

TOOL KIT

Internal Recycling Program Improvements WASTE AUDIT

BACKGROUND

Waste audit take place in order to evaluate and obtain quantifiable information on how much of recyclables are thrown into the trash and how much trash is thrown in the recycle. If there is a recycling program in place, we would be able to measure the effectiveness of the program and if there is room for improvement. If there is no recycling program, we will be able to identify an opportunity for it. With a Waste Audit we are also able to identify how much compostable is thrown into the garbage which can lead to the implementation of a compost program.

BENEFITS

Conducting a Waste Analysis provides many benefits including:



Identifying what is going into the trash – and ultimately into landfills – with quantifiable data



Gauging the effectiveness of existing program(s) and targeting program improvements



Validating and communicating the program with the use of pictures



Determining a path forward

CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges that exist when conducting a Waste Analysis include:

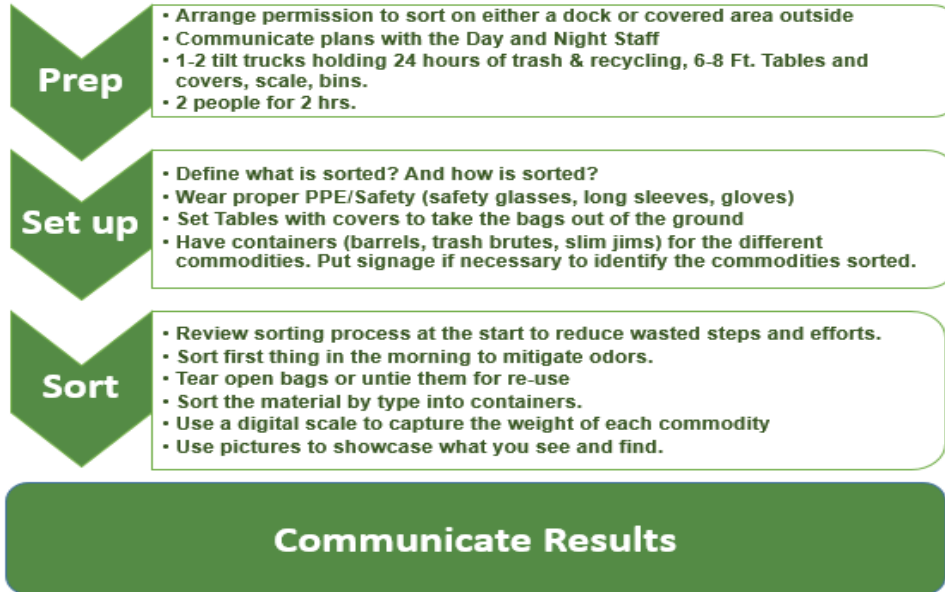
- Providing clear instructions for staging the trash to night custodial teams, i.e. defining which building's trash is to be set aside for analysis and on which date.
- Effective communication with the day staff and other groups, including security, thereby designating which materials need to be saved to ensure they are not inadvertently discarded.
- Training and handling for blood borne pathogens as the potential for exposure may arise.

GBCSC Tool Kit: Internal Recycling Program Improvements

WASTE AUDIT

PROCESSES

There are four basic steps in conducting a waste audit. It is very important to obtain the permission to do the waste audit because nothing can be done if we don't have the customer's authorization.



FINANCING, INCENTIVE & REBATES

- Cost to perform waste audit dependent on scope of audit. It can be performed in-house or sourced with temporary labor
- Provides opportunity to understand end-user disposal behavior and where to target program communications
- Can utilize data to extrapolate potential to increase diversion and cost savings opportunity related to decreased trash hauling, through increased recycle capture.
- Can identify contamination levels of recycling if loads are being rejected and how to target communications to reduce contamination; which has secondary financial impacts as not being charged double haul fees.

IN THE NEWS

- "Waste Audit /MLB Green Sports" <http://mlb.greensports.org/waste/waste-audit/>
- "How to Conduct a Waste Audit | Sustainable Business Council"
<http://sustainablebusinesscouncil.org/programs/toward-zero-waste/additional-resources-on-buying-local/how-to-conduct-a-waste-audit/>