

DRAFT Generic Municipal Recycling Transparency & Accountability Ordinance

Supporting Transparency & Accountability Regarding Recyclable Materials

WHEREAS, (your city or state) citizens and businesses are vital in protecting our natural resources by successfully promoting reduction, reuse, minimizing litter, and proper disposal of garbage, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, etc. and the recycling of various materials such as batteries, cardboard, electronic waste, food waste, glass, metals, paper, plastic, etc. and

WHEREAS, municipal recycling programs designate various types of materials be separated from the waste stream with the intent that these materials will be recycled; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of (your city or state) recognize that materials are **not** recycled until they are made into a new product and returned to the market place; and

WHEREAS, a public trust exists when (your city or state) citizens participate in recycling programs and these citizens rightfully expect that materials collected will in fact be recycled; and returned to the market place for resale, and

WHEREAS, a portion of the materials collected for recycling by municipal or private companies contracted by government entities are **not** being recycled, either because collected materials are contaminated or there is no economically viable market for the materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens of (your city or state) deserve transparency & accountability regarding the ultimate destination of their collected recyclable material, whether collected by a government entity or a private company, and deserve transparency and accountability regarding the percentage of collected recyclable materials being disposed of in landfills, or used as landfill cover, or burned in an incinerator or waste-to-energy (WTE) facility.

WHEREAS, it would be a lie to tell citizens that recycling is free. There are costs involved with recycling just as there are costs in collecting garbage such as trucks, tires, fuel, employee salaries, insurance, equipment capital, equipment and facility maintenance, workers compensation, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ (governing body)
OF _____, (your city or state) the following will be required via contractual agreement of the entity, whether private or public, that collects, processes, and/or sells recyclables for (your community):

1. The only Recyclables collected are those for which you have secured two proven, domestic markets.
2. Billing for garbage and recycling services, whether public or private, shall clearly denote the cost of recycling, separate from the cost of garbage collection. To this end, **recycling and garbage collection shall be listed as separate line items**. Customer bills will list these costs, recycling and garbage, as **separate line items with separate fees**.
3. All trucks collecting recyclable materials shall be equipped with global positioning systems (GPS) with data available, so citizens can track the routes of the trucks, thus being assured recyclables are **not** going to a landfill or incinerator or Waste-to-Energy facility, but rather to a recycling facility that will bale and sell them to be made into new products.

4. Recycling facilities shall provide real time camera coverage of all recycling trucks dumping their contents, showing citizens in real time both the recyclables and the contaminants. This real time coverage will educate the public about the hazards facing recycling workers.
5. Quarterly reports will be posted on the city website, accounting for the volumes collected, contaminated volumes of each type recyclable collected, the volumes of each type recyclable actually sold for remanufacturing, destination and product produced from each type recyclable collected.
6. The collection methods used shall maintain the value and marketability of all recyclables, thereby ensuring end-users with high quality feed stock for which they will pay top dollar.
7. Unannounced visitation to MRFs shall be allowed so proper processing can be validated.