

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel.

LAKE COUNTY

Investing in People
and Our Communities

Lake County Waste Efforts

February 18, 2020

Lake County Waste Audit

- ▶ Focused closely on 4 Lake County facilities
- ▶ Conducted weekly observations of recycling and garbage
- ▶ Looked for:
 - ▶ How full the container was
 - ▶ Organics (i.e., food scraps)
 - ▶ Contamination of recycling
 - ▶ Recyclables in the trash



Anticipated Outcomes

- ▶ Right-size waste hauling service
 - ▶ Container size and frequency of pick up
- ▶ Identify educational needs
- ▶ Engage with facility occupants and custodial staff to bring awareness to the issues
- ▶ Evaluate food scrap diversion program at select County facilities



Cart Tag Video



- Please see the SWALCO cart tagging video at:
<https://youtu.be/PH60VE6Cywg>

SWALCO 2019-2020 Recycling Cart Tag Program in Round Lake Beach





Village of Round Lake Beach Recycling Cart Tagging Program



- 1 In 2018-2019, Waste Management conducted a cart tagging program in Round Lake Beach, IL
- 2 In 2019 SWALCO conducted a follow up cart tagging program to measure community progress and program success



What is a Recycling Cart Tagging Program?

A recycling cart tagging program's goal is to clean up the recycling waste stream by educating residents on recycling guidelines in their communities. The program involves using educational material, such as mailed postcards and cart tags placed on recycling bins to notify residents of what can and cannot be recycled. Ideally, this program creates a shift in recycling habits that decreases the contamination levels found in residential recycling.



Cart Tag Protocol

1. Utilize Waste Management Data
 - Waste Management conducted cart tagging on different routes for three consecutive weeks in Round Lake Beach and documented change in contamination rate
 - SWALCO identified two routes WM provided to measure contamination rates and inspected those routes for three consecutive weeks



This is Pete, a recycling expert on the SWALCO team, he is holding a cart tag marked with a thumbs up for good recycling!

Cart Tag Protocol

2. Education

- SWALCO and the Village of Round Lake Beach mailed post cards to households containing recycling guidelines and notification about the cart tag program
- SWALCO designed cart tags with information and personalized feedback as to how a household's recycling bin looked

3. On the Street

- A SWALCO team went out three weeks in a row to tag around 450 bins and collect data on the contamination rates

SWALCO Finding

1

A soft-approach education campaign (meaning no reward or punishment for compliance with program) can be successful in lowering the contamination rate in residential recycling over a three-week time period.



The cost to implement the cart tagging program consists of three main things: cart tags, post cards, and team members. For this specific program of 450 households, the cost for all the above services is approximately \$4.89 per household.

3

A three-member team can inspect 55 homes per hour, or 440 homes in an 8-hour day.



2



SWALCO Data

A comparison of the contamination rate of each route week-by-week to see the overall change and to compare 2019 contamination rates against those found by Waste Management in 2018

Contamination Rates Route 1

	Waste Management (2018)	SWALCO (2019)
Week 1	38%	65%
Week 2	16%	39%
Week 3	19%	26%

Contamination Rate Route 2

	Waste Management (2018)	SWALCO (2019)
Week 1	44%	40%
Week 2	29%	25%
Week 3	13%	16%



The Good: There was an overall decrease in the contamination rate from week 1 to week 3, which indicates that the educational campaign was successful in lowering the contamination in residential recycling.

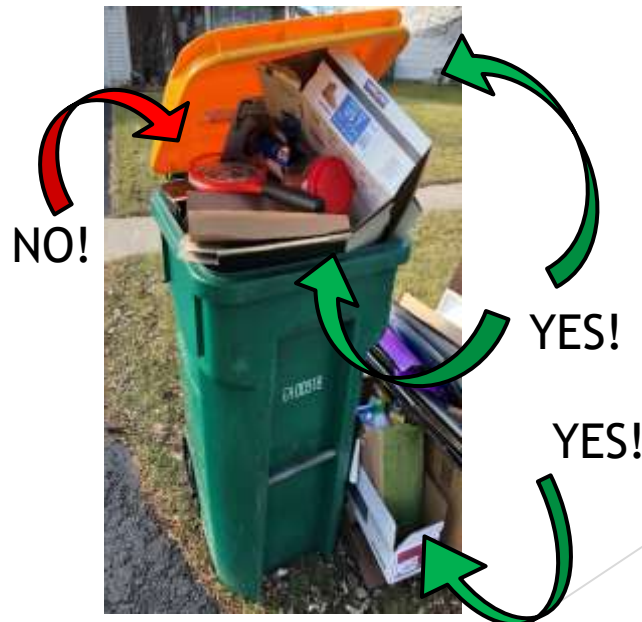


The Bad: The starting contamination rate on week 1 both routes is nearly equal to, or significantly higher than, the rate found by Waste Management in 2018. This would indicate that there was no long-term behavior change achieved from the cart tagging program implemented a year ago.

SWALCO

Recommendations

- 1 Based on the data found, SWALCO recommends more disciplinary measures may need to be taken. For example, a program where contaminated carts are not serviced until cleaned up, or where a fine is levied for contaminated carts to help promote behavior change and to ensure long-term change in contamination of the recycling waste stream



QUESTIONS?
