City of Akron, Ohio

Recycle Right Campaign
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Keep Akron Beautiful is a nonprofit focused on: litter prevention, beautification & community improvement

I am NOT a recycling expert, but I learned A LOT this summer!
Akron, OH:

- Located in NE Ohio
- Population is 200,000
- 63,000 curb service customers
- 44,000 recycling customers
- Started our recycle program in 1988
- Weekly collection
- 75% of the City is collected by City crews, 25% is contracted out for collection
- Recycling in Akron is an opt-in program
- Residents receive a $2.50 discount monthly to recycle
Stakeholders:

City of Akron
Keep Akron Beautiful
Summit ReWorks - SWD
Waste Management
The Recycling Partnership
Ohio EPA
Contamination Issues:

- Current contamination rate is 40%
- Up 14% in the last two years
- Bagged recyclables are our biggest issue non abuse issue
- Current staffing levels do not allocate sufficient time for proactive education
- In 2017 recyclables had a processed value of $11.11 per ton, in 2019 the value is -$35.78
- We collect approx. 8,500 tons per year
The grant opportunity was graciously made possible by The Ohio EPA.

The City of Akron recognized the urgent need to lower the contamination rate due to rising costs.

ReWorks and KAB submitted the grant application, ReWorks stepped in with generous matching funds.

KAB project managed the grant, working closely with the City of Akron Sanitation & Recycling Division.

3 phases, each 4 weeks long, with each house inspected 4 times. The entire duration was 12 weeks. Started June 1, ended August 23, 2019.

Still in the process of analyzing data.
RECYCLE  THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

- **Cans**: Aluminum and Steel Cans, empty and rinse
- **Cartons**: Food and Beverage Cartons, empty, rinse and remove caps
- **Paper**: Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines, Mail, Flattened Cardboard and Paper Tubes
- **Plastic**: Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Jugs, empty, rinse and remove caps

**NO!**

- **No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap** (return to retailer)
- **No Glass**
- **No Yard Waste**
- **No Textiles**
- **No Bulky Items**
- **No Food or Liquid** (empty all containers)

**YUCK**

**TO LEARN MORE, call 311 (330-375-2311) or visit akronohio.gov**

*The City of Akron does not encourage placing glass into recycling carts at this time. This decision was made to improve the quality of the recycle stream and to keep the City recycling program sustainable until local glass recycling markets improve.*
DO NOT BAG Recyclables

Collecting recyclables in a bag? Empty the contents into the cart.

Return plastic bags to retailers.
Recycle it right or else

Akron campaign to inspect bins to root out chronic offenders

Akron is going directly through recycling carts to try to change the habits of the worst offenders contaminating the recycling stream.

These are things that have never been recyclable, like garden hoses, grass clippings and bowling balls.

This week, the approximately 44,000 Akron residential households that recycle curbside — and receive a recycling credit — will get mailers outlining the Recycle Right Campaign. (About 18,000 households do not recycle or get the credit.)

On June 3, temporary city workers — hired with a $236,000 grant the city was awarded by the Ohio EPA, a national group called the Recycling Partnership, Keep Akron Beautiful and ReWorks — will begin inspecting recycling bins during a three-month campaign.

See LIN-FISHER, A4

See GRADUATE, A6
Akron adjusts to recycling

Akron's aggressive recycling and composting programs are helping to change the way people think about waste management. The city is one of a few nationwide that receives funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its recycling efforts. The city has set a goal of reducing its landfill waste by 30% by 2020.

Dayton gunman's records pit safety vs. privacy

The Dayton school district's security measures have come under scrutiny after the shooting that claimed four lives. The district's response has sparked debate over the balance between safety and privacy.

Unwanted plastics will turn to fuel

Unwanted plastic can now be recycled into fuel. A company in Akron is using technology to convert plastics into a safe and efficient fuel source. This development could have significant implications for reducing waste and improving energy efficiency.
Successes and Challenges
Advice for other communities
500 Carts Pulled

$2.50/Month Cost Savings

$15,000 Cost Savings Per Year, with Pulling Egregious Carts