STRATEGY

Education & Compliance Enforcement

The Recycling Partnership

Multi-pronged approach including on-property inspections, education provided to property managers, and fines to properties.

Program Type	Primary Impact	Recipe Activation	Evidence Base
☐ Curbside	☐ Participation	✓ **Access & Program Design**	☐ Effective
✓ **Multifamily**	☐ Capture	☐ Ease (Physical)	✓ **Emerging**
☐ Drop-off	✓ **Contamination**	☐ Ease (Mental)	☐ Understudied
		☐ Appeal	
		✓ **Norm**	

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

What's Known & Why This Works

→ Efforts that combine inspections, education to property managers, and enforcement have been successful in three Pacific Northwest cities.

- **Seattle, Washington:** coordinated efforts between operations, compliance, and education combining driver training on contamination & tagging, letters sent for repeat contamination and, if contamination is not resolved, follow-up by an inspector with potential $50 fine.
- **SeaTac, Washington:** combines inspections, technical assistance, chute lid openings, and contamination charges.
- **The City of Kamloops, British Columbia:** provides education, inspections, service rejection, and contamination charges in more than 300 multifamily properties.

→ Further study is needed to evaluate specific impact of each tactic, equity in application of contamination charges to various demographic groups, and cost to deploy.

Behavior Impact

Unknown reduction, contamination levels of 5-11% in three communities:

→ **Seattle:** 11% multifamily contamination rate

→ **SeaTac:** 5% multifamily contamination rate, decreased from 40% over 3-years

→ **Kamloops:** 9% multifamily contamination rate

Cost to Implement

Varies

Costs will depend on property size. The largest cost of these programs is administrative.

The Recipe for Recycling Behavior Change

Or click here to learn more.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Recommended Process

1 — Determine which strategies your contamination reduction efforts will include. Common program elements include inspections, service rejection, letters, technical assistance, and fines.

2 — Engage property managers early and include input from property managers in the process where appropriate. Leverage existing relationships that may already exist within a community or organization (housing authorities, apartment associations, condo associations).

3 — Communicate with property managers at the program roll out and on an ongoing basis. Host convenient information sessions or on-site meetings for property managers to attend (include meals or other incentives when possible).

4 — Conduct baseline measurement, implement the program, evaluate and adjust as needed.

Things To Consider

→ Inspections could be completed by city crews or with on truck cameras.

→ Utilize easy to read letters with translations.

→ Outreach is key for initial engagement and necessary throughout the program, as property manager turnover can be high.

→ Fines can be politically challenging to implement and should only be used when other methods to clean up contamination have not improved recycling quality.

Measurement Recommendations

Good

Visual observations of containers to assess contamination and fullness, documenting trends overtime. Record of the number of letters, fines, and repeat violations.

Better

Standardized pre-and-post inspections on fullness and contamination, with photos or app-based tools. Record of the number of letters, fines, and repeat violations.

Best

Add pre- and post- waste audits to measure capture and contamination.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

OREGON DEQ MULTI-SECTOR RECYCLING CONTAMINATION STUDY: Cost-Effective Contamination Reduction Methods



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