

DRY CLEANING WASTE REDUCTION



Thurston County Solid Waste

Waste reduction, the combination of waste prevention and recycling efforts, makes good financial sense. In addition to financial advantages, waste prevention benefits the environment, benefits society, and your company establishes itself as a good community citizen, providing immeasurable, lasting rewards.

Dry Cleaning Waste Reduction

TIPS FROM THURSTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Waste reduction begins by understanding what is being purchased, how goods are used, and then is put to use by finding ways to eliminate, reduce, reuse, and recycle materials. A good strategy is to target the largest components in the waste stream, and implement the easy waste reduction steps first. Below are some ideas to help you identify waste reduction opportunities at your business.

WASTE PREVENTION

Waste Reduction Plan

- Have a common goal: to reduce the amount and toxicity of products used.
- Appoint a waste reduction coordinator.
- Perform waste evaluations and examine purchasing and disposal costs.

Waste Prevention

- Offer to sell reusable garment bags.
- Encourage customers to return hangers with a “caddy” that they can return when it is full.
- Reuse hangers returned from customers.
- Purchase plastic garment bags on a large roll rather than boxed.
- Used returned plastic bags as garbage liners.
- Donate unclaimed clothes to charity.
- Reuse clothing tags.
- Use a wet cleaning process to eliminate toxic solvents such as perchloroethylene. You will reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated and save money on disposal costs.

RECYCLING

General Recycling

- Recycle plastic garment bags. Check with your waste hauler about options.
- Set up a uniform, user-friendly recycling program for your employees and encourage them to participate.

PURCHASING

- Buy garment bags made from 100 percent post-consumer waste.

OUTREACH

Internal

- Keep employees informed and involved – provide regular updates to employees and management about waste reduction efforts. Everyone likes to hear a good word, and employees need to know that their commitments help achieve program goals. Positive communication and employee recognition (via newsletters, email announcements, recognition events) are critical to long-term success of waste reduction programs.
- Allow people involved with your business a chance to suggest ways to reduce waste. Consider operating a suggestion system that offers recognition for good waste reduction ideas.
- Have an annual employee training workshop to keep employees informed about reuse and recycling policies and procedures.
- Train new employees. Let them know they are expected to use resources carefully and to fully participate in waste reduction programs. Explain how to prevent waste and how to recycle materials.

External

- Let the public know about your waste reduction efforts. Send news releases about your efforts to local papers, and trade and environmental publications.
- Join the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WasteWise program. The WasteWise program is a free program open to businesses, schools, local governments, and non-profit organizations of all sizes and from all industry sectors. WasteWise helps to meet goals to reduce and recycle municipal solid waste and selected industrial wastes. By participating in WasteWise your business can:
 - Reduce purchasing and disposal costs.
 - Access a toll-free helpline for technical assistance.
 - Receive an Annual Climate Profile describing greenhouse gas reduction.
 - Obtain public recognition in WasteWise publications, case studies, and meetings.
 - Network in member and regional forums.
 - Receive WasteWise Awards that recognize outstanding achievements.

- Acquire outreach and educational materials.

For more waste reduction ideas and assistance visit the “Business Waste Reduction” link of www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org or call (360) 867-2491.