

RECYCLE - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Collection



Collection is a vital link in the recycling chain. It joins the people separating recyclable goods to the people who use these goods. A collection system can make or break a recycling program.

Efficient and convenient collection is apt to generate higher participation levels. However, proper gathering of recyclables does not have to be an elaborate or expensive endeavour.

Classifying collection is based upon the degree of technology involved. The three classes are called low, medium and high-tech. The class to be used is based upon considerations such as available capital, number of homes or businesses to be served, physical distribution of these customers, available markets and other factors.

Starting with low-tech systems, we will look at examples of how the cans, bottles, and other items the public diverts from their waste, are gathered.

Low-Tech



The classic example of a low-tech system is the person seen at the roadside, in the park, at the beach and in other public places scouring for recyclables other people have thrown away. He or she exchanges these goods for money. In the province of Ontario, beer bottles are worth 10 cents each, when returned to The Beer Store. Most areas have refundable deposits on a degree of soft drink containers. Some recycling centres pay people for the material left at the centre. Casual collectors alone, could not recycle all the bottles and cans in the world, but they gather material that may escape other collection methods.



There is a tradition in North America called the bottle drive. Boy Scouts, churches, civic organizations, schools and other groups go door to door asking for donations of bottles, cans and other recyclables. The collected material is returned for refund, bought back by recycling centres or sold directly to the companies re-manufacturing the products. Money raised by this low-tech system is either used by the group (for trips, renovations, etc.) or donated to other charities. Bottle drives can

