



The Association of
Plastic Recyclers



SINGLE STREAM CASE STUDY

GROCERY CHAIN PROFILE

- 75+ conventional supermarkets
- Collects recyclables (glass, plastics, tin, aluminum & paper) in 5-yard “single stream recycling” dumpster behind each store
- Also recycles baled OCC & Film Plastics

RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLED

- All rigid plastics: wide mouth pails/buckets, seafood trays, cooking oil jugs, muffin trays, fish tray, pharmacy stock bottles
- Departments included: In-store bakery, deli, seafood, pharmacy, cafes, offices

HOW THE RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLING SYSTEM WORKS

1. Each department sets aside emptied rigid plastics in “transport cart”
2. Frosting pails, salad containers, etc. are rinsed only if needed
3. Full carts move materials from department to backroom
4. Carts unloaded several times daily into “single stream shoot” located by trash compactor door

ECONOMICS

- Estimated annual volume of rigid plastics from 75+ stores = 210 tons per year
- Estimated (typical) single stream handling cost: \$150 per ton which is, similar to traditional waste disposal costs
- No revenue

BENEFITS

- No backroom staging required
- Minimum labor
- Simplicity – all recyclables mixed together
- Pays less for single stream than for disposal

DRAWBACKS

- Cost of installing/maintaining container
- No revenue for valuable recyclable
- Container fees an extra expense
- Space needed behind each store