

DIVERSION IN SCHOOLS

What Makes Sense?



**Northeast Resource
Recovery Association**
(800) 223-0150
www.nrra.net

Dana D'Souza

Skumatz Economic Research Associates Inc.
skumatz@serainc.com, Dsouza@serainc.com

303/494-1178

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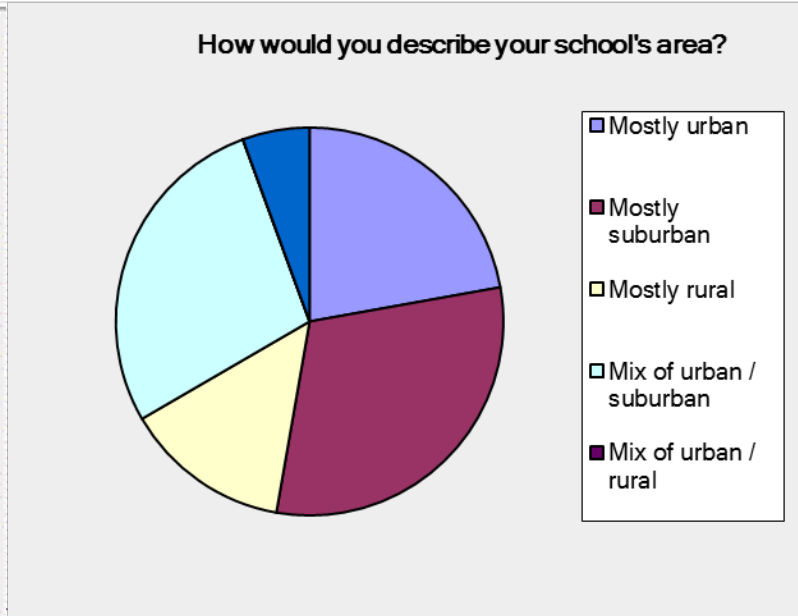
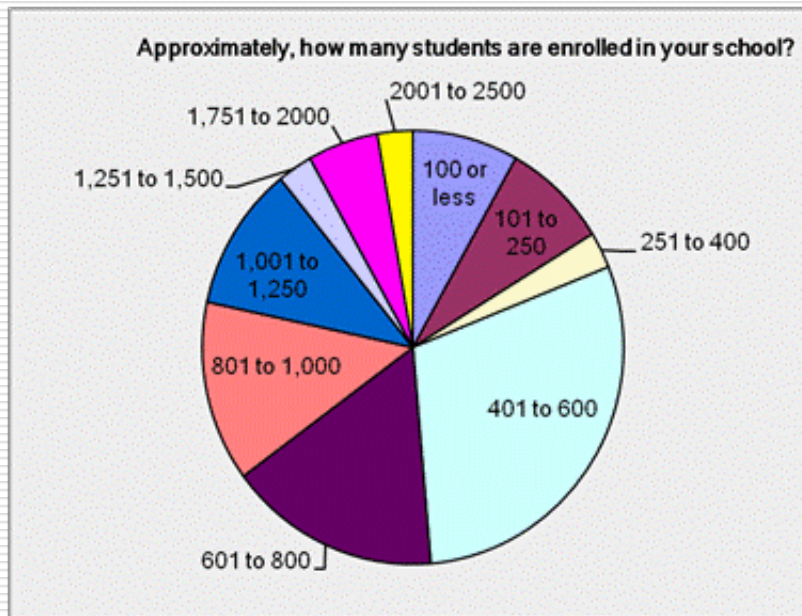
PROJECT APPROACH

- Web survey / follow-up
- Invoice analysis
- In-person detailed school visits
- Cost review



SURVEYS

Surveys	Counties	Districts	District Schools	Individual Schools
Total in State	87	333	3136	3136
Total Represented	56	117	1206	37
% Represented	64%	35%	38%	1%



REQUEST & ANALYZE

- ❑ Copies of 12 months of invoices for services
- ❑ Contract(s) for services
- ❑ Diversion rates, when available
- ❑ Cost for compostable bags, when applicable
- ❑ District-wide policy for waste reduction & recycling

On site conducted by Taitt & Associates

GOALS: OBSERVE & EVALUATE

- ❑ District leadership & top-down support
- ❑ Adult direction & supervision in schools
- ❑ Collection container infrastructure
- ❑ Education, awareness & student service learning
- ❑ School needs
- ❑ Building barriers

DIVERSION ANALYSIS –

% School Diversion	Recycling	Organics	Total
Recycling Only	25-30 %	-	25-30 %
Organics & Recycling	14-18%	12-16%	26-34 %

- Implies:
 - Recycling potential not achieved in schools with organics
 - Higher cost / not reaping “best cost mix”

RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS

- Presence:
 - Recycling nearly everywhere
 - Food service common but organics recycling in of Districts
- Support:
 - Strong support for recycling generally
 - 2/3 support “green” initiatives only if they are cost neutral or save money.
 - Half don’t know if they saved money from recycling.
- One-quarter of districts had sustainability employee
 - Students help custodians (2/3); ¼ recyclables help fundraising
- Organics:
 - Most sent to compost; less than a quarter to farm; 5% other; The majority use compostable bag-liners

SIMPLE COST ANALYSIS

- If you have Trash only, cost per unit increases
- Pick up savings if use multiple services

RECYCLING COST SAVINGS

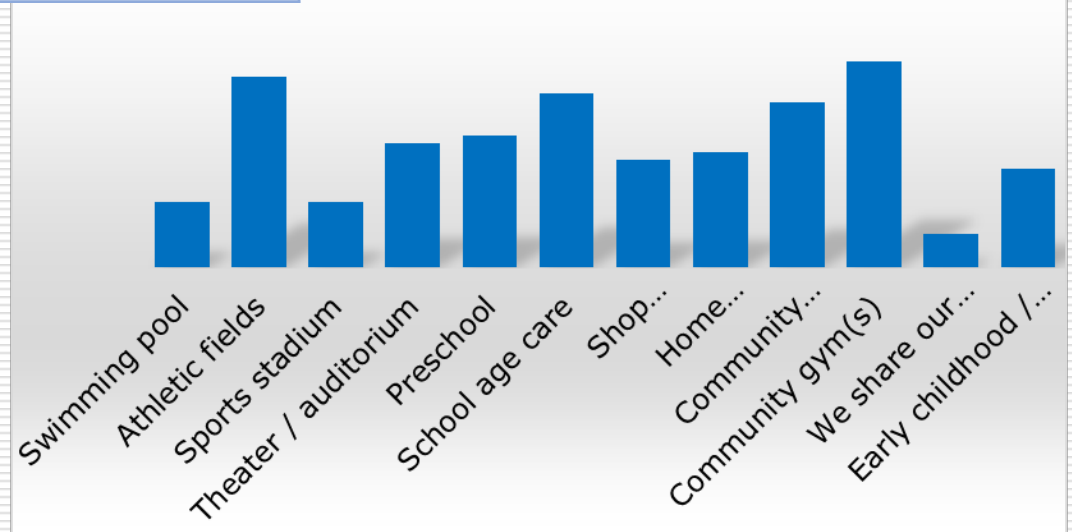
Program	Average Diversion	Current Trash Cost	Cost w/ Increased Diversion	Cost Without Diversion
Recycling Only	36%	\$697	\$604	\$1,216
Recycling & Food Waste	47%	\$1,650	\$1,230	\$2,133
Recycling & Compost	59%	\$1,402	\$1,204	n/a

Average of sample schools

PRE- AND POST- ORGANICS PROGRAM COSTS

	Post Organics Service Cost Savings	Total Post Organics Cost Savings
Elementary	19%	-20%
Middle	6%	-2%
High	-16%	-31%

School Facilities



DIFFERENCES BY SUBGROUPS

- County tax areas:
 - Larger, sustainability employee, district-decision-making
 - TWICE as likely to have organics & savings from Organics
- Large vs. small districts
 - 80% of large go to bid regularly; 30% small
 - Small less likely to review service
 - No organics in 87% of small (25% of largest)
- Organics in place
 - Decision at district level; less commonly rural

CONTRACTS

# of Schools With Contracts	# of Schools Without Contracts	Unknown
6	13	2

- ❑ Schools lack price controls on the prices they pay for waste, recycling & organics services
- ❑ Most schools do not have contracts for waste, recycling and organics services
- ❑ Of the 6 schools with contracts, 2 have standard hauler contracts with pricing terms that favor the hauler

RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS

- Decision-Making:
 - Districts make solid waste decisions & run contract process
 - Districts pay invoices most commonly according to districts;
 - For individual school respondents, districts pay invoices, school, don't know.
 - Mostly, schools don't see the savings
 - Half of Districts, and few schools have copies of contracts
 - Generally unfamiliar with contract & invoice details affecting rates
 - Unclear on service levels; one-third report no monitoring fullness
 - Few "right-size" / analyze
 - Half regularly go out for bids; Recycling incl. in contract; organics rarely/never

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Policies for top-down support / administrative leadership for recycling / organics
 - District decision-making has generally brought programs; Savings sharing might help as well
 - School top-down leadership for “school culture”
- RFPs should be issued regularly
 - Right-sizing; Best price for savings
 - Consider combination services for savings (with caveats – some may save from separation)
 - Review / keep contracts
- Require clear invoices / codes;
 - To compare in-house, comparison shopping

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improving performance – and savings:
 - For schools with organics, revisit recycling too (savings)
 - Policies for consistent, quality containerization in class, office, hallways, cafeterias;
 - Access, signage, labeling, containerization can improve diversion – potential
 - Avoid disposables
 - Some recyclables missing
 - Policies for monitoring – inside (including cafeteria lines) and outside
 - Provide direction for students; “lead by example” for adults
 - Request right-sizing services and monitor full-ness of bins (half believe someone is monitoring; recycling not full when dumped in 33%)

BEST PRACTICES- Containers



BEST PRACTICES CHART - STRATEGIES

1) Contracts

- Have copy of Contract
- Have clear line items
- Determine SW Tax
- Renegotiate
- Go out For Bid
- Ask for a waste audit

2) Reduce/ Reuse/ In House

- Reuse in Class projects
- Scrap Paper Stacks
- Edible food to charity
- Offer Versus Serve
- Zero-Waste Lunches
- Vermicomposting
- Composting/ School Garden
- Duplex Printing

3) Steps to Setting Up Program

- Green Team
- Waste Assessment
- Target Materials
- Recycling options
- Develop Plan & Logistics
- Educate/ Promote
- Evaluate/ Adjust/ Feedback

4) Bins/ Recycling Program

- 1 per trash can/ Consistency
- All areas
- Make them Fun
- Always label
- Verify levels

BEST PRACTICES- Cafeteria



BEST PRACTICES CHART - STRATEGIES

5) Cafeteria/ Organics

Offer Versus Serve
Zero-Waste Lunches
Compostable Trays
Reusable Trays
Take out Trays
Stack Trays
Animal Feed
Bottle/ Single Use
Container Bin
Liquid Dumping
Container
Composting on site
School Garden
Vermicomposting
Rolling Carts
Recycling Monitor

6) Outreach/ Participation

Announcements/
Reminders
Art Contests
Best in District Contests
Student Helpers
Curriculum
Guest Speaker
Progress reports
School Slogan
Field Trips
Volunteer Credits
Student Video
Municipal Staff/ Outreach

7) Funding/ Cost Reduction

Revenue Sharing
Volunteers for drop off
Grants
Recycling Fundraisers
Hauler provides cart
Right Sizing Containers
Occupational Students
Skip and Rinse
Break down/ Stack
Municipal Staff/
Assistance

Thank You!

Dana D'Souza

SERA- Skumatz Economic Research Assoc.

Dsouza@serainc.com

303-494-1178



Lisa Skumatz, Ph.D

Principal SERA

skumatz@serainc.com