

VALLEY PLAZA (VP)

Beaverton Hillsdale Highway- Beaverton, Oregon

In 2006, the City of Beaverton's **Recycle-At-Work** Program successfully optimized Valley Plaza's recycling and garbage services for both the tenants and the property manager. This work included an inventory of actual containers on-site, consistent relabeling of all on-site containers, and distribution of recycling boxes and education materials to all interested tenants.



About The Businesses

• Businesses Visited	21
• Businesses Already Commingling	1
• Businesses Recycling Cardboard / Paper	15
• Businesses Using Shredding Service	1
• Businesses Taking Home Recycling	1
• Businesses Not Recycling	3

About the Complex:

Valley Plaza is a commercial complex with one three story office building and an expansive retail area. The complex also includes an ice arena, bowling alley, Movie Theater, and an early childhood learning center.

Recycling and Garbage Activities:

- Valley Plaza's property manager handles garbage service for all non-retail tenants. A janitorial service collects the recycling and garbage from the office building and deposits the materials in a centralized container area.
- Employees of other businesses such as the bowling alley and ice arena take their waste materials to the same area. For some of these businesses, garbage and recycling containers are inconveniently located and in poor condition. Wooden pallets are also stored behind containers.
- The remainder of businesses that share the strip mall location have their own garbage and recycling services behind their storefronts. These businesses appear

to recycle a higher percentage of their waste, likely due to the convenient location of their containers.

- The majority of businesses were recycling cardboard and paper but were under the impression that recycling was limited to those two materials.
- One business was commingling.
- Two businesses had no recycling activity at all.

How Recycle-At-Work Helped:

- City staff visited all of the businesses in the complex, delivering a total of 157 boxes.
- For the businesses that had their own recycling containers, staff provided updated decals to display on the containers.
- When visiting Valley Lanes Bowling Alley, City staff noticed that the business had a significant amount of glass waste and no access to a glass recycling cart. Staff offered to help the business obtain glass carts from their garbage hauler. Valley Lanes was grateful for the help and has instituted a glass recycling system at their business.

City Staff Delivered:	
• Desk Side Boxes	149
• Large Boxes	8
• Stickers	25
• Glass Stickers	5
• Flyers	40

Next Steps:

- Most of Valley Plaza’s tenants expressed strong interest in the commingling program and a willingness to take advantage of the service.
- We can confidently expect to see an increase in Valley Plaza’s recycling, particularly with respect to plastics and metal materials in the three restaurants that were previously recycling only cardboard.
- Continued education is necessary and an active partnership with the property manager will assist all new tenants in understanding recycling options.
- A training/Q&A meeting with the janitorial personnel would help develop a consistent materials preparation system for commingling.
- Roll-Carts have been recommended as an option for tenants that have to transport materials across the complex to the commingled containers.