

A Small-Business Model for Internal Recycling



Model Procedure:

1. Meet with management in your company to garner leadership commitment to the concept and potential for costs associates with recycling, since there is a cost to this commitment. This will establish an environmental stewardship basis to the undertaking.
2. Tour the facility to obtain an idea of what kind of waste your company generates that has the potential to be recycled - paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, etc.
3. Contact other small businesses in the area to see how they deal with their waste and recyclables.
4. Next is the physical placement of receptacles throughout your facility for each type of targeted product - paper, plastic, cans and bottles, and refuse.
5. Conduct an information session for the employees so they understand their accountability to participate by physically recycling things that need to be recycled as outlined with the adopted system. By doing this, they will gain an understanding of what can be recycled in the blue plastic recycling bins, green paper recycling bins, or the trash.
6. Conduct a waste audit of the amount of material that is collected in the receptacles within a week to see what volume your company generates. Approximately measure the amount of thrown-away waste against the newly diverted recyclable materials.
7. Have a recycler visit your company to provide a cost estimate to remove the recycled products. Factors used in estimating the cost of recycling include:
 - a. How much material there is, which relates to -
 - b. How often it needs to be picked up to get it out of your way, and
 - c. The distance from the recycler to your business.
 - d. Generally the recycler will provide the estimate free of charge.
8. Once you retain a recycler, the recycler will place several 'totes' (large collection bins, the size based on your volume of generation) that separately hold paper and plastics and what is called a 'cart' for cardboard. Usually these storage units are placed at the facility free of charge and included with the service package. Most will waive the delivery fee if you commit to their service promptly.

Why might such a service benefit you?

Using this *Small-Business Model for Internal Recycling* is not only beneficial to the environment, but can also be a way for a small business or organization to reduce their thrown-away waste costs. Businesses and organizations with a reasonable amount of paper waste can choose to recycle the paper in lieu of putting the paper in with the rest of their trucked waste. Pickup for a dumpster of medium size typically costs almost twice as much as it costs to pick up a recycled paper receptacle. By recycling the paper a business can save space in their trucked trash dumpster by putting the recyclable paper in its own receptacle, making a pickup of a normal waste dumpster less frequent. Following this procedure plan allows a company to not only be environmentally responsible but also financially responsible. For our purposes, a 4 yard dumpster removal costs \$95 from the waste management company RRIE uses, whereas 2-2 yard carts cost \$50 for removal by CleanScape, both on an on-call basis. Therefore you can generally get recyclables (that would otherwise be filling your dumpster) removed twice before you would need to remove the dumpster itself. Again this varies based on the conditions outline in the procedure above. However in the long-term, it can have profound effects on your waste costs and it aids in a global effort to recycle.



Who is CleanScape?



An identifiable option for use with a recycling plan is CleanScape. CleanScape is located in the southern area of Providence, Rhode Island. They were established in 1999 and their reason for becoming a business was to give more job opportunities to the residents of South Providence. They mainly work in Rhode Island and their missions as a company is to contribute to cleaning up the environment of South Providence and providing recycling services to businesses and institutions in the Rhode Island area.

They offer the services of recycling, shredding, waste reductions, and landscaping services. They recycle most types of paper, bottles, cans, corrugated cardboard, and wooden pallets that are not broken. When hired by a company, they can either be an on-call service where you call them whenever your bins are full or would like them to empty something, or they can have a regularly scheduled pickup each week or month where there is a monthly fee. If interested in CleanScape, all their contact information is on their website at www.CleanScape.com.

Historical Overview:

Recycling for RI Education (RRIE) is a non-profit organization based in Providence, RI that supports preservation of the environment by reducing land-filling by clean, non-toxic, solid waste diversion. The organization's main purpose is to take surpluses and overruns of items such as office supplies, material fall-outs, overruns, etc., and redistribute them to educators, youth groups and other non-profits. In the Fall of 2008, RRIE was approached by a group of Bryant University Management students for an opportunity to complete a service-learning project related to recycling.

The Planeteers is a group of four students from Bryant University that are members of Professor Lynda St. Clair's *Management Principles and Practice* course. Their project was student-created to meet the required "Service Learning Project" portion of the course. The Planeteers are also committed to the preservation of the environment. Their mission during the course of this project was to promote environmental awareness while working to assist RRIE by implementing a devised system that helps them manage their waste more effectively and efficiently. This *Small Business Model for Internal Recycling* is an adaptation from a project plan designed by the Planeteers for RRIE.

The Planeteers job was to figure out ways the organization can reduce the amount of thrown-away trash they generate by recycling what is recyclable then have a waste management or recycling company pick up and dispose of those items in an environmentally friendly fashion. This model is designed for any small business or organization in the nearby area to implement a similar system in an effort to reduce the amount of material that is sent to landfills. Since environmental awareness seems to be a growing issue in society, it is crucial for small business taking on this ideology then to enact these types of procedures. The Planeteers philosophy is that if these types of small internal models for recycling catch on, their impact can be long term in reducing the amount of material sent to landfills.

The Planeteers

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December 10, 2008