Contamination
How that Affects the Processing Cost for Single Stream Facilities
Presenter: Luis A Franceschi
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Driving operational excellence!
Topics

- Introduction – What is Contamination
- Impact of Processing Trash
- Operational Deficiencies
- Financial Impact
- Opportunities for improvement
- Backup photos and follow up items
Introduction – What is Contamination

Contamination should be considered as material (Recyclable or Not) that your equipment and labor cannot process, bale or sale as a recycling commodity.

Anything other than that specific saleable material could be considered as a contaminant.


Prohibits: Engines, Batteries, Fans, Mattress, Propane Tanks, etc.
Financial Impact

- **Disposal Cost (Residue):**
  - The higher amount of contamination, the higher amount of Residue = Higher Disposal Cost (Revenue Reduction)

- **Transportation Cost (Hauls):**
  - Evaluate the internal or 3rd Party cost for transporting Residues (Compactors-Open Tops-Bales) to Landfill and/or Incinerators

- **Operating Labor:**
  - Single Stream contaminated loads have a direct and negative impact on Labor Cost / Tons / Hours

- **Equipment Maintenance:**
  - Referred to R&M. Prohibit materials are still found on the Single Stream loads. Those prohibit materials cause breakdowns and excessive wear.

- **Safety (Incidents and Risk Expenses):**
  - Evaluate the financial negative impact when Recycling Facilities have a Safety related expense
Opportunities for Improvement

• **Communication**
  • The best way to decrease contamination is to keep high level of communication between the Recycling Facilities – Collectors - Municipalities – Counties and Customers.

• **Recycling Acceptable Items and Enforcement**
  • Each Recycling Facility is different because of Equipment, Recycling compositions, Acceptable Vs. Not-Acceptable
  • Back to Communication / Fines / Regulations / Contamination Fees

• **Knowledge of Contaminants:**
  • To increase the recycling acceptable material knowledge and awareness to the originators.

• **Extra Charges (Contamination)**
  • Pay for Processing and Pay to Dispose

• **The Right Way / Decrease Contamination**
  • Contamination hurts the Carbon Footprint initiatives

• **Don’t Bag your Recyclables (Contamination)**
  • The Bags wreak havoc on the recycling equipment

• **Size Matters**
  • If recyclable materials are smaller than a credit card, they will end in the landfill
Pictures