Multifamily Recycling
2016 NC APWA Conference
What is multifamily?

Residential structure with 5 or more housing units

- Apartments
- Townhomes
- Mixed-use
- Retirement housing, nursing homes
- Mobile home parks
Multifamily landscape in NC

500,000 multifamily households & growing

- Commuter towns
- College towns
- Mobile homes, retirement communities

Data from US Census American Community Survey 2014
Things to consider

→ Multifamily landscape in your community
  • Find information from planning department, tax office, US Census American Community Survey

→ Current level of recycling service

→ How can you improve recycling access
Service Styles

- Dropoff
- Dumpster
- Carts
- Roll-off
- Combo
Service Providers

- Local Government
- Private Hauler
- Combo
Service Providers

Private Hauler

Local Government

Combo
Strategies to Initiate or Expand Programs

→ Talk to property managers
→ Engage at planning & development phase
→ Utilize landfill bans
  • Statewide: plastic bottles and aluminum cans
  • Local: cardboard, target recyclables
→ Pass local ordinance
  • Fayetteville (2011)
  • Kannapolis (2014)
Design for recycling
Design for recycling
Modify existing spaces
Modify existing spaces
Planning for success...

4 C’s of infrastructure

Convenience
Clarity
Color
Capacity
4 C’s of infrastructure

- **Clarity**: (stickers, signage)
- **Convenience**: (co-location)
- **Color**: (color-coded containers)
- **Capacity**: (sufficient for recycling AND trash)
Continued Success

**Educate** at move-in and periodically thereafter

**examples:**
- direct mailers
- move-in packet
- posters
- door-to-door
- at the bin

**considerations:**
- clear and image-based
- multi-lingual
Continued Success

Ongoing monitoring to check for capacity and contamination
Why does multifamily recycling matter?

→ Multifamily is part of the community
→ Residents want recycling services
→ Significant generators of recyclable material
→ Diversion from the landfill → cost savings
→ Recycling is good for economy, community, environment
Next steps

DEACS wants to help build multifamily recycling infrastructure
→ Priority area for 2016 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants
→ Working with 4 communities this year
  • Asheville
  • High Point
  • Kernersville
  • Wilson
→ Continue to gather data and get better picture of multifamily waste and recycling stream in NC
Thank You

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