

Miami-Dade County, Florida

On-Line Interactive Waste Reduction Tool for Businesses

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Miami-Dade County (in an interdepartmental effort) has developed an “*On-line Interactive Waste Reduction Tool for Businesses*”, an Internet, database-driven website that assists public and private businesses in determining how to reduce waste and recycle more effectively. This State of Florida Innovative Grant-Funded project used existing business waste characterization data collected by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help businesses formulate and implement environmentally responsible recycling and waste reduction action plans. Organizations accessing the website can produce a customized waste characterization profile based on business type and business size, and will be offered various waste reduction and recycling options. In addition, businesses will be able to generate a listing of appropriate vendors that accept targeted materials.

In addition to the standard benefits of increased recycling such as, conservation of natural resources, preservation of landfill capacity and reduced disposal costs to businesses, etc., this project provides for 1) reduced need to conduct expensive and time consuming field audits to determine waste composition; 2) 24/7 highly cost-efficient on-line assistance to businesses and 3) increased competition among certified recyclers. In addition, the application is highly transferable to other counties in Florida that have the required technical capability. The central elements of the application have been developed with universal functionality.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The revolution of the Internet in the past few years has greatly increased government's use of technology as an enabling strategy in improving service to the public. Rather than relying on county employees to respond to inquiries or process requests for information, through the use of the Internet, the public can “serve themselves” through a wide variety of information and services. Although a recent phenomena, use of the Internet as a communication medium, a method for e-commerce or a portal for accessing sophisticated databases, can no longer be considered “innovative” in the rapidly changing world of technology. Even so opportunities for converting traditional service-oriented functions into Internet-driven systems still abound.

This project represents such an opportunity: it is the first application of its kind to tailor waste composition profile data to the business user to improve their solid waste management decision-making capability utilizing the power of the Internet. It takes data that has traditionally been gathered for use by governmental agencies and tailors it for relevance and dissemination to a broader audience. In doing so, it attempts to advance the sophistication level of the average business decision-maker by providing them with a level of detail about typical business classification waste streams that most have never had and at no cost to them.

reduceyourwaste.org

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