

Public Space Recycling

April 2008

Current Public Recycling Picture

Public space recycling is the face of recycling in Anchorage, showcasing our activities and enhancing Anchorage's image with visitors to the City. While residential and commercial recycling activities generate the bulk of the materials through a comprehensive recycling program, public space recycling also is a key part of any municipal recycling program.

Tourism is the second largest sector of Alaska's economy. Visitors come from across the country and around the world to visit our State and Anchorage is a major hub for travelers accessing the rest of the State. In addition, Anchorage itself is a destination as visitors come to attend events, business conferences and conventions. The impression that Anchorage makes on visitors is the impression that thousands of people take away from Alaska each year.

Since most communities in the Lower 48, and many other countries, are far more advanced in their recycling infrastructure than Anchorage, it is important that Anchorage do its best to reach for the higher expectations that visitors bring to our community. Many expect to see public recycling bins on streets, in public buildings, in hotels, and at events. By instituting recycling in public spaces, the Municipality can help to bring Anchorage closer to meeting those expectations and increasing its desirability as a destination.

Recycling Plan for Public Spaces

Public spaces that are desirable for recycling include the downtown area, municipal buildings, civic and convention centers, sports centers and others. Below is a three-phase plan for implementing public space recycling.

Phase I - 2008

- Place recycling containers in several prominent public locations in the Municipality.
 - Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
 - Anchorage Center for Performing Arts
 - Sullivan Arena
 - Ben Boeke Arena
 - Downtown street (food) vendor carts
 - Eagle River location TBD (University Bldg, Valley River Center, Library etc.)
- Enhance recycling in facilities where some already exists.
 - City Hall
 - Egan Civic & Convention Center
 - Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
- Establish contract with haulers to include recycling transportation or haul through SWS.
- Collect mixed paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles in most locations.
- Collect cardboard collection from behind the scenes at many locations.
- Collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles from street vendors and other outdoor venues.

- Implementation will involve purchasing public area recycling containers.
 - Recommended styles differ by site/building.
 - Bins for the convention centers should be attractive kiosks with multiple material collection and space for education/instructions, similar to those already in place at City Hall.
 - Additional single-material bins should be kept on-hand for different types of events. For example, events with bar service would require several additional bins for glass, plastic, and/or aluminum.
 - More bins placed throughout events would become necessary as crowd density increased.
 - The arenas should have specific bins for single materials near generation points based on event.
 - With the crowds typical at the arenas, bin placement near trash receptacles and near generation points will create a more successful program.

- Recycling is included in the street vendors' contracts with the Municipality for the first time this year.
 - Green Star will provide bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans for street vendor recycling through its Green Events program.
 - Bean's Café has recently begun a program to collect recyclables from downtown street vendors in summer and it collects the recyclables generated at City Hall for a fee. Bean's Café clients will collect and sort the materials twice weekly from street vendors.

Phases II & III

- Continue to expand public space recycling to include additional public spaces and outdoor areas.
 - Comprehensive Municipal buildings
 - Anchorage Museum
 - Town Square
 - Downtown Walking District
 - Saturday Market
 - Municipal Parks

Source of Funding

The costs associated with expanding and enhancing public space recycling will be funded through an increase in the tipping fee.

The Municipality will seek sponsors and private support for this program. This will allow for the expansion of the program to additional areas without additional municipal revenue.