



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT



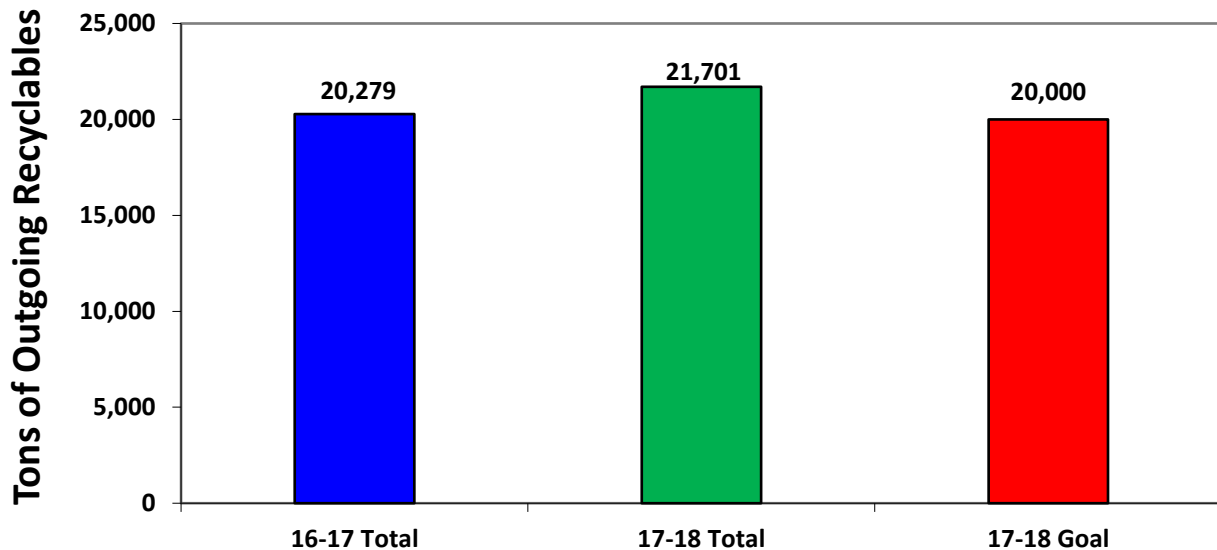
BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date: October 12, 2018
To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
From: Vincent Burke, P.E., Director of Utility Services
Thru: Himanshu H. Mehta, P.E., Managing Director, Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD)
Prepared By: Stephanie C. Fonvielle, Recycling Education and Marketing Coordinator, SWDD
Subject: Solid Waste Disposal District Quarterly Recycling Update
 Fiscal Year 2017/2018 – 4th Quarter

4th QUARTER UPDATE

For the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18, the average monthly recycling tonnages continue to be higher than the previous two years of single-stream recycling. Overall, the total recycling tonnages for FY17/18 reached 21,701 tons, which is 7% higher than the overall recycling tonnages for FY16/17 and exceeds SWDD’s internal goal of 20,000 tons.

Month	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
July	1,522	1,377	1,797
August	1,409	1,878	1,597
September	1,399	1,208	1,528
Average Monthly Tonnage	1,444	1,488	1,641



GENERAL UPDATES ON THE RECYCLING MARKETS

As we strive towards the statewide goal of 75% by 2020, Indian River County has reached a recycling rate of 64%, which brings Indian River County (IRC) within the top 10 for overall recycling rates and within the top 4 if only traditional recycling is considered. China is by far the largest importer of recycling commodities in the world so their recent decision to severely limit the amount of material accepted into their country has raised challenges across the recycling industry. Tropical Recycling, the sorting facility for Indian River County, responded by investing in their infrastructure before the changes in China went into effect. Over the last few months, residue rates at Tropical Recycling's facility has increased from 8-10% to 12-15%. According to Tropical Recycling staff, contamination rates within the recycling stream has stayed relatively constant, so the increase in the overall waste residue is attributed to more efficient machinery and an increase in the amount of removal of waste residue during the sorting process. So far, the only changes to the recycling program is that plastic caps can now be left on plastic bottles and cartons and recycled in the curbside program as long as the cap is securely fastened to the container. Loose caps are still not accepted in the curbside program and should be discarded in the trash.

SUMMARY OF NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES IN FY 17/18:

SWDD staff launched several new programs and initiatives in Fiscal Year 17/18 to improve recycling services in Indian River County. Postcard mailers were sent to every residential home in the county to provide general information and invite residents to provide feedback on the recycling and garbage programs via an online survey. In an effort to lead by example and show the County's dedication to recycling, recycling containers were placed throughout the lobbies, outdoor areas, breakrooms, and workspaces in the Administration Complex buildings. Working with Waste Management, recycling carts were also provided at the eight County beach parks where they are picked up weekly. For the first time, the County also provided a Tire Amnesty day where up to 10 tires per vehicle were accepted at the Main Landfill and the Customer Convenience Centers for one day only.

SWDD staff worked closely with the School District to launch a robust recycling pilot program at four schools, which was considered a great success and the program is being expanded to ten more schools in January 2019. The recycling program will be brought to the remaining schools the following year in January 2020. For the first time, the County invited 4th and 5th grade students to participate in a "Drop Savers" poster contest, which is an annual poster competition hosted by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, to encourage teachers and students the importance of water conservation.

PLANS AND GOALS FOR FY 18/19:

SWDD staff plans to continue hosting seasonal recycling collection events, providing general recycling information through radio, print and video advertising. SWDD does have a few online recycling advertisements, but staff would like to expand our online presence and investigate the use of various social media avenues. SWDD has established three goals for FY 18/19. The first is to successfully encourage five multi-family communities to utilize the recycling pick-up services they are paying for through their Solid Waste Assessment fees. Discussions with multi-family communities to date have been on an opportunistic basis. We would like to be more proactive in reaching out to property managers to discuss and address perceived and/or existent obstacles.

The second goal is to successfully encourage five commercial entities to sign up for recycling that previously did not have recycling. Similar to the multi-family, discussions with commercial entities have been on an opportunistic basis and SWDD staff would like to take a more proactive approach to really understand and address the challenges that commercial entities face.

Finally, the third goal for FY 18/19 is to increase SWDD's overall outbound recycling tonnage to 22,800 tons, which would be a 5% increase from last fiscal year's overall total. SWDD staff feels that with the above efforts outlined in the first two goals, and the expansion of the recycling program at the schools, we should be able to increase the outbound recycling by 5% in the public sector.

GENERAL RECYCLING INFORMATION

Tanglers such as plastic bags, hoses, chains, and clothing are the biggest contamination issues at Tropical Recycling. Plastic shopping bags can be dropped off in collection bins near the entrance of various stores, but many people do not realize that various other kinds of plastic films are also accepted in these collection bins. Many local stores will also accept bread bags, newspaper bags, plastic packaging wrap and case wraps. An organization called Plastic Film Recycling has developed educational program called the Wrap Recycling Action Program (W.R.A.P), where they provide educational information and materials to explain various plastic films that are acceptable in these recycling bins. SWDD staff printed several of these cards to help bring awareness that these plastic films should be brought to store locations and NOT placed in the curbside cart.

Recently, SWDD staff created a brief question and answer report that addresses some specific questions about Tropical Recycling, the W.R.A.P. program, specific goals for SWDD for FY 2018/2019, and some practical solutions to bring Indian River County closer to the 75% recycling goal. For the Board's reference, this brief report has been added as an attachment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. General Information about Recycling in Indian River County