

INDUSTRY GROUP 14: RETAIL TRADE – FOOD STORES*

SIC Major Group: 54
NAICS Code: 445

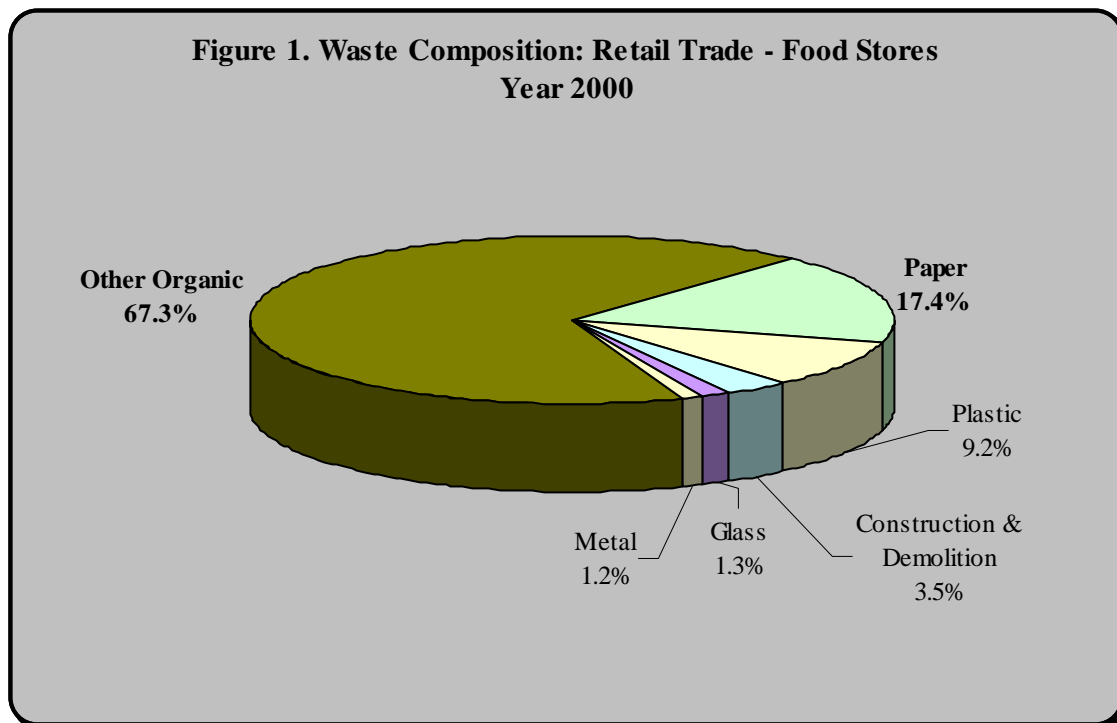
INTRODUCTION

The City of Los Angeles is a recognized leader amongst the major cities in the United States in solid waste prevention and recycling programs. Los Angeles has well exceeded the California state mandate of achieving and maintaining a 50% waste diversion rate for the year 2000. To identify the materials still reaching landfill disposal, and to assist local businesses in creating their own waste diversion programs, we are providing information on waste disposal and diversion for specific industry groups.

The *Retail Trade – Food Stores* industry includes retail stores primarily engaged in selling food for home preparation and consumption, such as chain and independent supermarkets and convenience stores.

GENERAL WASTE COMPOSITION

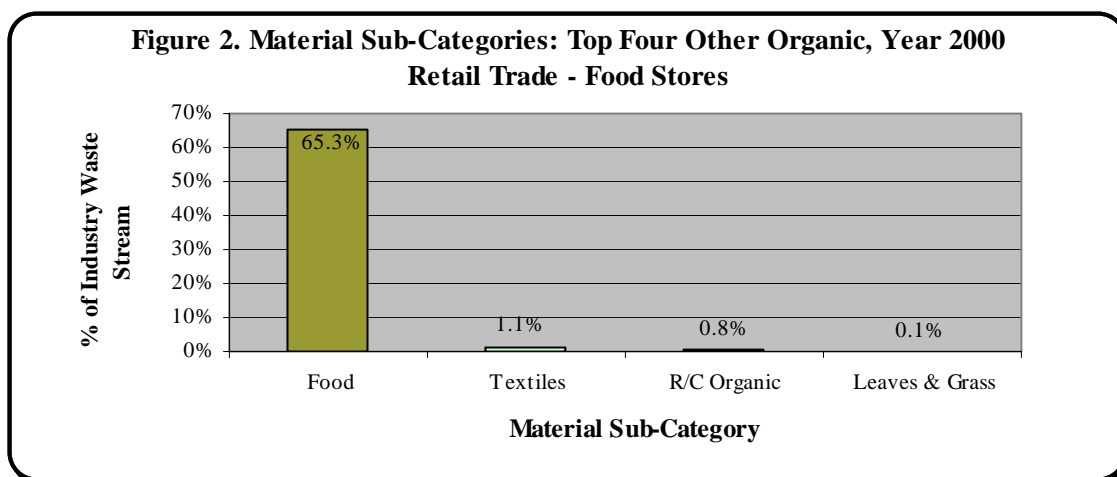
The *Retail Trade – Food Stores* industry disposed 113,115 tons of waste in 2000 or approximately 3.2% of the total City of Los Angeles disposed waste stream (3,544,611 tons). Figure 1 displays the total waste composition by material category. The two categories that comprise the majority of the waste stream, *Other Organic* (67.3%) and *Paper* (17.4%), are further discussed in the “Detailed Waste Composition” section that follows.



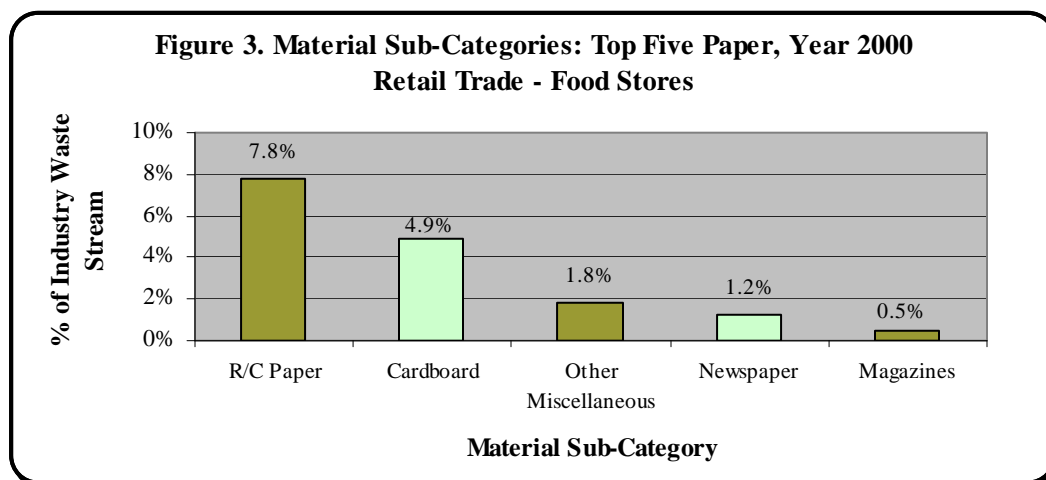
* For additional information or assistance, please contact the City of Los Angeles, Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, **Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division** at (213) 473-8228.

DETAILED WASTE COMPOSITION

As Figure 2 indicates, the top material sub-category of *Other Organic* materials disposed (by weight) is Food, followed by Textiles, Remainder/Composite Organic (R/C Organic)¹, and Leaves & Grass.



As Figure 3 indicates, the top two material sub-categories of *Paper* disposed are Remainder/Composite Paper (R/C Paper)² and Cardboard, followed by Other Miscellaneous Paper³, Newspaper, and Magazines.



¹ According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, “Remainder/Composite Organic” means organic material that cannot be put in any other type or subtype. This type includes items made mostly of organic materials, but combined with other material types and does not include any subtypes. Examples include leather items, carpets, cork, hemp rope, garden hoses, rubber items, hair, carpet padding, cigarette butts, diapers, feminine hygiene products, small wood products (such as Popsicle sticks and tooth picks), and animal feces.

² According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, “Remainder/Composite Paper” means items made mostly of paper but combined with large amounts of other materials such as wax, plastic, glues, foil, food, and moisture. Examples include waxed corrugated cardboard, aseptic packages, plastic-coated paper milk cartons, waxed paper, tissue, paper towels, blueprints, sepi, onion skin, fast food wrappers, carbon paper, self adhesive notes, and photographs.

³ According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, “Other Miscellaneous” Paper means items made mostly of paper that do not fit into any of the above subtypes. Paper may be combined with minor amounts of other materials such as wax or glues. This subtype includes items made of chipboard, ground wood paper, and deep-toned or fluorescent dyed paper. Examples include cereal and cracker boxes, unused paper plates and cups, goldenrod colored paper, school construction paper, butcher paper, and hard cover and soft cover books.

WASTE DISPOSAL TRENDS

Overall, **Retail Trade – Food Stores** waste increased by 17,649 tons between 1990 and 2000, starting with 95,466 tons in 1990, decreasing to 76,112 tons in 1995 and finally topping off at 113,115 tons in the year 2000. As Figure 4 indicates, the *Paper* and *Other Organic* material categories demonstrate the most variation in volume between the years 1990, 1995, and 2000. These materials comprise the majority of the total waste stream in 2000 and should be targeted for waste diversion programs by businesses in this industry.

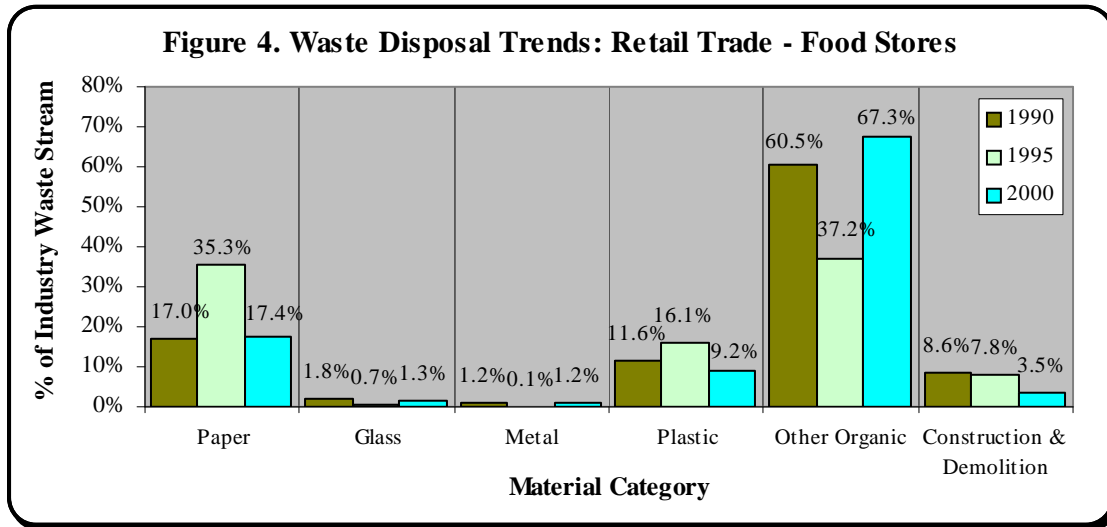
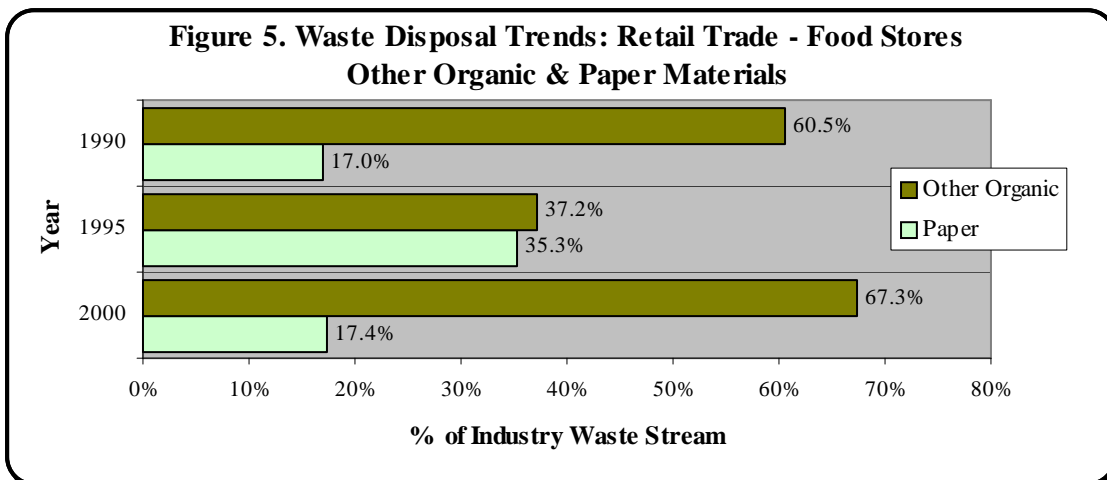


Figure 5 provides a closer look at waste disposal trends for *Other Organic* and *Paper* materials. Together, these two material categories comprise at least 77% of the total **Retail Trade – Food Stores** waste stream for years 1990, 1995, and 2000. Although considerable progress was made between 1990 and 1995 in reducing the amount of *Other Organic* materials that were landfilled, by 2000 they comprised 67.3% of the waste stream. Overall, the amount of *Other Organic* materials has increased by 6.8% since 1990 when they comprised 60.5% of the waste stream, versus 37.2% in 1995 and 67.3% in 2000. Disposal of *Paper* increased between 1990 and 1995 from 17% to 35.3% then decreased to 17.4% of the waste stream in 2000. Opportunities to divert these materials from landfills are discussed in the “Waste Diversion Tips” section that follows after the section on “Waste Diversion Accomplishments”.



WASTE DIVERSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Businesses can reduce the volume of materials that are disposed in landfills, and in turn save money on disposal costs, by following the solid waste management hierarchy as set forth by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The hierarchy sets out a preferred approach for dealing with waste. In order of preference this is:

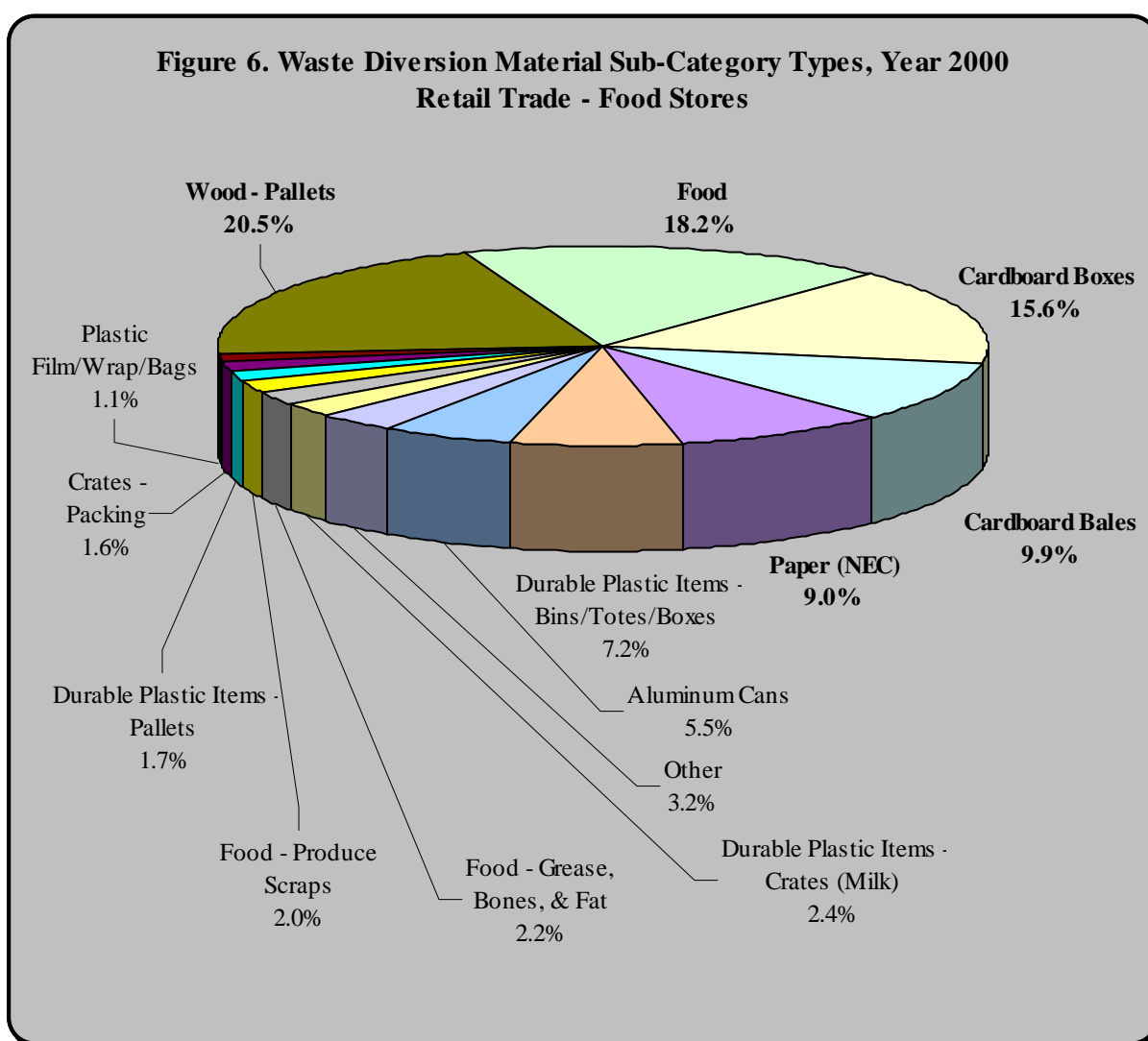
- **Source Reduction** – preventing waste at its source by using less of a material in the first place and/or repeatedly using an item or items
- **Recycling and Composting** – *recycling*: the process by which materials otherwise destined for landfills are collected, remanufactured, and purchased; and *composting*: the biological decomposition of organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, brush, and food waste into a soil amendment
- **Transformation** – incineration of municipal solid waste; not including composting or biomass conversion
- **Landfilling** – the process by which residual solid waste is placed in a landfill, which is a physical facility used for the disposal of residual solid wastes (trash and garbage) on the earth’s surface and between layers of earth

Businesses in the City of Los Angeles have made significant accomplishments in the diversion of solid waste from landfills. The City of Los Angeles conducted waste diversion and recycling audits during the year 2000 and collected information indicating that the **Retail Trade – Food Stores** industry diverts 44,431 tons of waste from landfill disposal each year through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting programs. Figure 6 depicts the material sub-category types that were diverted from landfills in 2000. The top five materials diverted are Wood – Pallets, Food, Cardboard Boxes, Cardboard Bales, and Paper (NEC)⁴.

Please note that the “Other” category is comprised of a group of material types that individually were below 1.0% of the total diverted materials. In order from most to least (by weight), the top five are Paper – Office, Damaged Goods (Retailers), Durable Plastic Items – Trays (Soda), Tires, and Food – Baked Goods.

⁴ Paper (NEC) means Paper, Not Elsewhere Classified.

Figure 6. Waste Diversion Material Sub-Category Types, Year 2000
Retail Trade - Food Stores



WASTE DIVERSION TIPS

Figures 2 and 3 indicate that *Other Organic* and *Paper* materials comprise the majority of the **Retail Trade – Food Stores** industry waste stream. Businesses in this industry should target these material categories for waste diversion programs through **source reduction**, **recycling** and **composting** activities. Most materials are eligible for recycling programs in their existing forms, except for Remainder/Composite (R/C) materials, which are not. Programs for R/C materials should focus on source reduction activities, unless an opportunity to separate recyclable components of the material exists, as discussed below. Tables 1 and 2 contain tips for achieving waste diversion programs for the top sub-categories (by weight) of the *Other Organic* and *Paper* material categories.

Table 1. Waste Diversion Tips: Other Organic

FOOD		TONS PER YEAR (2000): 73,918	% OF INDUSTRY WASTE STREAM: 65.3%
Source reduce	<p>Donate unsellable, but edible, food to organizations that feed the hungry.</p> <p>Send surplus food waste to an animal feed processor. Food must be free of wires, plastic bags, etc. as these items will kill the animals, even if ingested in small quantities. Some animal feed processors pick up the food free of charge if there is a large enough quantity or for a small fee if the quantity is small.</p> <p>Purchase and sell foods in bulk (where possible) to encourage customers to buy only what they need and reduce unnecessary packaging.</p> <p>Check your produce deliveries carefully for rotten or damaged product, and let your supplier know if you are unsatisfied with the quality you are receiving.</p>		
Recycle / Compost	Recycle/compost food waste including produce trim and cull, spoiled foods, and meat scraps.		

Table 2. Waste Diversion Tips: Paper

R/C PAPER		TONS PER YEAR (2000): 8,862	% OF INDUSTRY WASTE STREAM: 7.8%
Source reduce	<p>Since this material is not recyclable, see the definition for R/C Paper on page 2 to identify types of this paper that your business uses, and that you can reduce or eliminate the use of.</p> <p>Prevent recyclable paper from becoming R/C Paper. Use separate containers for discarding paper and food waste. Tossing food into the same container as recyclable paper contaminates the paper, which can no longer be recycled.</p> <p>Utilize reusable drinking cups/mugs instead of paper cups.</p> <p>Replace "Post-it notes" by using reused paper and paper clipping it to documents. "Post-its" are a contaminant for recycling because of the self-adhesive strip.</p> <p>In employee and customer restrooms, replace paper towel dispensers with hot air hand dryers.</p>		
CARDBOARD		TONS PER YEAR (2000): 5,555	% OF INDUSTRY WASTE STREAM: 4.9%
Source reduce	Work with suppliers to encourage them to deliver food and other goods in reusable containers (plastic, wood, metal, or highly durable cardboard) that they take back. This practice reduces the need for disposal or even recycling on your part, and may save your suppliers money, possibly reducing your costs.		
Recycle	Source-separate for recycling collection. If your business has large amounts of cardboard, obtain a baler. If your business does not generate enough cardboard to justify a baler, request a bin from your waste hauler or a local recycler. If this is too expensive, consider teaming up with other local businesses to split the costs for recycling service.		

OTHER WASTE DIVERSION IDEAS

Even though the following materials are not part of the top material sub-categories, some comprise a large portion of the waste stream and should be targeted for waste diversion programs. Consider the waste diversion tips in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Other Waste Diversion Ideas

ITEM	SUGGESTED ACTIONS
Paper & Plastic Bags	Sell reusable canvas bags to customers for their groceries with an environmental message and your company logo. Instruct checkers and baggers not to double bag groceries unless necessary. For customers with small purchases offer bags instead of automatically providing them. Encourage customers to bring their own bags and give a discount for doing so.
Pallets	Reuse pallets or ask suppliers to take them back. For excess pallets, store them on site for collection by a pallet reuse company.
Shipping Containers	Repair and reuse shipping pallets, crates, boxes, baskets, and pails.
Paper Reduction	Use e-mail whenever possible instead of printing documents; establish a policy of double-sided photocopying and printing; make scratch pads out of single-sided paper; circulate one copy of memos and reports for review instead of printing hard copies for everyone; and store and access as much information as possible using computers.
Toner Cartridges	Send computer printer and photocopier toner cartridges back to the vendor for re-manufacturing.
Film Plastic	Recycle stretch wrap used to secure boxes on pallets.
Equipment and Scrap Materials	Donate reusable office and other equipment to local charities. List available items for donation on the County of Los Angeles' materials exchange web site, also known as LaCoMAX, at http://ladpw.org/epd/lacomax/ .
Green Waste	If your facility has a lawn, reduce grass trimmings by leaving clippings directly on the lawn instead of bagging them for disposal. Not only will this reduce waste, but it will also lead to a healthier lawn by returning nitrogen to the soil. Landscape using plants that grow slowly or have enough space so they do not need to be constantly trimmed.
Recycled-Content Products	Purchase recycled-content products, such as office paper, toner cartridges, toilet paper, and paper towels. If too expensive, join a buying cooperative program to reduce costs. Contact the City for more information on recycled-content products.
Construction Materials	For construction projects, mandate recycling and waste reduction in contracts. Items that can be recycled include lumber, metal, drywall, asphalt, and concrete.

RECYCLING TIPS

INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

- Keep food and other contaminants separate from materials that are recyclable. For example, when food is discarded with paper, it becomes R/C Paper and cannot be recycled.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

- Determine the materials with the largest volumes of waste and target them for recycling. The greater volume of materials you generate, the more likely you are to be paid for the materials.

SMALL QUANTITIES OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

- If you have recyclable materials in small quantities, consider paying for recycling collection as long as the cost is less than what you pay for waste disposal. Your company will “make money” by reducing its waste disposal costs.
- Consider teaming up with other businesses in your area to share recycling service costs and revenues.

WHEN RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

- If recycling collection services are not available from your waste hauler or recyclers, work with employees or local individuals to collect and transport recyclable materials from the business.

POLICIES THAT BUSINESSES CAN IMPLEMENT

Policies that will help businesses to implement and uphold waste diversion programs include:

- Develop and commit to responsible solid waste management plans with emphasis on source reduction and recycling activities.
- Continually monitor the effectiveness of solid waste management programs facility-wide and in individual departments.
- Dedicate the necessary funding and personnel resources to ensure the ongoing success of waste diversion programs.

MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

In addition to programs and policies that businesses can implement on their own, the City proposes to provide the following support services to help the *Retail Trade – Food Stores* industry to divert waste from landfills:

- Technical assistance to businesses expressing an interest in developing and implementing effective waste diversion programs.
- Publicly recognizing and promoting businesses that demonstrate high solid waste diversion rates and a strong commitment to waste diversion.
- Establishing a working relationship with industry-related associations such as the California Grocers Association of Southern California for the purposes of enhancing training programs and communicating plans and progress with waste diversion programs.
- Assisting in the design of tracking programs for the purpose of documenting waste diversion programs.
- Tracking and monitoring industry disposal and diversion rates through periodic sampling and surveying of businesses and biannually re-evaluating waste diversion opportunities.
- Identifying sources of recycled-content products for the industry and providing guidelines for purchasing contract modifications that support procurement of recycled products.

CASE STUDY JONS MARKET

Address:	1011 E. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90011	Type of Business:	Supermarket
		SIC Major Group:	54
		Employees:	35
Contact Person(s):	Eddie Alvarez Store Manager	Trash Hauler:	Waste Management
Contact Number:	(213) 747-9961	Recycler(s):	Not available.

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

As a small company with 35 employees, Jons Market has made recycling and reuse central components of their waste management policy.

MATERIALS DIVERTED

The following table presents the nine materials that Jons Market diverts from landfills through recycling and reuse activities on an annual basis.

MATERIAL	ANNUAL TONS	DESCRIPTION
Cardboard	136.9	Recycle 1.5 bales per day.
Damaged Goods (retail)	3.1	Damaged products are returned to distribution center.
Food	0.5	Twenty loaves of bread per week are donated to local churches.
Grease, Bones, Fat	22.9	Render grease, bones, and fat.
Wooden Pallets	78	Back-haul pallets to distributor.
Paper	0.1	Use of reusable grocery bags.
Plastic Crates	8.2	Avoid cardboard use by reusing milk crates, which are sent back to the distributor.
Plastic Crates	12.5	Avoid cardboard use by reusing soda crates, which are sent back to the distributor.
Plastic Boxes	3.9	Avoid cardboard use by back-hauling banana boxes to distributor.
TOTAL	266.1	YEAR 2000

COST SAVINGS / REVENUE

A cost savings / revenue estimate for the waste reduction programs is not available.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Through its commitment to recycling, Jons Market diverts 266.1 tons of materials from landfill disposal on an annual basis. As detailed above, the supermarket makes significant contributions in efforts to increase solid waste diversion rates at the local level.