

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING GROUP

The City of Burlington shall implement waste reduction strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote community understanding regarding why waste prevention is important and how to actually go about achieving it.

Objective 1

Reduce the overall amount of waste created by 60% by the year 2011 and create new targets by 2015.

Action Items

1. Create/publish a list of products approved by the City that reduce waste and promote reusable items rather than just recyclable items.
2. Develop and mandate an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy similar to Rutgers University utilizing the State of Vermont's current EPP as a resource.
3. Ban bottle water at all city events and facilities. Remove bottled water from vending machines and promote the use of reusable water bottles.
4. Require all new construction and renovation plans to design for energy efficiency and recycled materials. Create incentives for LEED Certified Projects.
5. Create a waste reduction challenge or program that will enable city government employee to lead by example. Incorporate a waste management plan with incentives.
6. Consolidate trash haulers by neighborhood or district limiting the number of trucks driving through the city.
7. Develop a pay as you throw (PAYT) program. Issue large recycling containers and smaller trash receptacles.

Objective 2

Increase the overall diversion rate by 60% by the year 2011 and create new targets by 2015.

Action Items

1. Require all Construction and Demolition projects to submit a waste management plan that is posted on site in public view and must be approved before the project begins.
 - o Provide incentives to promote salvaging materials that can be reused and for incorporating salvage materials into constructions projects.
2. Prepare all handouts and informational pieces in multiple languages.
3. Expand the current organics collections and encourage other haulers to offer the service.

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4. Promote backyard composting by making bins, digesters and other mechanism that allows residents to compost at home. Support compost facilities in the area.

Objective 3 (Educational)

Increase the overall awareness of the public by creating, sponsoring and providing educational programming and opportunities that address waste diversion and reduction.

Action Items

1. Create an environmental educational outreach position.
2. Encourage greater use of the recycling bin. Require recycling bins for all events, business and homes. Provide multiple sizes (i.e. one for the bedroom, one for the bathroom) of recycling bins and place them next to all trash receptacles.
3. Plan and execute public educational events on Church Street about waste reduction and recycling.
4. Design educational displays that can be located at the Waterfront, Airport and other public facilities.
5. Provide incentives for those that bring their own containers for bulk items, salad and soup bars and beverages.
6. Ban the use of plastic bags in the City of Burlington for purchases.