Multifamily Recycling Workshop

July 7, 2020
Workshop Agenda

St. Louis Park and Hennepin County multifamily ordinances

What can be recycled?

Addressing common problems

Resources to help your residents recycle better

Questions
GOAL
Reduce trash overall, but not at the expense of quality recycling
Multifamily challenges

• Higher turnover; people move from all over
• Knowledge varies; education provided by property varies
• Signage varies greatly
• Shared recycling containers makes it difficult to provide feedback directly to individuals
• Inadequate service capacity (dumpsters too small or not serviced often enough)
• Language barriers
• Apathy
St. Louis Park multifamily recycling ordinance

• Property management requirements (Ch. 22)
  o **Minimum capacity** → Minimum of 20 gallons of recycling per unit per week. This is equal to one cubic yard of recycling per ten (10) units.
  o **Recycling location** → Must be available to tenants at all times and be located in close proximity to garbage containers.
  o **Education** → Need to provide a recycling guide to all residents upon move-in and annually thereafter. Print or digital.
  o **Signage** → Recycling chutes or containers not provided by hauler must be labeled

• Hauler responsibility (Ch. 8)
  o **Signage** → Recycling carts/dumpsters must have labels with pictures
Minimum weekly service capacity

Required for all buildings with 5+ units

\[
\frac{20 \text{ gallons}}{\text{dwelling unit}} = \frac{\text{One 96 gallon cart}}{5 \text{ dwelling units}} = \frac{\text{One cubic yard dumpster}}{10 \text{ dwelling units}}
\]

Can be met through size of containers and frequency of collection.
• Generally, larger containers that are serviced less frequently cost less.
Location

Close proximity to trash

• Outdoors
  • Generally, easy to meet

• Indoors
  • If possible, in the same room.
  • If not possible, create alternative plan and get approved by city staff.
    • Signage
    • Trash by recycling (to address contamination)
Education

Responsible party* → provide educational materials in print or electronic form
  • New tenants within 30 days of move-in
  • Annually to all tenants
  • All tenants with 30 days of change in acceptable materials

Multiple language options from Hennepin County.

* e.g. property mgmt., condo association
Signage

• Minimum 8”x11”
• Recycling symbol
• Pictures
• Text “recycling/recycle”
Hennepin County ordinance
Why is it important to recycle the right stuff?

Safety

Operational

Contamination
Bagged stuff

• Issue: Contamination, operational
• What to do?
  • Unbag it!
  • Plastic bags → trash
  • Paper bags → only if absolutely necessary
Tiny stuff
Loose bottle caps, paper smaller than a post-it, “bits” of stuff

- Issue: Contamination
- What to do?
  - Trash
  - Bottle caps – leave plastic on plastic
Big stuff

- Issue: Operational, contamination
- What to do?
  - Reusable – donate, give away
  - Repairable – county Fix-it clinic
  - Beyond repair – trash
Dirty or full stuff

• Issue: Contamination
• What to do?
  • Clean/empty it!
  • Trash
Paper – YES!

• Mail
• Office and school papers
• Magazines and catalogs
• Newspapers and inserts
• Phone books
• Cardboard
• Cereal boxes
• Shoe boxes
Paper – No

- Shredded paper
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- Paper cups and plates
- Paper egg cartons
- Freezer boxes
- Ice cream tubs
- Wrapping paper
Plastic – YES!

• Water/soda bottles
• Milk and juice jugs
• Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
• Detergent jugs
• Shampoo bottles
• Yogurt cups
• Cottage cheese, margarine containers
Plastic – No

• Bags
• Utensils
• Plastic tubes (shampoo, toothpaste)
• Styrofoam™
Numbers matter

Many plastics have the chasing arrows with a number inside it. Unfortunately, it’s NOT a “recycling” symbol.

- Resin ID Code (RIC) identifies the type of plastic
- Different plastics have different markets, several are very limited and cannot be recycled in our region
  - **YES:** 1, 2, 4, 5
  - **NO:** 3, 6, 7
Metal – YES!

- Food cans
- Beverage cans
- Tea canisters (all metal)
- Cookie tins
- Aluminums trays/pie plates

Metal – NO

- Pots, pans, cookie sheets
- Shelving
- Propane tanks
Glass – YES!

• Food jars
• Beverage bottles

Glass – No

• Drinkware
• Dishes
• Mirrors
• Windows
Cartons – YES!

- Milk cartons
- Soy/nut milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup/broth cartons
Other problem materials

- Batteries
- Sharps and needles
- String lights, electrical cords
- Multi-layer packaging
- Snack bags/wrappers
Addressing common problems
Contamination

- Haulers are charging fines
- Simplify message to residents
- Incorporate into lease
- Host a workshop
Overflowing dumpsters

- Increase service – dumpster size or collection frequency
- Separate cardboard only containers, with flattening

Illegal dumping

- Security cameras
- Physical screening (hide containers)
- Code 25-5(a)
  - Report to SLP Police Dept
Resources

St. Louis Park

- www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling
- Park Perspective articles/guides
- Social media posts
- MF organics drop-sites (food waste)
- Recycling Champions
- Workshops and events
Questions?
Thank you!

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