



# Multi-Family Solid Waste Diversion Strategy

City of Scottsdale - Policy 2

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# Diversion

- Work with the city of Scottsdale - Dan Worth
- Increase diversion of solid waste in multi-family housing by 30% by 2030
- Develop clever strategies that address the issue of solid waste throughout the city of Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Implement feasible and cost effective methods to support these strategies.
- Incentivize multi-family homes to participate in these methods.

# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## San Francisco

- 80% landfill diversion rate
- More than half of the city lives in apartments
- Multiple stakeholders working **together**
  - Department of the Environment (*City of San Francisco*)
  - Department of Public Works (*City of San Francisco*)
  - Recology (*the city's trash hauler*)
- Clear Role Assignments
  - **D.O.E.** is responsible for program outreach, **education**, and policy compliance
    - Send warning letters, and are able to fine repeat offenders
  - **D.O.P.W.** oversees the refuse rate setting process and helps set residential and commercial rates



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## San Francisco

- Identified Barriers
  - Trash chutes
  - Resident fear of smell
- Solutions
  - **Policy**
    - Required apartments to have 3 chute trash system
      - Landfill, recycling, composting
  - **Education**
    - Odor free composting bags
    - Utilized websites
    - Door-to-door methods
    - Color-coding trash bins
    - Multi-lingual training



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Boulder

- 33% landfill diversion rate
- Different from S.F. yet multiple stakeholders working **together**
  - City of Boulder partnered with Eco-Cycle (*non-profit*) and Western Disposal Services
  - Goal: create the Boulder Waste Project
    - Pilot program to increase recycling and composting in multi-family units
- Identified barriers
  - Infrastructure
    - Lack of bins and pickups so bins were being excessively used
    - Bins were in inconvenient or hidden location
  - Culture
  - High turnover

# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Boulder

- Solutions
  - **Infrastructure**
    - Added more bins, and increased pickups
    - Moved bins inside of buildings
    - Gave recycling bags to MFU
    - Posted new signs
  - **Education and Culture**
    - Community trainings - held both in English and Spanish
    - Literature distribution
    - Door-to-door education
  - **Turnover**
    - Created incentives such as pledge cards
    - Hosted meetings, cookouts, and parties to educate



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Los Angeles

- 45% landfill diversion rate
- 2001 coordinated stakeholders
  - Los Angeles Sanitation
  - California Sanitation
  - Waste haulers
- Identified barriers
  - Infrastructure
    - Lack of coordinated pick up
    - Bins were in inconvenient or hidden location
  - Cost
  - High turnover



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Los Angeles

- Solutions
  - **Infrastructure**
    - Added more free bins
    - Required waste haulers to haul recycling
    - Forced convenient bin location
  - **Education and Culture**
    - Community trainings - held both in English and Spanish
    - Free Literature distribution
    - Created a contact system for residence of MFU to set up recycling for their area with email [MultiFamily@lacity.org](mailto:MultiFamily@lacity.org) and phone.
  - **Costs**
    - Diverting saves the city ~\$60,000 a year that was used to fund education and monitoring efforts.



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Northeast Michigan

- 54% landfill diversion rate
- Worked Stakeholders
  - MFU
  - City Sanitations
  - Environmental Orgs (Zero Waste)
- Identified barriers
  - Infrastructure
    - Lack of coordinated pick up
    - Bins were in inconvenient or hidden location
    - MFU and Single families on separate routes
  - Cost
  - High turnover



# City Examples with High Diversion Rates

## Northeast Michigan

- Solutions
  - **Infrastructure**
    - Mandated Recycling plans by MFU
    - Smaller bins for individuals to leave exchange for empty at transfer station
    - Forced convenient bin location
  - **Education and Culture**
    - Door to Door training
    - Free Literature distribution
    - Standardized labeling and signage
  - **Incentives**
    - “Rewards for Recycling”

# Impact of Diversion

- “Recycling Good, Landfill Bad” - Dan Worth
- “The paper recycling industry alone saves 17 trees for every ton of paper it keeps out of the landfill. If all morning newspapers read around the country were recycled, 41,000 trees would be saved daily and the amount of waste would never end up in landfills (Martin 2003).”



# Strategies to Reach 30%

- **Educate Residents and Managers**

- Signage
- Commercials
- Newsletter
- Prepare MFU management
- School programs through SUSD

- **Accessibility and Ease of Use**

- Bins and Collection
- Easy to understand signs and marking



# Strategies to Reach 30%

- **Policy**
  - Tax credits
  - Mandates
- **Incentivise**
  - Utility credits for diversion
  - The IRS states that to qualify as a deductible a business expense must be both ordinary and necessary
  - Act Section 305 is titled “Manufacturers' Energy Efficient Appliance Credit”, meaning a deductible can be claimed from any process that aids in these endeavors

# Challenges and Remaining Questions

- Are the citizens of Scottsdale in multi-family units willing to participate in waste diversion?
- In the future will there be new policy that mandates more recycling and composting?
- Are there non-profits in Scottsdale who are willing to test pilot projects?
- Is it possible for sectors of the city government and outside organizations to coordinate actions together?

# Questions?



Thank you!

# References

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