

# Tabling at a Trash Talk Booth in **King County**



**Everything you need to know about how to successfully educate the public about waste sorting!**

# **Why is Waste Sorting Confusing?**

- **All cities and all waste management companies have slightly different guidelines**
- **Cities right next to each other could have different waste management companies meaning that they don't follow the same sorting guidelines**
- **When you move to a new place, you may have to relearn what waste goes in each category**

**Thankfully, many of the basic rules are the same across the country and we will review them...**



# The 3 Waste Management Companies of King County

**Recology:**

**Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Des Moines, Issaquah, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline,**



**No need to memorize the cities !**



# **The 3 Waste Management Companies of King County**

## **Republic Services:**

**Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Clide Hill, Covington, Eastgate, Fall City, Hobart, Hunds Point, Kenmore, Kent, Lake Forest Park, Medina, North Bend, Ravensdale, Renton, Sammamish, Yarrow Point**



**No need to memorize the cities !**



# The 3 Waste Management Companies of King County



**Algona, Auburn, Avondale, Bothell, Boulevard Park, Duvall, Federal Way, Kirkland, Newcastle, Normandy Park, Pacific, Ravensdale, Redmond, Seattle, Skyway, Snoqualmie, Top Hat, Tukwila, White Center, Woodinville,**



**No need to memorize the cities !**



# **A Few Exceptions...**

**Seattle: WMM and Recology split the hauling of Seattle**

**Ennumclaw: City of Ennumclaw**

**Milton: Murrey's Disposal**

**Skycemish: City of Skycemish**

**Vashon Island: Vashon Disposal**



# **Lead with WHY**

- **We can teach people HOW to sort their waste, but if they don't understand why it's important they won't do it**
- **Most waste we generate is sent to the landfill (65% in 2017!)**
- **Sorting incorrectly is worse than just throwing waste in the Trash**
- **When trash is mixed into recycling and compost, the real recyclables and compostables get contaminated**
- **Waste that could have had a second life ends up in the landfill**



# Recycling Basics

- **Must be CLEAN AND DRY**
- **No food or residue of any kind**
- **Focus on 5 categories:**
  - **Paper**
  - **Cardboard**
  - **Glass**
  - **Metal (some exceptions)**
  - **Plastic (some exceptions)**





# **Composting Basics**

- **Anything you can eat (all food) can be composted**
- **Paper/ cardboard products with food on them (without a shiny plastic coating) can be composted**
- **Yard waste can be composted**



# **Trash Basics**

- **All “flimsy” plastic (food wrappers, plastic bags)**
- **Bubble wrap**
- **Styrofoam**
- **Diapers**
- **All other garbage**



# **Hard to Recycle Materials:**

**These items cannot go in the recycling or compost and must be recycled in a special way. Each city has different resources depending on the area and some spread all across King County. Refer to the pink Hard to Recycle Handout!**

- **Plastic Film (Plastic Bags)**
- **Styrofoam**
- **Batteries**
- **Scrap Metal**
- **Lightbulbs**
- **Textiles**

# FAQs:

- **Items must be bigger than 3 inches in order to pass through sorting machine**  
*(items smaller than your fist are NOT recyclable)*
- **Items that are mixed materials are NOT recyclable** *(ex: both paper and plastic in one item)*
- **Small amount of tape, paper, or plastic on recyclables are okay** *(ex: labels and tape on boxes)*
- **Only certain kinds of plastic can be recycled** *(Hard vs Soft Plastics)*
  - **Refer to Plastic Identification Code handout**
- **Do not throw away electronics, hazardous waste (chemicals), or medical waste**
- **NO PLASTIC, GLASS, OR METAL in compost**



# **What if I don't know the answer?**

- **Guidelines are different in every city it's hard to make generalizations**
- **Refer to the specific city sorting guide on poster**
- **Don't make up an answer out of panic**



# **How to correct people politely:**

- **Especially with sorting game, people will get things wrong**
- **Address the mistake without blame**
- **Give a correction with a way to remember next time**
- **Be nice & dont discourage mistakes :)**

