



PDHonline Course C318 (8 PDH)

Reducing Solid Waste

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Appendix C

Glossary

Baler: A machine used to compress recyclables into bundles to reduce volume. Balers are used often on newspapers, plastic, corrugated cardboard, and other sorted paper products,

Compactor: Power-driven device used to compress materials to a smaller volume.

Compost: The stable, decomposed organic material resulting from the composting process. Also referred to as humus.

Composting: The controlled biological decomposition of organic materials in the presence of oxygen into a stable product that may be used as a soil amendment or mulch.

Contaminant: Foreign material that makes a recyclable or compostable material impure; for instance, food scraps on paper products.

Hauler: A garbage collection company that offers a complete refuse removal service. Many haulers now offer to serve as collectors of recyclable as well.

Markets: Generally, a recycling business (i.e., a buyer) or municipal recycling facility that accepts recyclable materials for processing and final sale to an end user, either for their own use or for resale.

Materials Exchange: A mutually beneficial relationship whereby two or more organizations exchange materials that otherwise would be thrown away. In some areas, computer and catalog networks are available to match up companies who wish to participate in exchanging their materials.

Municipal Solid Waste: For the purposes of this guide, municipal solid waste includes all materials typically disposed of in dumpsters by businesses and removed for offsite disposal by private or municipal haulers. Includes wastes such as durable and nondurable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources. Municipal solid waste does not include wastes from other sources, such as municipal sludges, combustion ash, and industrial nonhazardous process wastes that might also be disposed of in municipal waste landfills or incinerators.

Pallets: A wooden platform used with a forklift for moving bales or other large items. Also called a “skid.”

Processing: The operations performed on recycled materials to render them reusable or marketable. Processing can include grinding glass, crushing cans, or baling newspaper. Processing has two distinct functions: a separation function and a processing or beneficiation function. Processing generally results in adding value to a particular material,

Rebuilding: Modifying a component of municipal solid waste by repairing or replacing certain parts and reusing it again for its original purpose (e.g., refillable or rebuildable toner cartridges, wooden cable reels, or plastic wire reels). Rebuilding of solid waste components is most often done by a middleman,

Recyclables: Materials that still have useful physical or chemical properties after serving their original purpose. Such materials can be remade into new products, (See Appendix E for a list of common recyclable.)

recycling: The process by which materials are collected and used as raw materials for new products, 'There are five steps in recycling: collecting waste materials, separating them by type (before or after collection), processing them into reusable forms, marketing the "new" products, and purchasing and using the goods made with reprocessed materials.

Reuse: Taking a component of municipal solid waste (possibly with slight modification) and using it again for its original purpose (e.g., refillable beverage bottles, foam peanuts, or pallets).

Solid Waste: According to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), solid waste is: garbage; refuse; sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; and other discarded materials, including solid, liquid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities.

Source Separation: Separating waste materials such as paper, metal, and glass by type at the point of discard so that they can be

Trash: Material often considered worthless, unnecessary, or offensive that is usually thrown away. Generally defined as dry waste material; but in common usage, it is a synonym for garbage, rubbish, or refuse.

Waste Prevention: The design, manufacture, purchase or use of materials or products to reduce their amount or toxicity before they enter the municipal solid waste stream. Because it is intended to reduce pollution and conserve resources, waste prevention should not increase the net amount or toxicity of wastes generated throughout the life of a product.

Waste Reduction: Preventing and/or decreasing the amount of waste being generated either through waste prevention, recycling, composting, or buying recycled and reduced-waste products.

Waste Streams: The total flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions, and manufacturing plants that are recycled, burned, or disposed in landfills, or any segment thereof such as the "residential waste stream" or the "recyclable waste stream."

Glossary Sources

Definitions for glossary terms were derived from the following sources

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