

Contamination

How that Affects the Processing Cost for Single Stream Facilities

Presenter: Luis A Franceschi

Date 1-27-2020



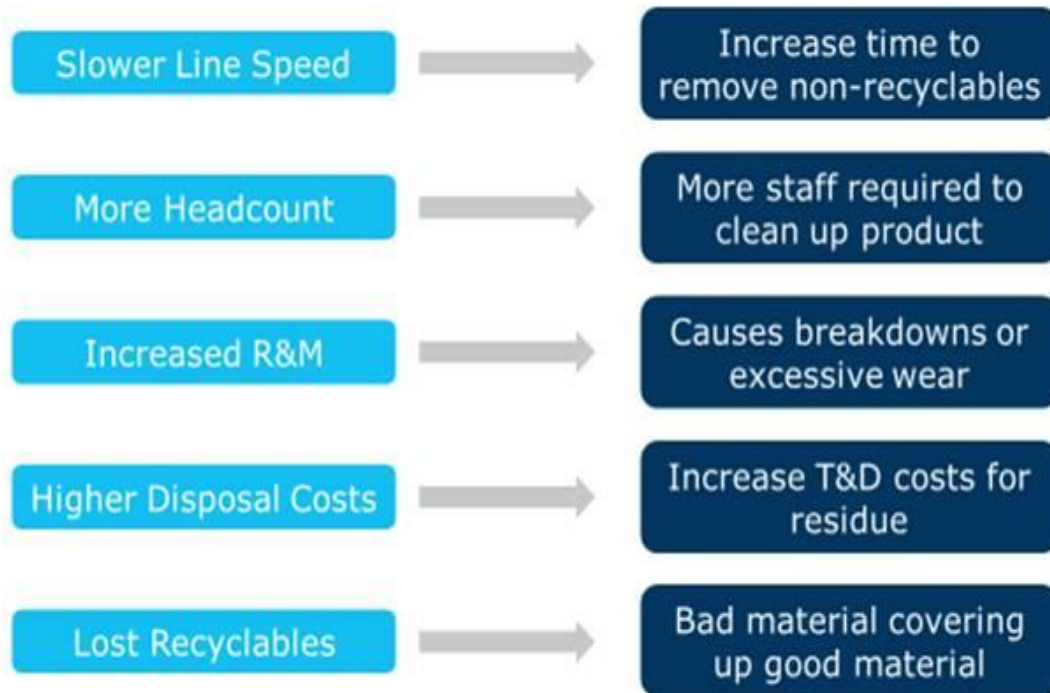
Topics

- 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

Impact of Processing Trash



- 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.
- Contaminants: Plastic bags, shrink wrap, Ziploc Bags, Newspaper Bags, Trash Bags, Food Waste, Loose Shredded Paper, Paint, Hazardous Waste (Syringes, Needles, Diapers, Sanitary Products), Frozen Food Containers.
- 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

