



case study

City of Springfield Mandatory Recycling Enforcement Coordinator Program

The City of Springfield received a mandatory recycling enforcement grant from MassDEP for \$40,000. The approach and results of implementing a municipal curbside mandatory recycling program are discussed below.



Community Population:	153,060
Households Served:	44,000
Services Provided:	Weekly curbside trash and bi-weekly single-stream recycling collection

Program Overview

- MassDEP grant funds for this project were disbursed over 24 months, beginning April 2008 and ending April 2010.
- The goal of the grant was to increase recycling tonnage collected, and save the City money on disposal costs.

Implementation

- Using grant funds, the City of Springfield hired a Mandatory Recycling Enforcement Coordinator.
- Baseline data was collected (recycling and solid waste tonnage and the set-out rate on two collection routes) to benchmark the progress of the recycling enforcement program.
- The City of Springfield printed outreach materials and publicity tools (press releases, brochures, flyers, etc) to notify residents of the City's intent to enforce mandatory recycling and to explain the benefits of recycling to the community.
- The Coordinator conducted two follow-up recycling set-out rate surveys six months apart for the 2 collection routes used for establishing a baseline.

Enforcement

- Regular inspections of all trash routes were conducted, during which the Coordinator documented the number of residents found in compliance and the number found out of compliance with the City of Springfield's mandatory recycling ordinance.
- In the case of residents found not in compliance, an initial notice was left with education material. If trash was in violation of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance a second time at a residence, a final warning was issued. The third time a residence was found out of compliance, a non-collection notice was issued and a \$50 fine was mailed to the property owner.
- 5,000 first warning violations issued; 1,200 second violation/final warnings issued, and 169 \$50 fines issued over an 18 month period.

Results

Waste Reduction

- Solid waste reduced from an average of 990 tons per week before MREC grant to around 865 tons per week after MREC
- Average recycling rates increased from 77 tons per week to 90 tons per week
- Annual recycling totals went from 4,100 tons in 2007 (the year prior to MREC) to 4,700 tons in 2009 (the year after MREC)
- Since the grant program began in 2008, Springfield has seen a 20% increase in recycling

Financial Results

- Approximately 3.5 million dollars saved on the City of Springfield's disposal budget

For More Information

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For Information about MassDEP's grant program visit our website:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/smrp-grants.html>

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