Away from Home Recycling at Convenience Stores

for: Carolina Recycling Association

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Why Convenience Stores?

- “Most people’ get gas at Convenience Stores and many clean their cars out while there.
- ~50% of beverages are consumed on the go, often meaning in the car or the empties are stored there temporarily. Not many will wait til they get home to recycle their empties.
- It’s ‘convenient’ to recycle while getting gas/waiting for the tank to fill.

Types of Hardware Can Vary

- Multi sort large containers with 90+ gallons capacity
- Blue Barrels ~30-40 gallons capacity
- Roll carts 35-95 gallons
- Curbside bins
- Etc.

Repurposed 35 gallon carts at six Pantry Convenience stores Chapel Hill-→ & ←Hillsborough (OC standard issue cart now)

"Homemade ' custom wooden container at Orange County NCDOT maintenance facility serviced by OCSWMD

Front and back views of the 90 gallon Multisort Busch container at Cruizers' Store in Chapel Hill. Now OC is single stream, so differently shaped holes are a vestige. Fills up weekly.

OC got owners' permission to put → 'No bottles & cans here' stickers on all their trash cans too (Some stores say "OK' then peel them off after we leave.)

Pairing at its best

Ask me ***WHY*** the store owner would not let us put these stickers on the trash cans, but OK'd them for the window washer fluid receptacle?

No matter how much you restrict the opening…….

Someone, somewhere will find a way to defeat you
(recyclable water container)

Approaches to Stores Vary

- Direct marketing seems to work best
- Cold calling
- Walk ups
- Mailings
- What's the pitch?
- "We offer free containers and no-cost service'
- Sign a no-fee contract that commits them to looking out for the container and calling when it's contaminated or goes missing.

The Contract

Recycling Container Acceptance Form

I, _____**(print name),** at _____Store Name agree to participate in the Orange County Recycling program under which XX recycling containers for collecting recyclable cans and bottles will be delivered by Orange County Solid Waste Department staff to the store, one for each gas island. I understand that it is _____Store name's responsibility to ensure use of these containers for collecting only recyclable cans and bottles from patrons of the store and, as possible, depositing cans and bottles collected inside the store into those containers as well. I am to instruct store staff to monitor these containers for presence of non-recyclable material and inform Orange County if such contaminants are present in significant amounts or inform them when containers are full. Orange County may, at its discretion, remove the containers if contamination is too great. I further understand that the containers are on loan from Orange County and that they do not belong to me or _____store name, but are County property and should remain at the store's locations as long as it continues to operate in Orange County or be returned to the County's Solid Waste Department should the store cease to operate in Orange County or be sold to another owner. I further understand that should these containers be removed from the premises by anyone other than authorized Orange County staff or destroyed, Orange County will not replace the containers and if the store wishes to continue recycling cans and bottles with the County at this location, _____Store Name will be responsible for container replacement with containers of a similar design.

Owner signature: _____ Date _____

For Orange County: _____Date_____

✂----------

NOTE: duplicate below, sign both halves & one is your file copy

Orange County Scorecard

- Providing convenience store recycling at no cost to stores since ~2000
- Started with one location served by urban curbside contractor (at a store they had lunch at) Charged Orange County for equivalent of one urban household stop.
- Now 15 stores (+2 pending) including two chains, four independents and NC DOT.

What can you expect?

- Busy stores fill the 35 gallon containers at each gas pump at least 50% full ~once a week.
- Less busy locations, once/ two weeks.
- Very busy and high compliance locations can go over 90 gal./week.
- Contamination levels range 10%-20% if just cans & bottles.
- Recommend 'CANS AND BOTTLES' only, single stream (paper) too confusing.
- You will get very little feedback from store owners or managers EVER!
- You will NEVER KNOW why *some people* put the can or bottle in the trash when there's a recycling receptacle next to it that really wants it.
- You will NEVER KNOW why some stores decline the containers even when they're no cost.

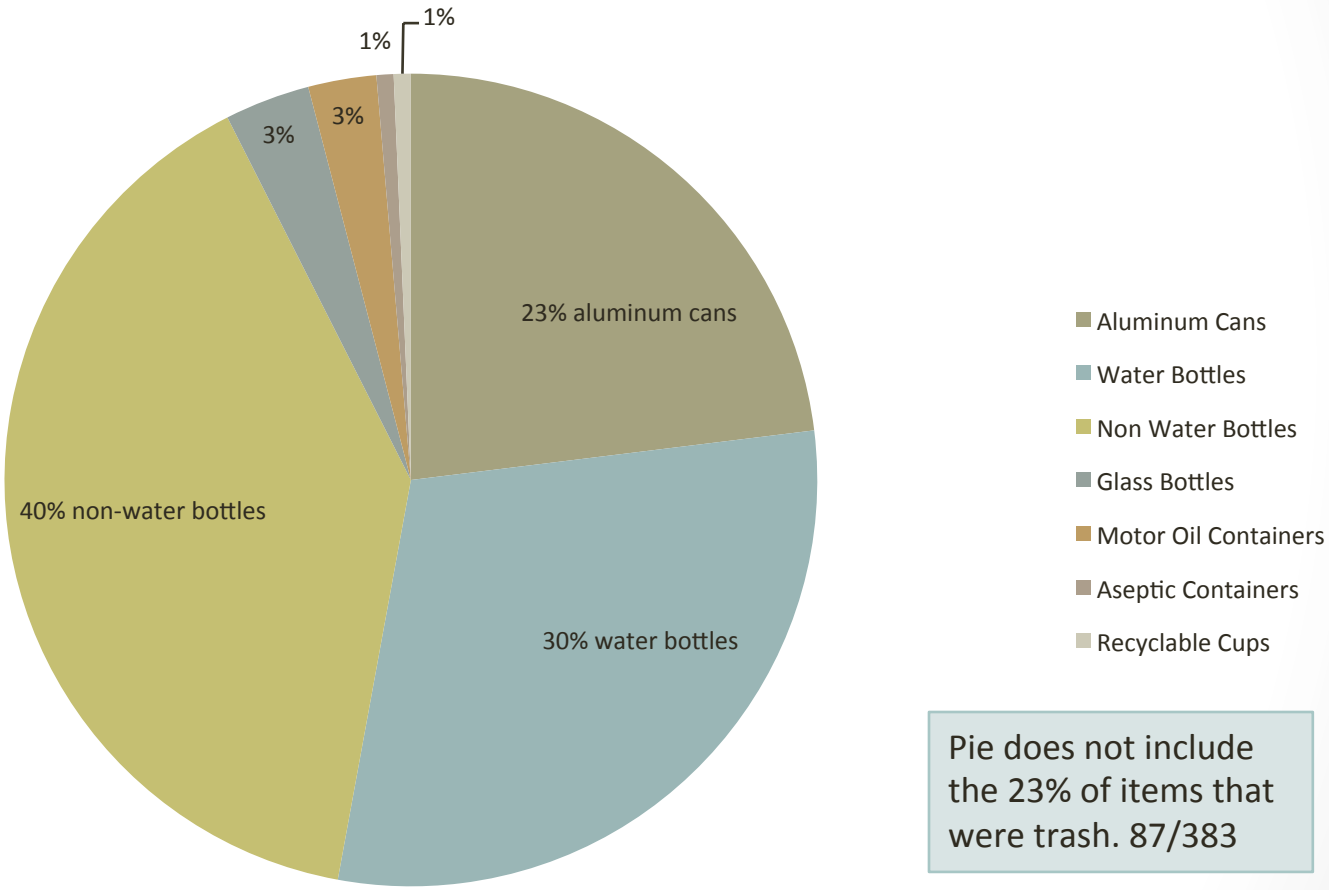
For you numbers phreaks

(you know who you are)

- The Yield: Assuming
- Most collection containers 50% full/weekly (some 100%)
- ~1,600 gallons of total cart volume --→ ~6,000 liters
- Bottles are almost 100% uncrushed almost all with caps on and about 20% of bottles have measurable liquid. Some cans are crushed.
- Mix (from one-day sort) =
- 30% water bottles, 40% soda bottles, sports & 'new age drinks

  23% Aluminum cans and 7% "other" (motor oil, glass, aseptic and recyclable cups) (Not including trash = 23% of all items)
- (density factors from American Samoa Power Authority Materials Management Office study)
- 0.3 lbs/gal. density and 29 containers/lb .
- **> 13,000 cans & bottles/week or……**
- **~700,000 bottles & cans/year**

Pickin' the trash: (contents of 18 carts) on 3/17/16



Pie does not include the 23% of items that were trash. 87/383

What stores are saying "

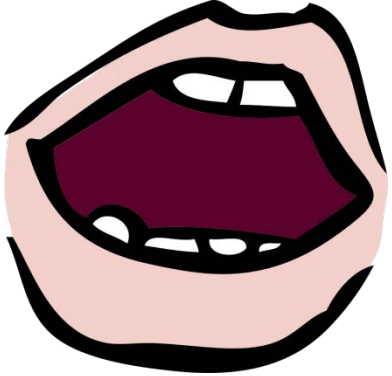
- Vernon Davis owner of White Cross Shell (Independent rural area store in sw Orange Co.) "It's great and customers love it. The container is the right size. There is no downside to it"

- Paul Stoner, regional director of operations for Pantry (now part of Circle K) Six locations throughout Orange County for a year:

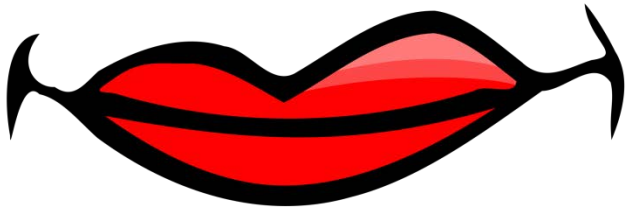
  "We have been very pleased with the service to date and have gotten great feedback from our customers in Orange County. In our business, we not only create a lot of recyclable trash, we sell a lot of items that can be recycled and to be able to offer our customers a way to responsibly dispose of that is a win for everyone.

  All of our Store Managers and Market Managers state the program has been very well run…. *While I cannot speak for all of our over 400 North Carolina locations or our nearly 8,000 US locations, I think many of our directors would be willing to offer this service to our customers* as we continue to strive to be positive stewards of the environment. "

They also said “



- Barber Holmes, co-owner of Cruizers’ – chain in central NC:

- “We have had a great response from our customers as evidenced by the consistent accumulation of recyclables at our Orange County stores. One neat thing about it is in addition to us improving the environment and helping with all the positive benefits that recycling equates to, is that our customers see it as cool… especially the younger generation… The fact that Orange county picks up [the recyclables] makes all this possible.”

That’s all folks ……..