

The Streets of Tanasbourne

History:

The Washington County Recycle at Work Program has successfully implemented a recycling program at this unique strip mall containing 54 retail businesses. A program representative performed site evaluations at 48 of the 54 businesses over the course of 8 months, meeting with store managers to ensure implementation. Of the 48 businesses that were visited, 42 setup deskside boxes or central collection containers to capture recycling. Janitorial staff recently remarked that stores are generating more recycling than trash.

The onsite property manager was contacted in October 2005 regarding the Recycle at Work Program. A list of store managers was secured and used to access key individuals at each store. The property manager welcomed feedback regarding the level of receptivity towards recycling at each store and wanted to know which stores were willing to participate in the program. The support of the property manager was a key component in program implementation. Additionally, the Recycle at Work representative was able to access and train janitorial staff members through the property manager.

Assistance:

The store manager for each business was visited and trained on the commingled mix along with waste reduction and buy recycled best practices. Most of the stores were generating an abundance of plastic film which the garbage hauler agreed to recycle if bagged separately from the commingled recycling. Along with this material, each store has been trained to recycle the following:

- Paper
- Newspaper
- Tin
- Aluminum
- Plastic
- Glass (separate from other items)

Barriers/Next Steps:

A significant barrier that appeared consistently was high turnover among store employees and members of the janitorial staff. Training new employees on the mall's recycling system was essential in establishing the program and will be necessary to maintain the program's momentum in the future. Some janitorial staff members were confused about the commingled system and required training sessions provided by Washington County staff. Another training session will be needed when the mall begins to compact their trash in a few months. Two compactors for trash and recycling will centralize trash collection and hopefully simplify recycling for the janitorial staff. The property manager is also considering baling and selling cardboard due to the large volume being generated.

Location:

Hillsboro-19350 NW Emma Way

Business Type:

A suburban lifestyle shopping center.

Before Assistance:

Almost all stores were only recycling cardboard prior to assistance from Recycle at Work.

After Assistance:

Most stores are now commingling and also recycling their plastic film.

What worked?

- Collaboration with the mall's property management team, which strongly supported a recycling program and encouraged tenant participation.
- Consistent education and outreach with the mall's janitorial staff and store management.

Main Contacts:

- Betsy Murphy (General Manager-Continental Real Estate)
- John Hazlett (WRAW)
- Garbarino Disposal Service

Main participants:

- 48 retail stores of various sizes
- Washington County Recycle at Work Program
- The mall's property manager and janitorial staff