



CLEAN Community Challenge Success Story:

Recycling Program Fishers, Indiana



Background

Fishers does not currently have a recycling drop-off facility within the community. The closest location to drop off recyclables is to the north in Noblesville. The idea of driving (burning fossil fuels) to recycle does not seem efficient environmentally nor practically. The town has several drop-off locations for paper recycling and offers Christmas tree recycling at the end of each holiday season. Over time, residents have requested, and the town has clearly seen the need, to host recycling drop-off events each year. The CLEAN committee chose recycling as one of its five CLEAN program goals.

Goal

Provide an opportunity for Fishers residents to recycle household materials ranging from paper and plastics to furniture, appliances, and chemicals; establish two community recycling events.

Action Plan and Tasks Completed

- Identify a private recycling company to provide drop-off services for residents
- Designate and reserve a Fishers park or public location to hold event
- Secure all appropriate permissions for the park use and arrange police traffic management
- Roll out marketing campaign through Town Talk, Fishers website, other avenues for event
- Work with recycling company to determine total amount (tonnage) of goods recycled
- Determine whether or not new materials can be recycled for future events

Accomplishments

The town partnered with a private recycling company to hold two recycling events per year. For each event held since 2011, between 15-30 tons of recyclables were collected.

As an example, one of the events in 2012 resulted in approximately 30 tons of items collected and diverted from landfills and/or water supply. Among the items collected were:

- a 40 yard dumpster of cardboard, Styrofoam, carpet and random trash = 2000lbs
- 15 bicycles
- 25 mowers
- 10 grills
- 80 TVs
- 100 CRTs (cathode ray tubes)
- over 100 computers
- hundreds of printers
- 10 major appliances
- over 1500 gallons of paint
- large amounts of chemicals, open liquids, oil, etc.

Recommendations from the town of Fishers

Find a great recycling company to partner with, and seek other partners such as a shredding company to provide confidential document and general paper destruction and recycling. Recruit a local Boy Scout group, Rotary or Kiwanis club to help people unload and load items onto the



recycling trucks. Volunteers also help with traffic flow – 15 tons equals approximately 800 cars, 30 tons is approximately 1500 cars. Work with police department or parks to set up cones and have an efficient, well-designed in-and-out procedure. It should work like a drive through and minimize wait time for people bringing in items. While people wait, it is nice to have volunteer groups pass out information or some sort of thank you, like a keychain or cloth grocery bag. Organization and traffic flow are key! Make sure to market the event very well beforehand and follow-up afterwards to let the community know the impact they made by disposing of their goods.



About the CLEAN Program

CLEAN stands for Comprehensive Local Environmental Action Network. The CLEAN Community Challenge is a voluntary recognition program for cities, towns, and counties that go above and beyond environmental regulatory compliance and make significant commitments to environmental management. For more information about CLEAN, please visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/prevention/2361.htm>.