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Is Your Recycling Cheating You?: An Annotated Bibliography


I used this as one of my sources because the bibliography which contained a lot of other go to resources. A lot of the material that they used in this book was pulled from other books making a very stable resource. I didn’t know what to expect from the book but looking through proved to be helpful. It gives out several ideas that that can be applied to several different things. Brenda Platt and several others conducted many case studies and provided good information from the experiments. I think that with more than one experiment being conducted it makes the book an even more trustworthy source.

It didn’t really argue against anything but provided information or solutions to trying to solve solid waste disposal problems. It provided documents on the operating experiences of 17 US communities, from small rural towns to large cities that are recovering between 32 and 57 percent of their waste. The top 10 programs in the study compost, on average, 20 percent of their total waste streams. Year-round curbside collection of many types of yard waste is a hallmark of the most successful programs. It can be used as a very helpful guide.
Big brother is indeed watching you recycle. He’s making sure your recyclables are where they need to be and if they aren’t he’s fining you for it. Big Brother is Watching You Recycle is written by Wendy McElroy, a columnist from Cleveland, Ohio. Written in 2010, it speaks of how Cleveland, Ohio is using a recycling system that was originated in Britain. In 2011, some 25,000 households will be required to use recycling bins fitted with radio-frequency identity tag, small computer chips that will provide information such as the weight of the recycling bins contents.

Now, the idea of a recycling program isn’t new and neither are the new highly tech bins that can be seen on the street of London but is it fair to make these mandatory to use? This article brought up a very strong point. Along with this recycling program and many others, come fines. If a household does not put its recycle bin out on the curb, an inspector could check its garbage for improperly discarded recyclables and distribute a fine of $100. If a bin is left out to long or is put out in a tardy manner the household could be fined.

Hence the title, ‘Big Brother Is Watching You Recycle,’ is it fair that the government can have so much control over something as small as garbage? Also, are these micro installed bins going to give us back all the money we spent for them? The next time you drop your garbage in a bin make sure you have it sorted because the government may be watching.

My Ecoville Georgia is a very creative and interesting site created by the Georgia Recycling Coalition that I am incredibly blessed to be able to use. Up to date and focusing on Georgia mainly it provides information for the state of Georgia residents that you may not find on a city website. It’s a website that offers an arrangement of widely different topics from recycling to garbage; it is very useful to have as an information source. On this website my main focus is the selection on curbside recycling.

Starting off with an explanation of what curbside recycling is it follows with ten valid reasons on why you should recycle. From the beginning it has you interested and for those who don’t recycle it makes you want to start. A reason that caught my eye for why we should recycle is because it creates jobs. Never would I associate recycling with job making. They are two completely different subjects. Recycling in a $236 billion a year industry and employs more 1.1 million a year. So, are the recycling programs actually paying off in more ways than one? It is a very credible source and is written for people who are interested in any of the programs that they host. Their wide array of knowledge makes it easy and understandable to find what you need on any of their topics. This website gave me a lot of useful background knowledge that will help strengthen my paper.

Three professors from Houston Clean-Lake and member of the U.S Green Building Council experimented on what the result would be if they increased the number of recycling bins and placed them in popular locations. From there report I pulled this:

“The proportion of plastic bottles that consumers placed in appropriate recycling receptacles rather than trash bins was examined across 3 buildings on a university campus. We extended previous research on interventions to increase recycling by controlling the number of recycling receptacles across conditions and by examining receptacle location without the use of posted signs. Manipulating the appearance or number of recycling bins in common areas did not increase recycling. Consumers recycled substantially more plastic bottles when the recycling bins were located in classrooms. (O'Connor, Lerman, Fritz, and Hodde 711-715)”

Trying to find a solution to the problem of consumers throwing away numerous plastic bottles in trash cans rather than recycling bins I think that their results were useful. From their information I got that teenagers and young adults aren’t really that focused on recycling unless they happen to have an empty plastic bottle and there happened to be a recycling bin somewhere in sight. From this information I think that it might help the recycling issue if they focus on where they place bins from now on. Also, to have a recycling bin inside or outside of every classroom like Valdosta State University does.


Governor Sonny Purdue the 81st Governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011 did a press conference on grants in recycling. Even though this speech is fairly old held on November 15, 2007 or what
is known as recycling day it provided a lot of information on my topic. Spoken for anyone who was concerned and wanting to know what the Governor was going to do when it came to the topic. Governor sonny Purdue wanted to demonstrate his commitment to recycling by announcing the selection of the thirteen Georgia Communities chosen to receive grants awarded by the state’s “Away From Home” recycling program.

The communities and/or solid waste authorities selected for the inaugural grants were among many and the two that my research mainly focuses on are the grants given to the City of Savannah Sanitation Bureau, and the City of Valdosta. Expected from these grants is the reminder to recycle when they are away from home. The "Away From Home" Recycling Program was established to help local communities promote recycling at special events like sporting events, concerts and festivals. Approximately $350,000 from Georgia's Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) will be used to implement this initiative.

To track the program's success, grant recipients must submit twice yearly, online electronic progress reports to DCA for two years after the grants award. Curbside Value Partnership (CVP) joined the statewide efforts by providing advertising, graphic design and local government recycling promotional material support. CVP is a nationally-recognized organization with a primary focus on increasing participation in residential curbside recycling programs and measuring the growth of these recycling programs as a way to increase the sustainability of local recycling efforts.

Recycling in America, an incredible, well-written, reference book that has been around for several years but is far from outdated. This revised edition updates the first edition with new information on organizations, legal issues, and the latest developments in recycling technology. Providing a thorough chronology of the history of waste and the origins of many currently recycled products, this book also contains biographical sketches of individuals who have affected the recycling field.

Facts and figures about widely recycled commodities and unusual commodities are also included, as are a listing of state laws and regulations, it also includes a directory of state, federal, and private organizations; and a detailed listing of print and electronic resources. In my opinion this book is helpful to anyone who is interested in recycling including teachers, students and recycling groups. This book was specific and very detailed that I would recommend it to anyone. This book is very reliable and a good go to guide when you’re curious about something that involves recycling.

I can honestly say that this book wasn’t the best book out there. The first 100 pages of this book were the best. They include an overview of recycling and issues then go into some detail how the various materials (metals, glass, papers, etc) are recycled and re-used. The remainder of this 330-page book is padded with less-useful and boring reference material: recycling laws by state, recycling associations by state, and a list of references such as books, articles, journals and web sites.

I believe that this article published in March of 2008 is the oldest publication that I am citing for my research paper. At first I wasn’t too sure if it would help me with my assignment because it is an older piece but after I looked through it, it turned out to pretty useful. Researched by three different professors the experiment they used was very successful in gathering information. Since, it was tested thoroughly I think that this information is very reliable and they should conduct this experiment in a lot of other regions such as Valdosta and Savannah, Georgia.

Here is what they found out: “This study examines determinants of residents' support for a curbside textile-recycling policy in southern Nevada. Based on the existing solid-waste recycling behavior literature and 817 responses to a mail survey of the residents, a model for support of curbside textile-recycling policy is developed. The model is empirically tested, using univariate analyses such as chi-square tests and student $t$ tests and multivariate analysis using binary logit regression. Results from the univariate analyses indicate that the likelihood of support for a curbside textile-recycling policy is significantly influenced by regular waste-recycling habits, political affiliation, family size, minority status, home ownership, and income. Results from the binary logit regression analysis indicate that (a) current waste-recycling behavior is a good predictor of support for a curbside textile-recycling policy, and (b) the importance of recycling habits is manifested by its impact on the effect of political affiliation on support for a policy (Daneshvary, Daneshavary, and Schwer 144-161).”

From this article if I had the time I would love to conduct the same experiment because I thought the result from this was phenomenal. I think with knowing what the residents want and who
would support curbside recycling would help the government. It would help the government by knowing how much to spend on recycling programs in different areas which could cut down on some government spending. Even though it was a little hard to understand what was going on with the experiment with several readings and a dictionary I was able to pull together the gist of it. The experiment to me resembled a survey and I know a lot of people don’t like taking them but they (as shown above) can be useful.


Recycling programs are new to smaller cities and towns such as Valdosta, Georgia but for main cities such as San Francisco, California and Savannah, Georgia they have been around for a while. I’m pretty sure that Savannah got their recycling program before Valdosta and being a resident of Savannah, Georgia I can remember when they first started handing out recycling bins. So, when it comes to the topic of Savannah’s Recycling Program I’m going off of what I can find as well what I know from personal experiences and what I’ve heard around town. Even though I know a lot on the topic of Savannah’s recycling program there was a nice article published when Savannah first made the transition. Published in Nation’s Cities weekly by Laura Turner in 2009, it came as a surprise when I found out that Savannah was featured for…

The start of the new recycling program in my opinion and in the article went smoothly. By using several resources the curbside recycling program begin without a glitch. Several things that the article mentioned were useful to those who know nothing of the topic. The recycling bins that were handed out were black and yellow, and were accompanied by a packet containing a
recycling guide, pickup schedule and other useful information were delivered to almost 50,000 Savannah, Georgia households in December as the city prepared to roll out single – stream curbside recycling. A public rally was held to draw attention to the new transition. Savannah is using strategic advertising, participation in local events, partnerships and media relations to let people know the benefits of change.