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Recycling with Incentives in Rural Settings

**Northern Tier Solid Waste
Authority**

Burlington, Pennsylvania

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Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority

- 3-County Solid Waste Authority
- 112,000 population---2,700 sq. mile
- Integrated Solid Waste System (waste collection, disposal, recycling, energy production, greenhouse, etc., etc.
- System Operates on a User Fee Basis
- 104 municipalities; 97 of these are open competition for refuse collection customers

Recycling With Incentives

- NTSWA recycling programs began in 1986
- Source Separated Recyclable Collection is how the program began and still continues
- NTSWA recycling collection is “Free” (Costs built into the Integrated System)
- Recycling Collection both Curbside and Drop Point
- NTSWA waste collection system is “PAYT”

Recycling with Incentives

Drop-Off Locations

- Locations selected by sponsoring entity or group (currently about 45 locations)
- Group selects recyclables to be collected
- NTSWA prepares advertising, site specific brochure with recyclables collected, their preparation and collection dates for the year.
- NTSWA adds site to calendar

Recycling with Incentives

Drop-Off Locations

- Drop-off locations are supervised and manned by a civic group, municipality, etc.
- Group ensures recyclables prepared and separated properly thru verbal and eye contact
- Group satisfies public service obligation
- Recycling day(s) becomes a community event
- NTSWA delivers and picks up container(s) free

Recycling with Incentives

Drop-Off Location

- Groups paid \$.01 per pound (\$20/ton) of acceptable* recyclables collected (plus \$.40/lb for ABC)
- Group seeks out participants and continually increases quantities collected
- Unacceptable materials may be charged against groups receivables
- An additional \$.01 per pound is paid at the end of the year to the group for total* collected
- Group could receive \$40 per ton in revenue for each ton of recyclables collected

Recycling with Incentives

Drop-Off Locations

- 2006 pounds 2,473,261 collected
- 2007 pounds 2,544,291 collected an increase of 71,030 pounds
- Base payout in 2007 was \$35,747.42. An additional year end Bonus payout was \$25,442.91 for a total of \$61,190.33
- Drop-off locations received from \$246.00 to over \$11,000 in Incentives

Recycling with Incentives

Curbside Programs

- NTSWA crews, multi-bin vehicles
- NTSWA provides recycling curbside services in contracted waste collection municipalities and other select areas
- Services may be 1X per week to 1X per month
- NTSWA provides tailored brochures and other advertising
- Residents must take the *responsibility* to prepare recyclables properly
- Residents enjoy reduced waste collection costs thru reduced “PAYT” costs

Recycling with Incentives

Commercial/Institutional/Industrial*

- NTSWA waste collection system built on “Pay as You Throw”
- NTSWA provides “free” collection of recyclables from their C/I/I* customers; cardboard, paper, containers, etc.
- Establishment sees a reduction in refuse removal costs and becomes “greener”

Recycling with Incentives

Financial Incentives Work

- Revenue from “manning” recycling drop-off locations assist these groups in other endeavors
- Recycling quantities and quality increase each year
- Reduction in waste collection fees through “Pay as You Throw” promotes recycling
- **Integrated Waste Management Systems** allow these incentive programs to flourish