Events – ClearStreams for recycling, 32-gallon roll carts for trash
- Businesses – Highly individualized
Big Belly Solar Containers
Big Belly: Positive and Negative Features

**Positive Features**

- Capacity/Less staff time used to empty
- Side Empty
- Easily cleaned
- Standard container seen across the country
- Attached containers
- Can color code opening and put unique labels on the containers
- UGA Uses Them (consistency)
- Easily locked
- Rain proof
- Advertising/Education opportunities on sides
- Lease option (lid/parts replacement)
- Ashtray & Stub-out plates available
- Wheeled interior lift bin option available
- WI-FI Hotspot

**Negative Features**

- Expensive
- Potential for Odors and more vectors due to length of time on curb
- May not work properly in heavy shade
- Unit not unique or attractive
- Flat surfaces to tag and/or sticker
- One sided
- Handle that you have to touch to place trash in container (not recommended) (Foot option)
- Items can get stuck in the door/slot
- More moving parts to maintain
Stainless Steel Metal Unit
Stainless Steel Metal Unit: Positive and Negative Features

**Positive Features**
- Side Empty
- Easily cleaned
- Standard container seen across the country
- Married/Attached containers
- Can color code openings and put unique labels on the containers
- Easily locked
- Rain proof
- In-house maintenance
- Changeable messaging and/or art
- Easy to add organics collection section

**Negative Features**
- Flat surfaces to tag and/or sticker
- One sided
- Container not color coded
Unique/Slatted Metal Bins

Deck Artwork Could be used as side of container with some modifications.
Unique/Slatted Metal Unit: Positive and Negative Features

**Positive Features**
- Side Empty
- Married/Attached containers
- Can color code and put unique labels on the containers
- Easily Locked?
- Multiple sides
- Slated/cut surfaces harder to tag and/or sticker
- Unique art to reflect Athens
- Easy to add organics collection bin

**Negative Features**
- Easy to maintain
- Rain may get into the container
- Trash/Recyclables can get caught between the slats and seen; unsightly
Recycled Plastic Resin Unit
Recycled Plastic Resin Unit: Positive and Negative Features

**Positive Features**
- Side Empty
- Easily cleaned
- Married/Attached containers
- Can color code and put unique labels on the containers
- Easily locked
- Rain proof
- UGA golf course uses
- Recycled resin
- Ample room for messaging

**Negative Features**
- Flat surfaces to tag and/or sticker
- One sided
- Durablility?
- Ease of getting tags or stickers off?
- Flammable
Choose a design that works for your community
Consider pros/cons
Consistent labeling
Consistent color-coordination

Questions?