

Albertson's Portland Oregon Compost Project

Concept:

Divert recyclable compostable retail grocery waste from the landfill to a compost facility and save Albertson's tipping fees.

Players:

26 Albertson's grocery stores in the Portland metro area

Natures Needs, a compost site 15 miles from Portland
AGG, a hauling company (All Good Guys)

Program:

AGG provided each store with a 3 cubic yard bin and instructions to the stores and regular visits to encourage participation.

Albertson's provided management support and assistance in determining best management practices.
Albertson's pays a per ton fee to AGG for pick up.

Natures Needs provided the compost site and pays a fee to AGG for delivery.

Specifics:

The bins are picked up twice per week. The haul fee is \$53/ ton. A minimum of .2 tons or 400#s is required or a fee of \$25 is charged to the store.

AGG sends a front-end load truck with a scale in the tines that pick up the bin. The bin and contents are weighted and dumped.

Included in the acceptable organic materials are produce, bakery, floral and waxed corrugated boxes. No wood, plastics, glass or metal are allowed.

Difficulties:

City of Portland has a franchised hauler. AGG had to sue to get the right to pick up recyclables. There is still a lot of tension in the waste hauling community.

Our store directors needed a lot of training. Many store departments did not want to participate because the trash haul cost was not in their budget. Store directors helped with incentives to participate.

Success:

The average weight per pick up is .252 tons or 504 pounds. The largest per pick up haul has been 1.12 tons or 2240 pounds.

26 stores participating for 6 months have diverted 525 tons of waste at a saving of \$12,000. The regular cost per ton is \$85.00.

Grocery stores have a typical bottom line of 2% income, if we were to attempt to create that \$12,000 bottom line increase with sales we would need \$600,000 in new sales. Let me put this in perspective, we would have to sell 300 tons more apples at 99 cents per pound or 600 tons of potatoes at 50 cents per pound or 790 tons of bananas at 38 cents per pound.

AGG is now looking at other markets in near by metropolitan areas.