The Future of Rural Recycling

Doug Giles
Assistant Director
Marshall County Solid Waste & Recycling Hub
Differences in Rural and Urban Recycling

- Types of Material
- Amount of Material
- Population Density
- Politics
Types of Material
Types of Material
Amount of Material & Population Density

- Marshall County, Tennessee Population: 88 residents/square mile
- Davidson County, Tennessee Population: 1,314 residents/square mile
Politics

Getting rid of trash: Inside Nashville's zero-waste initiative

The New York Times

Plastic Bags to Be Banned in New York; Second Statewide Ban, After California

The plan would have an additional element allowing counties to opt in to a 5-cent fee on paper bags.

Mary Altaffer (Associated Press)
Hub & Spoke Model

- Marshall County’s Hub accepts 170 tons of recycling/week
  - Franklin
  - Columbia
  - Spring Hill
  - Giles County
  - Elkton
Does it work?

- Yes
  - We sort 170 tons per week
  - We ship that tonnage

- No
  - Prices go down
  - Labor is undependable
How to deal

- Better technology
- Building relationships
- Know your numbers
- Don’t do it all
Where is it headed

- Accepting less material
  - 3-7’s plastics
  - Plastic strapping
  - Super sacs
  - Plastic bags
We’re not alone

Washington County, Bristol, VA., phasing out recycling services

By: Jessica Fisher

TECHNOLOGY

Is This the End of Recycling?

Americans are consuming more and more stuff. Now that other countries won’t take our papers and plastics, they’re ending up in the trash.

ALANA SAMUELS  MAR. 3, 2019

Plastic, paper, glass, and cardboard at a Recology facility in San Francisco. (REUTERS/Robert Galbraith)
Tighten it up

- Only take things you can sell

- Marshall County’s accepted materials:
  - PET
  - HDPE
  - Mixed Paper
  - OCC
  - Aluminum Beverage Containers
  - Steel Cans
Questions?