



Waste Characterization II: SRP Public Administration Building

THE PROBLEM In 2014, ASU's Global Sustainability Solutions Services performed an initial waste characterization and provided recommendations for a recycling pilot study at Salt River Project's Public Administration Building as part of the utility's Stewardship in Action program. In an effort to reduce the amount of recyclable material being sent to the landfill and increase employee awareness of and participation in proper recycling techniques, the program was piloted for six months. Following the pilot, Global Solutions conducted another characterization study to assess the effectiveness of the program and highlight any necessary changes before further implementation of the program.

THE PARTNERS Salt River Project (SRP)

THE SERVICE Waste characterization, data analysis and recommendations

THE SOLUTION Study results shows general positive trends and demonstrate a higher recycling rate in the Public Administration Building as compared to SRP's corporate-wide recycling rate, but also room for systemic improvement, increased efficiency and potential for increased educational opportunities.

THE OUTLOOK Based on these results, SRP took steps to further enhance and improve the pilot program before it was implemented on a wider scale. SRP is on track to successfully roll out their recycling program to all Valley facilities by the end of 2017, which will impact 3,746 employees. All of these efforts have worked to boost SRP's diversion rate by 20 percent.

SRP's main courses of action based on project recommendations are:

- Move from a four-bin resource center to a two-bin resource center. One bin for trash and one for recycling.
- Improve communication, including color-coded bins and improved signage.
- Increase resource center locations in order to increase employee efficiency and ease in terms of trash disposal.

“Overall, the data shows positive recycling trends and that our efforts are having an impact. But we're also using lessons learned from the pilot to enhance communications, simplify the process and make it more intuitive, and maximize our recycling rate as we expand the program to other facilities.”

Marc Campbell, Manager, Sustainability Policy and Programs, SRP