



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM



Date: April 6, 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: SWDD Quarterly Recycling Update FY17/18 – 2nd Quarter

BACKGROUND:

On January 23, 2018, staff presented the First Quarterly Recycling Update for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18 to the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) Board. At this presentation, the Board asked the following questions that are addressed in this 2nd Quarterly Update to the SWDD Board:

1. How can we relate the increased single-stream recycling tonnages to the growth in Indian River County (IRC)?
2. What is our recycling rate for 2017?
3. How is the recycling going with the construction and demolition (C&D) debris? Is Public Works tracking C&D debris on county projects such as the car wash that was torn down?
4. How do the Customer Convenience Centers (CCCs) compare to what is happening curbside?
5. Where are we with recycling at the beach parks?
6. Are there any updates on recycling within the schools, specifically regarding the black Styrofoam trays used in the cafeterias?

2nd QUARTERLY UPDATE:

For the second quarter of FY 2017/18, the average monthly recycling tonnages continue to be higher than the previous two years of single-stream recycling.

| Month | FY 2015/16 | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| January | 1,613 | 2,030 | 2,177 |
| February | 1,585 | 1,606 | 1,714 |
| March | 1,941 | 1,900 | 1,793 |
| Average Monthly Tonnage | 1,713 | 1,846 | 1,895 |

1. RECYCLING VS. GROWTH:

Indian River County (IRC) has seen a rise in development and subsequently, a rise in population. In order to relate the increased recycling tonnages to the population growth in IRC, SWDD staff compared the annual population estimates provided by the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research to the total amount of single-stream recycling produced in Indian River in a calendar year.

| | CY 2015 | CY 2016 | CY 2017 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Population | 143,326 | 146,410 | 148,962 |
| Number of Households (Single and Multi-family) | 73,055 | 73,883 | 74,923 |
| Annual Tons of Single Stream Recycling (Material sent to Tropical Recycling*) | 13,647 | 19,444 | 20,412 |
| Pounds per person per day | 0.51 | 0.73 | 0.75 |

*Note this includes single-family and multi-family recycling as well as commercial recycling that is tracked through the landfill and sent to Tropical Recycling.

In 2017, SWDD estimates that the average IRC resident produced about 0.75 lbs. of recycling per person per day. In CY 2016, residents produced slightly less at 0.73 lbs. per person per day and in CY 2015, the rate was even lower at 0.51 lbs. per person per day. In summary, residents in Indian River County are indeed recycling more and the increase in single-stream tonnages over the last few years is not just a product of population growth.

2. RECYCLING RATE UPDATE FOR 2017:

On March 29, 2018, SWDD staff submitted the annual Solid Waste Management Report to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). According to the data we submitted to FDEP for review, the recycling rate for IRC is estimated to be 60% for 2017. If FDEP accepts and confirms our calculations, then IRC will have successfully reached the interim goal of a 60% recycling rate by 2017. The official recycling rates for all Florida counties should be posted by DEP by July 1, 2018.

3. C&D RECYCLING:

As suggested by the SWDD Board, any concrete material that is collected and reused by the Public Works Department from local demolition projects will be tracked and reported to SWDD to be included in the 2018 recycling report. In addition, SWDD staff will continue to coordinate with private companies that are recycling asphalt, concrete and vegetative waste in IRC.

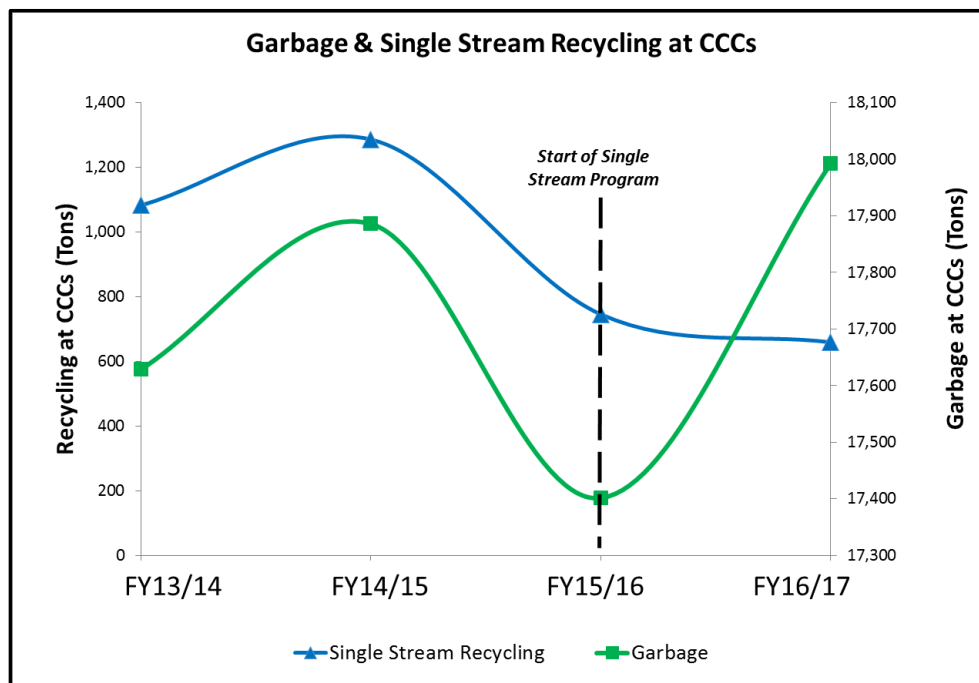
4. CUSTOMER CONVENIENCE CENTERS:

The delivery of recycling carts to all residential homes in IRC was expected to increase participation in the curbside recycling program, and subsequently decrease the amount of recyclable materials being brought to the CCCs, specifically those materials that are accepted curbside. As anticipated, the amount of mixed recyclables, paper products and cardboard collected at the CCCs decreased after the implementation of the single stream program in FY 15/16 (Figure 1).

Interestingly, the total Garbage tonnages at the CCCs dropped significantly in FY 15/16, but then rebounded in FY 16/17, surpassing the tonnages brought in prior to the single-stream program. This rebounding effect was likely a result of the occurrences of both Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma

during FY 16/17. We would need another non-hurricane season in order to truly gauge the effects of the new curbside programs on the recycling and garbage tonnages collected at the CCCs.

Figure 1



5. BEACH PARKS:

As of January 2018, recycling is available at all eight (8) county beach parks after over thirty modified blue recycling carts were delivered to the parks. The carts are emptied once a week by Waste Management.

6. IRC SCHOOL RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM:

The IRC School Recycling Pilot Program was successfully launched in January 2018 at four of IRC's public schools: Pelican Island Elementary, Rosewood Magnet School, Storm Grove Middle School, and the Vero Beach High School Freshman Learning Center. The overall response from the teachers and students at the schools was very positive. The recycling at each school increased about 50% and the garbage reduced between 30-50%, depending on the school. SWDD will continue to work with the School District of IRC to discuss the possibility of expanding the program to the remaining 16 public schools. A detailed discussion of the expansion will be brought to the SWDD Board at a future meeting.

The IRC School Recycling Pilot program did not specifically address the black Styrofoam trays used in school cafeterias; however, one of the pilot schools, Pelican Island Elementary, was in the process of launching a pilot composting program and replacing the black Styrofoam trays with biodegradable trays. Since the last quarterly update, the composting equipment has been successfully connected, and the school has begun their pilot composting program.

RECYCLING EVENTS AND EDUCATION:

During the second quarter, SWDD partnered with Waste Management to host the winter Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Recycling Event on January 27, 2018, at the North County Pool.

The event brought in 275 cars and recycled 10,106 lbs. of electronics as well as paint cans, propane tanks, pesticides, and other HHW. Our next recycling event will be the Waste Tire Amnesty Day on April 28, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Main County Landfill and the five CCCs.

This year, SWDD launched a Mailer Campaign where 6.5 x 11" postcards were mailed to single family and multifamily homes in IRC. The postcard contained general recycling information as well as explanations to why particular items are not accepted in the blue recycling cart.

In conjunction with the recycling mailer, SWDD staff developed a brief survey to collect valuable feedback from the community about the garbage and recycling services available in IRC. To encourage participation, any resident that fills out the survey can choose to enter a raffle for a chance to win a \$100 gift card donated by Target Corporation or a \$25 gift card donated by Countryside Citrus. As of April 6, 2018, over 300 survey submissions have already been submitted. In early May, SWDD will launch a general recycling advertising campaign and remind residents to fill out the online survey. The drawing for the raffle will take place on June 1, 2018, and SWDD staff will share the results of the survey at the 3rd quarterly update to the SWDD Board.