

# Recycling Foodservice Packaging: Outreach in DC and Beyond

MWCOG Recycling Committee 3.21.19



### Foodservice Packaging Institute



- Established in 1933
- Only industry trade association in North America solely focused on all single-use foodservice packaging products
- Members include:
  - Converters and their raw material and machinery suppliers (represents about 90% of the industry)
  - Foodservice distributors and operators
- Since 2011, FPI has been actively engaged in getting more foodservice packaging recycled/composted

### Foodservice Packaging



Single-use foodservice ware and packaging used by foodservice establishments

#### Specifically, our work focuses on recovery of:





Boxes

Paper bags









## Community Partnerships



### FPI's Community Partnerships



Goal: Develop and promote economically viable and sustainable recovery solutions for foodservice packaging

Purpose: Add foodservice packaging to suitable curbside recycling programs based on reliability of and acceptance by end markets, plus willingness of MRFs to process the material



### Overview of Community Partnerships



#### Conduct due diligence in the following areas and only move forward when all agree



#### **MRF Operations**

What is sorted at your MRF? What bales are you making now?



#### **MRF/ End Markets**

Where do the materials go? What are the end markets' capabilities? Have you considered additional domestic markets?



#### Haulers

What are contract arrangements with haulers? Subscription services? Can you easily add materials to accepted list?



#### **Community Buy-In**

What is the relationship with the MRF like? What's the best way to partner on a communications campaigns?



#### **Market Assurances**

Develop good working relationships with industry groups on research, messaging, & market development



#### **End Market Buy-In**

What material is acceptable? In what bale? Capacity limitations or considerations?

### Overview of Community Partnerships



#### If all stakeholders agree, FPI and partners work together in these areas:



# 40







#### **Contracting**

Define
obligations
of community
and aspects
of FPI
support

#### Operations Plan

How big?
Any process
changes?
What is
sorted
where?

### Communications Plan

Education and outreach planning, adding new material (language, images, integration into existing media)

#### Community Kick-off Event

PR and publicity kickoff event

### Measurement & Benchmarking

tonnage, residue, bale audit — what and how much? Before snapshot and again 6-9 months after kickoff.

### 2016 Resident Messaging Survey



#### Best practices for reaching and educating your audience

### Flyers cycling • Multiple



- Multiple images of recyclables
- Grouped by category (i.e. plastics)
- General description (i.e. plastic containers)
- Space between groups/images, uncluttered layout
- Instructions on "how to prepare"

# WWW

#### **Community Website**

- Preferred source for recycling information
- Keep website updated
- Website should be easy to navigate
- Include FAQs from resident inquiries

#### **Social Media**



- Primary source of recycling information for ages 18-34, not primary for 34+
- Have a plan for regular social media interaction
- Align social media with website content



#### Language

- Use common terms to describe recyclable items
- Keep recycling instructions clear
- Use simple, positive language: clean
- Summarize prohibited items

# Chattanooga, TN



### Campaign Launch (Sept. 2017)





#### Chattanooga's Takeout Taken In

By Caleb Powell, TDEC | Posted: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 10:00 am

With busy households ordering takeout more than ever, municipalities are seeing a rapid escalation in the volume of foodservice packaging in their waste streams.

Now, with new technology and education, many communities are finding ways to route cups, pizza boxes and paper bags away from the landfill and into the recycling system.

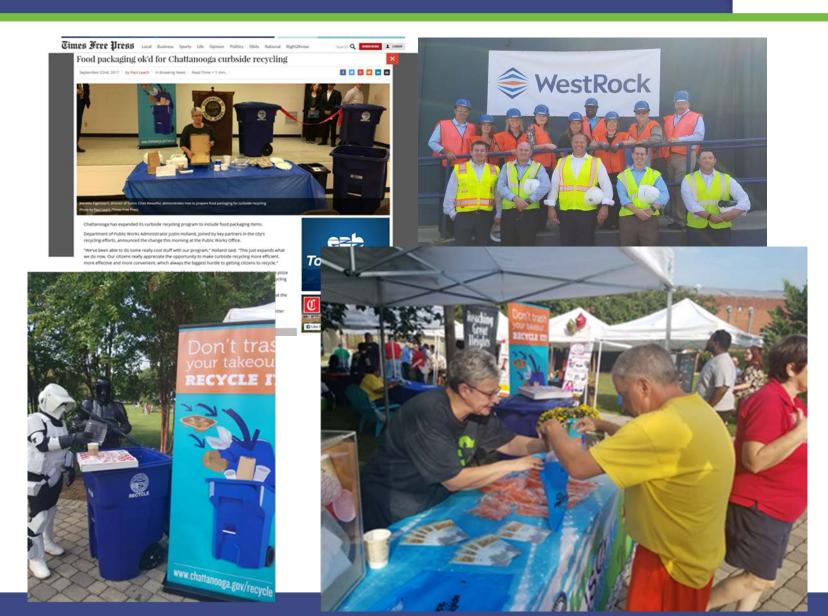
In Chattanooga, Tenn., the city has partnered with its local recycling facility to begin collecting these items in its curbside recycling program. Residents are now able to recycle more kinds of waste than ever before, with new acceptable items that include takeout packaging such as paper and plastic cups and containers, pizza and sandwich boxes, and paper bags.

The Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) is the trade association for the North American foodservice packaging industry and has spent five years on extensive research to truly understand the tangible and alleged barriers to getting more foodservice packaging recycled.



Chattanooga Team

At an event to kick off its program to accept foodservice packaging in its curbside recycling program, personnel from the city of Chattanooga were Joined by officials from the Foodservice Packaging Institute and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).



### Webpage Changes



#### **Before Campaign**

#### Holiday Schedule

Recycle is collected on all days except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

#### Acceptable Materials

- · Aluminum cans
- Cardboard
- Glass
- · Mixed paper
- Newspaper
- Plastics #1 #7
- · Steel (Tin) cans (Rinse food containers)

#### Non Acceptable Materials

- Clothes
- Food
- · Large toys
- · Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Yard Waste







#### **After Campaign**



### Campaign Goals and Results





Goal: 15% increase in recycling website traffic

Result: 130% increase in website visitors



Goal: 20% increase in social media engagements

about recycling posts

Result: Facebook ads reached 87,000 residents



Goal: 10% increase in cart requests

Result: 46% increase in cart requests

## Louisville, KY



### Campaign Launch (Oct. 2017)



#### courier journal

#### Curbside recycling carts in Louisville can now take your food takeout containers

Sheldon S. Shafer, @sheldonshafer Published 11:14 a.m. ET Oct. 23, 2017



Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer's administration has announced that, effective immediately, food takeout containers can be disposed of in curbside recycling carts

That includes packaging from burgers, chicken, pizza, tacos and other to-go containers as well as drink cups.

The wider curbside recycling is available to more than 84,000 households in the city's Urban Service District served by Public Works.

More from the Courier-Journal







### Webpage Changes



#### **Before**

#### Recycling

#### Recycling Services within the Urban Services District (USD), Louisville's Urban Neighborhoods

- · Residential/Curbside Recycling
- If you live in the USD, enter your address in our MyLouisville tool to find out when
  we pick up your recycling at home.
- Business Recycling / FAQ

#### **Recycling Bins**

 Order a new one, replace one, get a larger one, replace a lost one, report a damaged one

#### **Recycling Services with the Suburban Areas**

Recycling Drop Off Locations

#### **Special Recycling Programs**

- Wet/Dry Recycling in the Central Business District
- Electronics Recycling
- Waste Reduction Center
- Battery Recycling
- Latex Paint Recycling

#### **Recycling Resources**

· Learn what you can and can't recycle

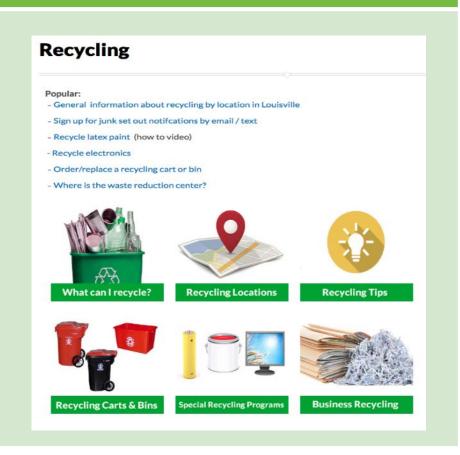
#### Where does my recycling go?

Watch this video to find out!

#### Recycling Drop-Off Locations

We operate 18 recycling sites across Louisville Metro. Four are fully staffed and 14 are unstaffed. Staffed centers are open Tues-Sat. and Unstaffed centers are available at any

#### **After**



### Campaign Goals and Results





Goal: 15% increase in traffic to Recycling web page from Nov.2017

through Feb. 2018

Result: 45% increase over same period in 2016-2017



Goal: 20% increase in social media engagements

Result: 234% increase in Facebook likes



Goal: 10% increase in cart/bin requests

Result: 33% increase in recycling bins/carts



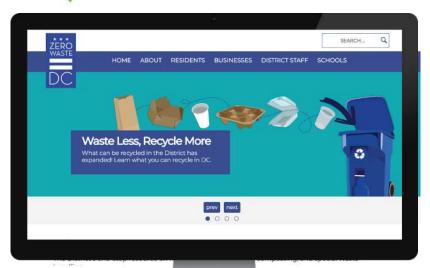
**Goal:** Reach more than 10% of residents through digital ads Result: Ads reached more than 130,000 homeowners (over 16%)

# Washington, DC

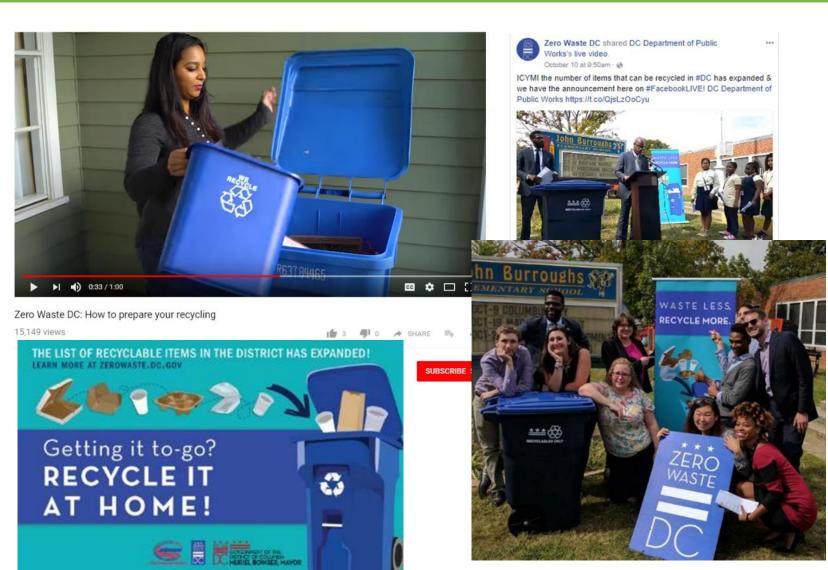


### Campaign Launch (Oct. 2017)









### Campaign Goals and Results





**Goal:** 15% increase in Zero Waste social media followers by March 2018 *Results:* 

- 531% increase in Facebook followers (100 to 1,636 in 5 months)
- 444% increase in Twitter followers (124 to 675 in 5 months)



**Goals:** 500 clicks on recycling guideline page Oct. 2017-Feb. 2018; sustain web traffic until March 2018

#### Results:

- 102% increase in recycling guideline page views vs. 2017
- Website activity page views and first-time visitors doubled and sustained

### Campaign Goals and Results





Goal: 200 views of recycling video during Oct. to Dec. 2018

Result: 142,000 views (digital & social media) of recycling video



Goal: 15% increase in monthly recycling tonnage over previous year

Result: 11.7% increase over previous year

### Recent Partners



### Denver Campaign Launch (Nov. 2018)











### Denver can now recycle paper coffee cups

The city aims to improve its below-average recycling rate

By SAM TABACHNIK | stabachnik@denverpost.com | The Denver Post PUBLISHED: November 30, 2018 at 4:24 pm | UPDATED: November 30, 2018 at 5:10 pm

Massive stacks of recycled trash inside Alpine Waste and Recycling towered behind Denver City Councilwoman Kendra Black as she posed a question nearly every coffee drinker has asked: What are we supposed to do with those paper cups?





Partnership Allows Two Million Residents to Recycle Paper Cups

Denver Joins Chattanooga, Tenn.; Washington, D.C.; and Louisville, Ky., as FPI community partner.

Waste360 Staff | Dec 05, 2018

# Millennium Recycling in Sioux Falls, SD (Feb. 2019)







While sleeves are welcome in Millennium's paper cup recycling program, plastic lids are not. stock adobe com

#### South Dakota MRF adds paper cups

Millennium Recycling of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, partners with the Foodservice Packaging Institute.

February 21, 2019

By DeAnne Toto

Municipal / IC&I Paper





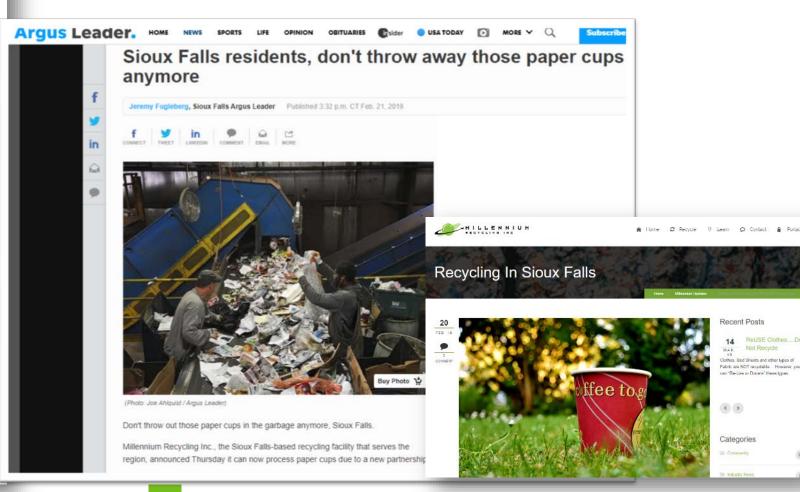




A partnership with the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI), Falls Church, Virginia, has allowed material recovery facility (MRF) operator Millennium Recycling Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to add paper cups to its list of acceptable recyclables.

"We are committed to giving our customers in Sioux Falls, Yankton, Huron, southwest Minnesota and beyond the opportunity to provide a new life for recycled cups—not just send them to the landfill," says Shannon Dwire, president of Millennium Recycling.

Roughly 600,000 tons of paper beverage cups are used each year in the United States, Millennium says, with the majority of this material ending up in landfills ad they were once thought to be unrecyclable



### FREE Resources on RecycleFSP.org





HOME

ABOUT FPI

FOODSERVICE OPERATORS

COMMUNITIES

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES

**END MARKETS** 

COMPOSTING & AD FACILITIES

FAQs

Resident Education Kit

FPI is committed to making resident outreach of recycling foodservice packaging (FSP) simple and successful. We have resources to add to your current educational material or if you're starting from scratch. Click on the buttons below to access the resources in the kit.









### Questions?



# Contact: Lynn Dyer Idyer@fpi.org

#### Visit RecycleFSP.org for more info:



