

Waste Management: Comprehensive Recycling Strategy

Strategy: Recycle cardboard and any metal, glass and paper products used by store. Return/reuse any wood pallets. Provide area for consumers to drop-off recycling, particularly cardboard and plastic bags or items which are not typically picked up residentially by the City. Reduce use of packaging.

Relevant Store Scale/Type: S,M,L / New, Adapted, Existing

Initial Cost:

1. Tipping costs.
2. Staff and management training.

Return on Investment:

1. An average supermarket that recycles 8,900 tons of organic waste and 26,200 tons of cardboard/year has the potential to save \$45,000/year.
2. Recycling organic materials reduces disposal costs. The average cost for trash disposal is over \$80/ton, whereas recycling costs about \$60/ton.

Operator Benefits:

1. Recycling reduces fees and provides instant savings.
2. Good PR
3. Attracts customers.
4. Reduces landfills and environmental impact.

Technical Considerations:

1. Requires additional storage space for containers and staff coordination and education for garbage separation.
2. Consider how items are packaged and ways to reduce packaging, such as bulk sale of items.
3. Some packaging can be re-sold inexpensively as storage containers.

Product/Manufacturer Suggestions, Resources & Examples:

Article on supermarket savings through recycling:

<http://www.epa.gov.epaoswer/osw/consERVE/2005news/02-food.htm>

A Guide to Waste Reduction at Shopping Centers:

http://www.epa.gov.epaoswer/osw/consERVE/ontheGO/documents/_amrguide/amrguide.pdf

WasteCap – Supermarket Recycling Organics Initiative:

<http://www.wastecap.org/wastecap/Programs/sroi/Overview%20of%20Startup%20Costs%20&%20Svngs.pdf>

Article on encouraging recyclable choices in supermarkets; Greening the Grocery Store:

<http://www.designobserver.com/archives/entry.html?id=37924>