

Enforcement and Data Reporting Issues

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments
Recycling Committee Meeting
February 3rd, 2005
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.

Commercial Enforcement in Washington, D.C.

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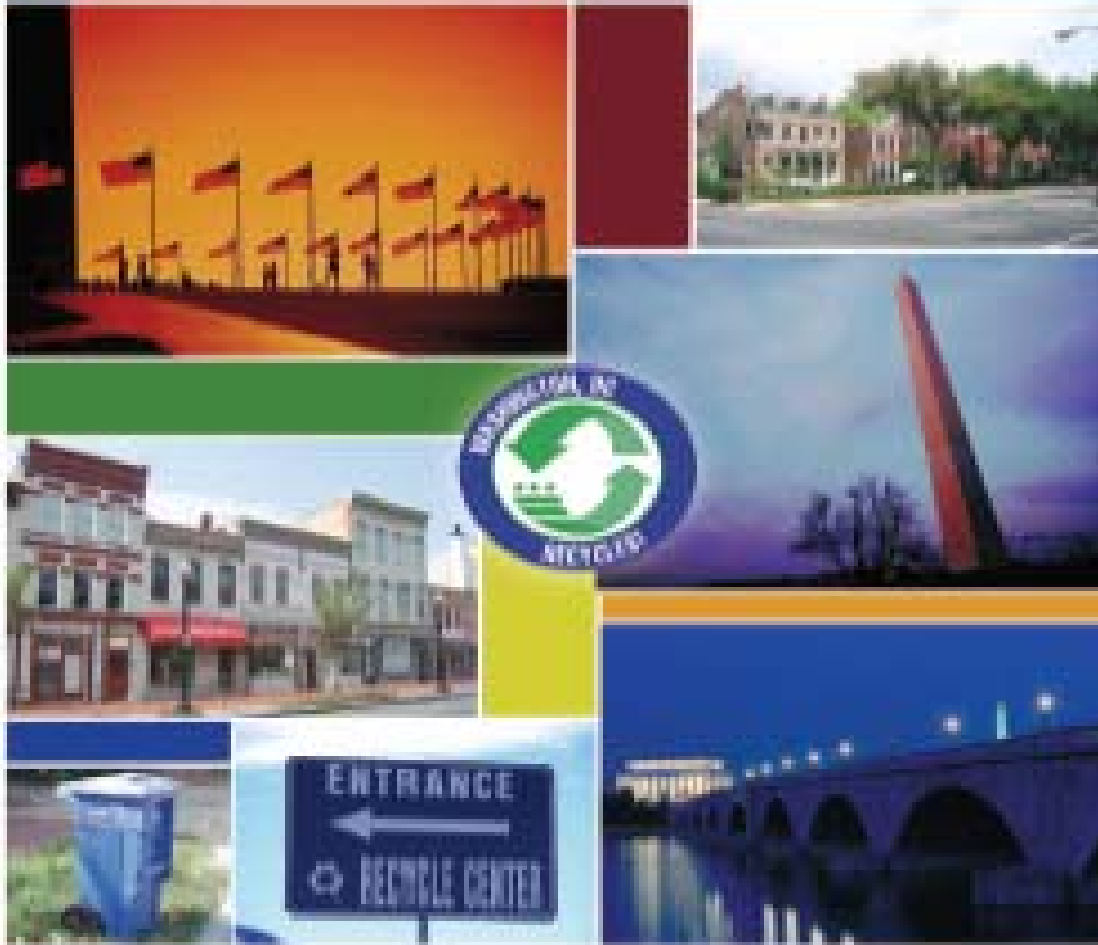
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Agenda

- Welcome
- Current DC Law 7-226
- Requirements
- Compliance
- Our Experiences
- Issues
- Conclusions

DC Recycles



The Government of the District of Columbia

- The commercial sector: multifamily apartments, businesses and industry make up of 75% of the solid waste stream.
- To meet the goals of D.C. Law 7-226, recycling programs must be implemented in commercial buildings and institutions as well as residential neighborhoods.

Current Law

- Each owner or occupant is responsible for his/her own recycling program
- Mandatory source separation program
- Recycle not less than 45%
- Registration of all recycling vehicles
- Tonnage reports submitted by the 15th of the following month
- Commercial plans submitted every two years

Requirements for Businesses

- Submit and Update a Commercial Plan every two years
- Have an approved recycling plan
- Use a registered hauler/collector
- Recycling must be separate from other solid waste
- Have sufficient containers to collect recyclables

Requirements for Haulers

- Valid recycling registration
- Must collect all required materials
- Submit monthly reports (including self- implementers)
- Can not haul recyclable materials mixed with trash to a DC solid waste disposal facility (30%)

Required Materials

- Paper (OCC, office paper and newspaper)
- Metal food and beverage containers
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Plastic food and beverage containers (optional)

Recycling Activity Tree

Recycling

Residential Recycling

Residential
Collection

Electronic
Recycling

Household Hazardous
Waste Collection

Enforcement

Commercial Recycling

Technical
Services

- * Receive requests by businesses
- * Visit and inform businesses on how to set up a recycling program
 - * Presentations, walkthroughs
 - * Waste audit
 - * Recommendations

Compliance

- * Receive & review requests
- * Inspect business facilities
- * Receive & review business' comm' plan
- * Re-inspect business facility
- * Enforcement
- * Approve business' comm'l plan

Registering
Haulers

- * Send out letters
- * Receive & review applications
- * Prepare info packets and mail
- * Receive and enter info on tonnage reports
- * Track tonnage report info

Government
Building Audits

- * Send out letters
- * Receive & review applications
- * Prepare info packets and mail
- * Receive and enter info on tonnage reports
- * Track tonnage report info

Education

Grants

Partnerships

General Education

Schools

Compliance

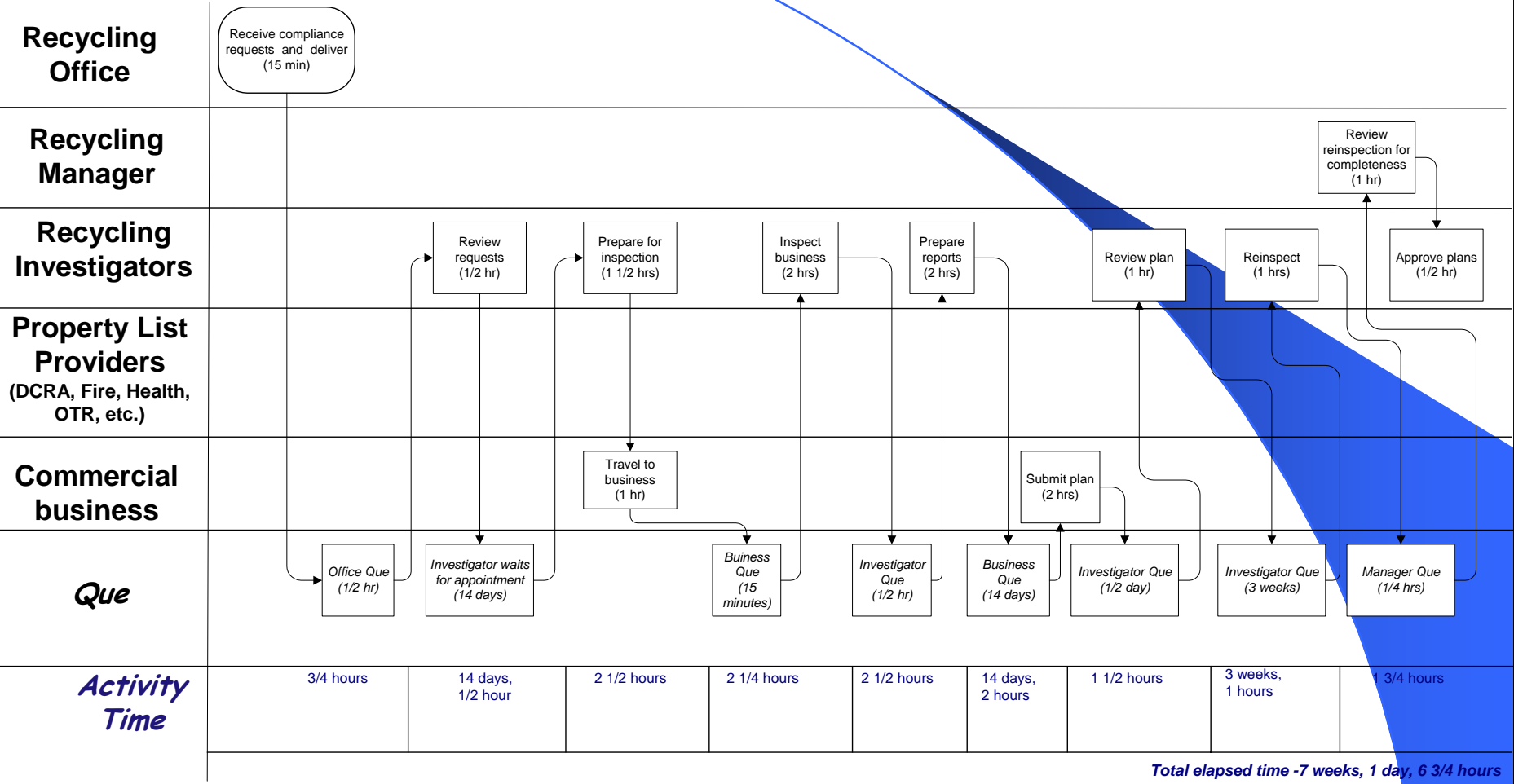
What we look for...

- Effective Recycling Program
- Recycling in separate containers from your trash.
- Enough containers to prevent overflow.
- Have sufficient collection of recyclables.

Compliance

- An approved recycling plan.
- An updated recycling plan.
- A registered hauler.

Recycling: Commercial Compliance - Process Map



Tools We Use

- HIVE
- Fight Backs – Hot Zones
- Stings
- Education
- Warning
- NOV

Our Experiences

- The District's solid waste problems are not unique, but they are compelling
- There is no landfill in the District of Columbia.
- Time process from start to finish...
- Many businesses refuse technical assistance from our office.

The issues most commonly mentions during our visits

- Storage space is at a premium in business
- Many businesses complain of tight budgets and reduced staff
- Recycling requires changes in employee habits and rituals
- Language barrier with the cleaning staff
- Who's responsible, owner or tenant

The issues most commonly mentions during our visits

- Issue with haulers
- Thought they had more time
- Being harassed by Government
- Can't believe we are enforcing recycling laws with all the crime on the streets
- Mistaking who we are
- Can we pretend they are in compliance?

The issues most commonly mentions during our visits

- In compliance... now please void ticket
- Partnerships work – DC less aggressive

Issues Most Commonly Found

- Over-flowing containers
- Square footage information omitted from occupancy permit
- Contamination
- Tax information inaccurate, needs updating
- Locating property owners for commercial apartment with no property owner on site.
- Contacting Co-op and Condo Association

Issues Most Commonly Found

- 911 Security
- Government agencies mixed with commercial offices and Leased Buildings
- Embassies – Federal Government
- Waiting to be escorted during inspections
- People not taking us seriously until NOVs are written

Issues Most Commonly Found

- Uncertain # of businesses in the District
- Falsifying information
- Court hearing are time consuming
- Recycling in Public Schools

Data Reporting Issues

- Getting Data
- Human error
- Double counting
- What to include
- No requirement to collect data from solid waste haulers
- Time constraints

Conclusions

- Mandatory Recycling Works
- Recycling is not an economic burden to some companies
- Door-to-Door inspections bring best results
- Programs with recycling coordinators seem to be more successful
- Address issue of Post-Collection Separation

Conclusions

- Update DC recycling law to reflect current times