
Changing Habits at City Hall Burlington, VT

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GHG Emissions Reduction Efforts

- First Climate Action Plan adopted in 2000
- CAP update process
 - City Government generates 23,285 tons of CO₂
 - 5.8% of that is waste



2009 Waste Sort Results

In trash cans

- 30% of materials were compostable
- 30% of materials were recyclables
- 30% of materials were “real” trash

In recycling bins

- 95% of materials were recyclables, very little was trash incorrectly sorted.

Keys to Expanding Impact

- Visibility
- Getting buy-in
- Orange jumpsuits



Policy & Pilot Project

Waste Reduction Policy included:

- Trash cans reduction
- Recycling bins everywhere!
- Compost bins easily accessible

Pilot Project

- First floor of City Hall
- Three city departments
- 3 months



Full program

All downtown departments

- City Hall
 - Planning Office
 - Assessors
 - CEDO
 - Attorney's Office
 - Clerk Treasurer Office
- Library
- BCA Center (City Arts)
- Fire Station 1



Keys to Continued Success

- Trainings with Q&A
- Acknowledge problems
- Follow-up for troubleshooting
- Institutionalization of program
- Recognition



Partnerships

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Our progress/success!

- 2010 Waste Sort Results
 - Reduction of recyclables and compostables in the trash from...
 - 81% (by weight) in September 2009
 - 30% (by weight) in October 2010
 - On average, 15 pounds of food scraps and compostable paper now composted daily at City Hall

Thank you!

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