

Sunset Waste Systems, Inc.

Company Background

Sunset Waste Systems, Inc. was started by John Mohoff Sr., in 1969 and was known as Sunset Waste Paper. At the time, John Mohoff Sr. owned a small recycling company which collected and recovered more than 100 tons of cardboard per month. Today, under the direction of his son, Bill Mohoff, Sunset processes more than 10,000 tons per month of source-separated and commingled residential and commercial recyclables generated by more than 200,000 customers. They also serve more than 26,000 homes, 12,000 multi-family residential units, 1,000 businesses, and more than 200 industrial accounts. The project proposed by Sunset involved education, training, implementation, and conveyance of source-separated, commingled CRV materials from individual multifamily units to collection sites located at multifamily complexes.



Goals

- Motivate 50 percent of all multifamily dwellings to participate in the program;
- Divert 12-15 percent of all waste generated at participating locations; and
- Reduce contamination to less than 25 percent of collected CRV beverage containers.

Accomplishments

- Motivated 50 percent of all multifamily dwellings to participate in the program;
- Diverted 12-15 percent of all waste generated at participating locations; and
- Reduced contamination to less than 25 percent of collected CRV beverage containers.

Challenges

One challenge that was encountered was scavenging from the bins and recycling containers. Locks were installed on the bins to prevent the issue of scavenging but the convenience of recycling by tenants was impaired. Contamination, such as e-waste, was corrected by having drop-off events for those items. Many of the recycling coordinators from Sunset have run into issues with compliance. Many residents are wondering why they have to do this. Sunset sees this as a valid question and hopes to continue assisting residents in their endeavors to recycle.

Grant Type
Multi-Family

Year Awarded
2008

Funding
\$189,780 Grant Funds
\$143,601 Matching Funds

\$333,381 Total Funds

Project Length
Three years

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Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- You must research and understand the demographics of each jurisdiction.
- Waste audits should be performed.
- Initial and continual participant contact allows you to determine the type of bins needed, location of recycling area, costs, bin responsibility, scavenging prevention, volume tracking, continual outreach, and support.
- Ongoing public education, outreach, and local events attendance are important.
- Continual and open communication with multi-family dwelling managers and tenants develops working partnerships which will ensure sustainability and support of the multifamily dwelling recycling program. The high turnover of multifamily dwelling tenants makes this aspect essential.

