

Recycling at CDPHE



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CDPHE Background

- Approximately 1,200 employees located in 3 buildings
- Two of the buildings are office space located in the City of Glendale
- One building is a lab with office space located in East Denver.



Brief History of Recycling at CDPHE

- Main product recycled was office paper
 - Many of the signs for collection were outdated and incorrect
- Cardboard was other material that was collected
- Most other items were hit or miss
 - Employees would do on their own
 - No formalizes program for commingled items



Why Did We Decide to Improve?

- Environmental Management System (EMS) Aspects/Impacts Audit
 - Audit showed we were doing little to address waste/recycling issues
- HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Security of Documentation)
- RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 - Generation of Battery Waste (Universal Waste)
- Wanted to “Walk the Talk”



Where Are We at Now

- Items Collected at CDPHE
 - Glass/Aluminum/Plastic #1 & #2 (one container)
 - Corrugated Cardboard
 - Office Paper (Shredded)
 - Junk Mail, Newspaper, Magazines, Phonebooks, Brown Paper Bags, Paperboard (cereal boxes, soda 12 packs)
 - Electronic Equipment, Cell phones
 - Batteries
 - Computers, Old Office Supplies and Furniture



Challenges in Implementing Program

- Lease the two office buildings.
- Recycling companies only wanted to recycle office paper and cardboard at commercial facilities.
- Many independent office recycling programs in different divisions.
- Educating employees on program and materials that are accepted.
- Getting accurate tracking numbers.



Keys to Implementation

- Management Support.
- Different Divisions willing to step up and help with costs of program.
- Education of employees about benefits of program.
- Getting local waste haulers to be flexible in what they will collect.



Program Successes for FY '05

- Office Paper Recycling – 172,000 lbs
- Corrugated Cardboard – 130,000 lbs
- Newsprint/Magazines – 83,000 lbs
- Commingled Containers – 8,000 lbs
- Batteries (Mixed types) – 750 lbs
- **Total materials – 393,750 lbs**
- **Recycling Rate 35% to 51%**



Where is the Program Headed?

- Improved tracking of both recycled and waste material.
- More uniformity on collection containers and signage.
- Working to reduce cost of program (City and County of Denver Partnership?).
- Educating employees about program.
- Expanding to other state agencies.



Beyond Recycling

- Purchasing more products made from recycled material.
- Reduce the amount of raw material we purchase on the front end (Paper Reduction).



Questions?

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