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Logan City Curbside Recycling Program Phase IV Report

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FINAL REPORT

LOGAN CITY CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM STUDY

PHASE IV Results:

EVALUATION OF LOGAN METROPOLITAN AREA CURBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE SUMMER 2007

A Study Conducted for
The City of Logan, Utah

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September 2007

Table of Contents

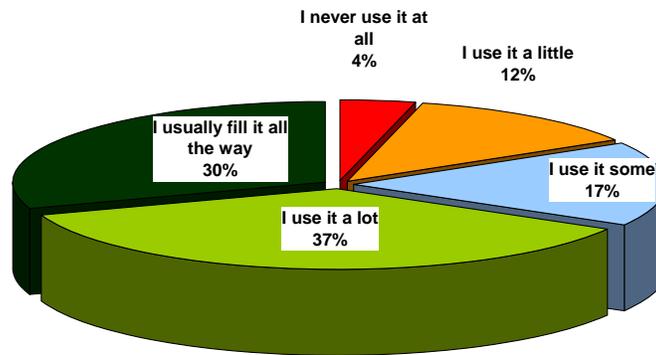
Executive Summary	ii
Section 1: Introduction and background.....	1
1.a) Origins of project.....	1
1.b) Objectives of project	2
1.c) Overview of report.....	2
Section 2: Methodology	3
2.a) Sampling and Survey Implementation.....	3
2.b) Response Rates	3
2.c) Characteristics of Respondents and Response Bias Analysis	5
Section 3: Findings	7
3.a) Frequency of Recycling and Use of the Curbside Service	7
3.b) Evaluation of Curbside Service	7
3.c) Use of the 60 Gallon Trash Cans	10
3.d) Views toward Recycling and Recycling Programs	11
Section 4: Summary and Conclusions	13
Appendix I: Copy of Survey Instrument.....	14
Appendix II: Written Comments	19

Executive Summary

Recycling programs in Cache County have undergone several transformations over the past decade. This report concentrates on the most recent program implemented in 2006 and 2007 in selected communities throughout the county. Citizens' behaviors and attitudes regarding recycling and the curbside program are described in the following.

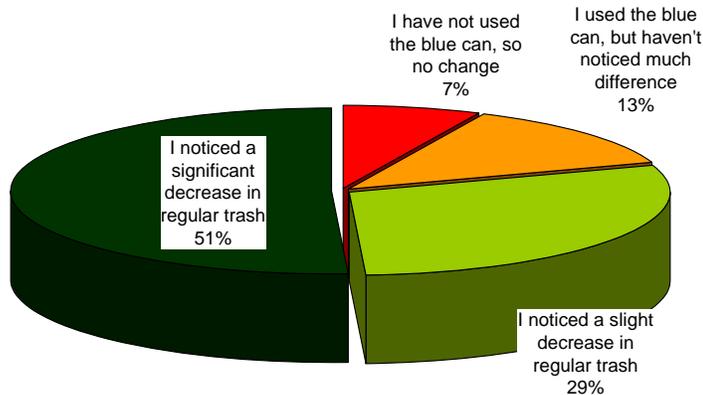
The results suggest that almost all households in the project are using their blue curbside recycling bins. Over two thirds reported using it a lot or filling it all the way (Figure 1).

How much have you used your blue can?



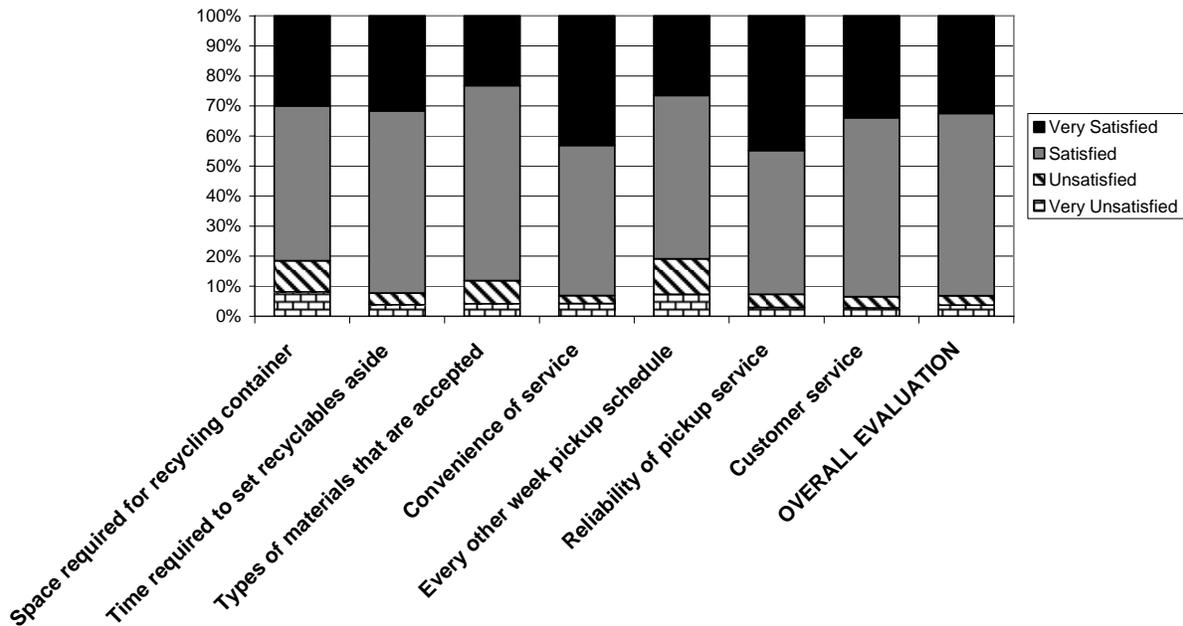
The use of the blue cans resulted in an increase in the amount of materials recycled in over eighty percent of respondent households. The corresponding perceived impacts on the volume of regular trash is illustrated in Figure 2. The results suggest that most households experienced a decline in trash volume, with over half noting a 'significant decrease.'

How has having the blue can affected the amount of trash in your regular trash can?



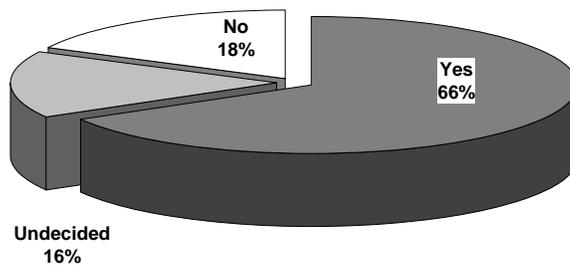
Satisfaction with the curbside recycling service was quite high. Over 90 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service along most of the dimensions. The only areas where notable dissatisfaction existed was with respect to the space required for the container, the every-other week pickup schedule, and the inability to dispose of glass.

Figure 3: Levels of Satisfaction with Curbside Recycling Program



Respondents were asked if they felt that the new universal curbside service was worth the \$3.00 per month fee charged to residential households in the county. As shown in Figure 4, two-thirds of households think the program is worth the cost.

Do you think the curbside recycling service is worth the \$3 extra cost on your monthly bill?



Section 1: Introduction and Background

1.a) Origins of project

This report summarizes the fourth phase of a multi-year Utah State University research effort to document the views and behaviors of Cache County residents on solid waste management issues, with a particular emphasis on providing feedback to policymakers working to design and implement a recycling program.

Solid waste decisions in Cache County are made by an overseeing board for the Cache County Solid Waste District (a body comprised of the Cache County Commissioners), with oversight and advice from a Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) and a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). All municipalities in the county participate in the Solid Waste District, and a single solid waste collection and disposal system is operated countywide. Most solid waste is disposed of in a county landfill, located at the western edge of the City of Logan.

Because the City of Logan is the largest municipality in the county (and has ownership of the landfill), the Cache County Solid Waste District contracts with the City of Logan Environmental Department to manage and administer the solid waste system for the county. The City of Logan runs the landfill, operates the residential household waste collection system, and handles other tasks associated with solid waste management for the entire county.

In the spring of 2006, after several years of voluntary private and public recycling programs, the Solid Waste District Board voted to implement a universal curbside recycling program under which all households with curbside waste pickup service would also receive a recycling bin. The recycling system allowed households to dispose of a range of recyclable products in a single “blue bin” container at their curbside (an unsorted recycled waste stream). These bins were collected on a biweekly schedule, and were then delivered to a private contractor for sorting and processing.

Several aspects of this system are particularly noteworthy. First, households did not have to utilize their recycling can, yet they were all charged a standard \$3.00 per month fee for the countywide service.¹ Second, households could not dispose of glass in their recycling bin (a restriction that is linked to risks to workers in the sorting facility).² As a result, separate glass recycling dumpsters are still maintained at a few locations throughout the county. Third, although regular trash cans are picked up and emptied on a weekly basis, the recycling pickup schedule was designed to pickup up cans only every other week.

¹ The Solid Waste District allows households with limited means or who are experiencing financial stress to request a waiver of the \$3.00 per month fee. These requests have generally been granted.

² Glass is still able to be dropped off by households at a handful of large dumpsters located throughout the county.

Finally, to make the implementation of universal curbside recycling more feasible, a decision was made to phase in the distribution of the new curbside recycling service in two waves. The first wave extended the service in July 2006 to all residential waste customers in seven municipalities including and surrounding Logan City (Logan, North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield, River Heights, Providence, and Millville, Utah). The service was then extended to the remaining households in other cities (and the unincorporated area) in Cache County in July 2007.

The vote to extend curbside service to all households in the county was made amidst considerable debate and discussion. The current phase of this research effort was motivated by a desire to get objective evaluation information from typical households who received service in the first wave of universal curbside recycling service.

1.b) Objectives of project

In the winter of 2006/07, the City of Logan Environmental Department (on behalf of the Cache County Solid Waste Service District) contracted with Utah State University researchers to conduct a mail survey of 600 randomly selected households from the seven municipalities participating in the universal curbside recycling program. This contract specified the following objectives for the research:

- Determine levels of satisfaction with new curbside recycling service from representative households in the seven cities that have received universal curbside recycling service since summer 2006.
- Draw a sample large enough to provide disaggregated data on three subsets of this population: Logan, the Northern Communities (North Logan, Hyde Park, and Smithfield) and the Southern Communities (River Heights, Providence, and Millville).
- Achieve a response rate goal of 66%.

1.c) Overview of report

The survey was designed in January and February 2007, then implemented between April and June 2007. This report summarizes the findings of this mail survey effort.

Section 2: Methodology

2.a) Sampling and Survey Implementation

To conduct the survey, an updated list of all residential waste customers from each of the seven municipalities was obtained from officials in the study cities. These lists contained over 17,000 households in Logan City, roughly 5,000 in the three northern communities, and 3,000 in the three southern communities (see Table 1 below).

To ensure an adequate sample size for analysis of these three separate sets of cities, we decided to randomly select half of our overall sample of 600 total households from the Logan City customer lists. These 300 Logan households represented roughly 1.7 percent of all customers in that city. We then randomly sampled the remaining 300 households from the other six cities in numbers that were proportional to the total number of households on waste customer lists in each of those cities. This led to subsamples of 185 households in the northern cities, and 115 households in the southern cities.

The survey was designed in January 2007 and reviewed by the staff of the Logan City Environmental Department, as well as members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Advisory Boards. Some of the survey questions were replicated from phase I, II and III of this overall project (for comparability purposes). The survey was 4 pages in length, and took an estimated 10 minutes for the average respondent to complete.

Surveys were implemented in April and May 2007 using a standard multi-wave mailing process (Dillman 2006). This process included a first mailing of a cover letter, four-page survey, and postage-paid return envelope. A week after sending this first packet, we sent a reminder postcard to all respondents. Three weeks later, we sent a second packet to all nonresponding households; this packet also included a cover letter, copy of the survey. Because response rates already reached our goal, we did not mail a third copy of the survey.

2.b) Response Rates

A small number of respondents were disqualified due to bad addresses, non-residential addresses, or the selection of a few households who had apparently not received the curbside service. Once the disqualified households were removed, we had a total adjusted sample of 558 total households, including 272 in Logan City, 181 in the northern cities, and 105 in the southern communities (see Table 1).

Table 1: Sampling Information and Response Rates, Cache County Curbside Recycling Service Evaluation Survey, Summer 2007

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Combined
Total Eligible to be Sampled ¹	17,596	4,598	2,820	25,014
Size of Random Sample Selected	300	185	115	600
Percent sampled	1.7%	4.0%	4.1%	2.4%
Disqualified	28	4	10	42
Adjusted Sample Size	272	181	105	558
Responded to Survey	153	131	69	358
Response Rate	56.3%	72.4%	65.7%	64.2%
Respondent Weights (est. proportions in population)	1.6230	0.4953	0.5768	1.0000

¹ = Based on lists of residential waste customers provided by each city.

The survey was completed by a total of 358 households (or just over 64 percent of eligible households). Response rates varied by community and were notably higher outside of Logan City.

In the results presented below, we disaggregate the findings by the three main study subareas. This strategy allows us to compare the experiences and responses of Logan City residents with those households from the other six communities.

In addition, we utilize statistical weights to adjust the responses to reflect the actual proportions in the overall seven city area. The statistical weights compensate for different sampling and response rates, and are noted in Table 1 above. The result is to increase the weight of Logan City responses, while decreasing the influence of the other responses on the weighted totals. In the following tables, the weighted totals reflect adjusted sample responses; as such, they reflect the estimated true response profile of households throughout the region that received universal curbside service in July 2006.

2.c) Characteristics of Respondents and Response Bias Analysis

To check for any sampling or response bias, the survey included a few questions on a basic socio-demographic characteristics of respondent households. A profile of the respondent households in each study community (and the weighted overall total) is included in Table 2 below.

Table 2 also shows comparable characteristics of households based on the 2000 U.S. Census of Population for these seven communities. While there have been important population changes since 2000, this is the most current baseline for comparison available at this level of disaggregation, and we believe it provides a reasonable benchmark for assessing the representativeness of our respondents.

The respondents from Logan City tended to be younger, in smaller households, had slightly less formal education, had lower household incomes, and have lived in Cache County for fewer years than in the other six communities. This is consistent with city-specific Census data (not shown) and the fact that a large proportion of the Logan City population consists of students at Utah State University.

When the sample respondents were weighted to approximate their overall proportions in the total seven-city area (column 4) the results suggest that older adults and women were more likely to fill out the survey. This is not surprising since the surveys were mailed to households and the cover letter asked “the person who is most responsible for recycling in your household to complete the enclosed questionnaire.”

Compared to the 2000 Census characteristics for this 7-city area, our weighted respondent pool tended to be a bit older (with notably fewer respondents under 35 years of age), had lived in the county for more years, had higher levels of education and household income, and had more homeowners (and fewer tenants). This is not surprising since we only sampled households who are billed for residential waste service (which excludes rental apartment complexes, and most tenants). Either because they live in this type of rental housing, or because they were less likely to reply, our sample clearly underrepresents the younger and more transient university student population in the area. The respondents did tend to come from households that were the same size as the background population.

Overall, our assessment is that the sample is representative of the target population (households with residential waste service). The only notable constraint in generalizing the findings is that they may underrepresent the views of younger university student households.

Table 2: Characteristics of Respondents

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Weighted Combined Total	2000 U.S. Census Profile (7 city area)
Percent female	56.2	59.2	46.4	55.6	51.3
Mean age	44.4	50.3	47.5	45.9	<i>n.a.</i>
Percent by age group					
18 to 35	40.7	20.3	30.4	35.6	58.5
35-49	23.3	28.1	24.6	24.1	20.4
50-64	22.7	28.9	29.0	24.5	11.0
65 and over	13.3	22.7	15.9	15.7	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean household size	2.97	3.69	3.38	3.14	3.12
Percent by household size					
1	14.5	9.2	4.3	12.2	15.7
2	36.2	27.7	31.9	34.6	30.7
3	15.8	13.8	18.8	15.9	16.7
4	15.8	14.6	21.7	16.1	16.7
5 or more	17.8	34.6	23.2	21.2	20.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent with children at home	46.1	64.1	63.8	51.2	39.7
Mean years in Cache County	22.3	26.3	28.9	23.8	<i>n.a.</i>
Length of residence in County					
Under 5 years	20.5	11.5	8.7	17.6	37.3
5-9 years	13.2	13.8	10.1	12.9	<i>n.a.</i>
10-19 years	16.6	14.6	13.0	15.6	<i>n.a.</i>
20 or more years	29.1	41.5	39.1	33.0	<i>n.a.</i>
All my life	20.5	18.5	29.0	20.9	<i>n.a.</i>
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	<i>n.a.</i>
Highest level of formal education					
H.S. diploma or less	13.8	16.9	5.8	13.3	28.9
Some college, no degree	27.0	27.7	24.6	26.7	28.7
Trade School (2 year degree)	13.2	8.5	10.1	11.8	7.3
Bachelor's degree	25.7	27.7	29.0	26.3	22.3
Graduate school or prof. degree	20.4	19.2	30.4	21.9	12.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent owning own home	67.8	93.1	100.0	76.4	57.3
Household income category					
Under \$15,000	13.9	2.6	1.5	10.3	15.7
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14.6	6.1	3.1	11.6	15.5
\$25,000 to \$34,999	13.9	8.7	7.7	12.4	17.1
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.6	16.5	18.5	15.6	17.8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.0	33.0	27.7	22.3	19.6
\$75,000 and over	24.1	33.0	41.5	27.8	14.5
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Section 3: Findings

3.a) Frequency of Recycling and Use of the Curbside Service

The first part of the questionnaire asked respondents how much they were using their new blue curbside recycling bins. Table 3 shows that a clear majority of all households used their bins a lot or regularly filled them all the way. Almost all households in the study reported using their recycling bins; put differently, only 4 percent of the total sample claimed to never use their blue bins at all.

The respondents were then asked how the use of the blue bins affected their overall recycling and waste streams. Over eighty percent of respondents said that they recycled more material once they had the curbside service. As a result, over half of the households noted a significant decrease in their regular trash volume. Another 30 percent noted a slight decrease in regular trash.

Confirming the results of phase I, II and III surveys, roughly two thirds of all Logan area households reported recycling prior to getting a curbside recycling bin. Interestingly, about a third of respondent households were still using drop-off bins to dispose of recyclables that were not accepted in the curbside bins.

3.b) Evaluation of Curbside Recycling Service

The respondents were all asked how they felt about the curbside service. This was accomplished in several different types of questions. First, respondents were asked how satisfied they were with several important aspects of the curbside service. Their answers ranged from very dissatisfied to very satisfied.

The percent indicating being either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with each program aspect are listed in the top half of Table 4 below. It is clear that 90 percent or more of the respondents were satisfied with almost every aspect of the program. The two aspects that received the lowest satisfaction scores were “space required for the container” and “the every other week pickup schedule” (although each of these were deemed satisfactory by over 80 percent of respondents).

The overall evaluation score received a satisfied rating from 61 percent of respondents, and a ‘very satisfied’ score from another 32 percent of respondents. Only 24 of the 358 respondents were either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.

Written comments suggested that the best things about the curbside program were the convenience associated with not having to drive to drop-off bins, and not having to sort most of the recyclable products. The primary complaints related to the costs associated with the program and the fact that people were required to pay (even if they did not want to recycle). More detailed comments are available in Appendix II below.

Table 3: Use and Impacts of Blue Recycling Bin

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Weighted Combined Total
How much have you used your blue can?				
I never use it at all	4.6	3.1	1.4	3.9
I use it a little	14.4	6.9	10.1	12.4
I use it some	17.6	16.9	10.1	17.0
I use it a lot	36.6	33.1	42.0	36.3
I usually fill it all the way	26.8	40.0	36.2	30.4
	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Did you recycle more of your household waste once you had the blue can?				
(percent yes)	82.4	84.5	91.0	83.6
In a typical week, how full is your current trash can when you put it out for pickup?				
Completely full	16.7	17.1	19.1	16.8
Almost full (75-99%)	25.3	33.3	36.8	27.7
Over 1/2 full	30.7	28.7	26.5	30.0
Less than 1/2 full	27.3	20.9	17.6	25.6
	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
How has having the blue can affected the amount of trash in your regular trash can?				
I have not used the blue can, so no change	8.1	6.2	1.4	6.8
I used the blue can, but haven't noticed much difference	14.1	6.9	14.5	12.9
I noticed a slight decrease in regular trash	28.9	30.0	36.2	29.5
I noticed a significant decrease in regular trash	49.0	56.9	47.8	50.8
	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Did you recycle before the curbside service started?				
(percent yes)	69.1	64.1	73.9	68.3
Do you still take materials to drop off bins?				
(percent yes)	31.5	30.8	42.0	32.4

Table 4: Evaluation of Curbside Recycling Service

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Weighted Combined Total
How satisfied have you been with the following aspects of the curbside recycling service?				
	<i>(percent satisfied or very satisfied)</i>			
Space required for recycling container	81.0	84.3	83.6	81.5
Time required to set recyclables aside	93.2	89.1	92.6	92.2
Types of materials that are accepted	86.6	90.6	92.3	88.1
Convenience of service	93.9	91.4	92.5	93.1
Every other week pickup schedule	78.6	86.7	85.3	80.9
Reliability of pickup service	92.4	91.3	95.5	92.7
Customer service	94.2	90.2	96.6	93.5
OVERALL EVALUATION	94.6	89.6	92.4	93.2
Do you think the curbside recycling service is worth the \$3 extra cost on your monthly bill?				
	<i>(percent of respondents)</i>			
Yes	66.7	65.4	66.2	66.6
Undecided	16.0	16.2	16.2	15.8
No	17.3	18.5	17.6	17.6
Agreement with statements				
	<i>(percent who agree or strongly agree)</i>			
The curbside program is a good value for my money	61.8	56.9	58.8	60.3
I support the recent expansion of curbside recycling in the county	80.1	78.1	72.5	78.6
Participation in the recycling program made me more aware of how much of my garbage can be recycled	66.2	76.7	73.9	68.9
The curbside program has reduced my concerns about recycling	44.4	56.6	39.1	46.2

In addition to basic indicators of program satisfaction, all respondents were asked if they thought the program was worth the cost. The results suggest that almost exactly two-thirds of all households felt the program was worth the \$3.00 per month cost. Another 16 percent was undecided, and 18 percent felt the program was not worth the cost. A separate question asked respondents if they felt the program was a good value for their money. Here, roughly 60 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Finally, respondents were asked three additional questions regarding their views of the curbside program. The results suggest that almost 80 percent support the recent expansion of curbside recycling in the county. Almost 70 percent felt that the program made them more aware of how much of their garbage could be recycled. Just under half felt that the program had made them more comfortable with the idea of recycling.

3.c) Use of 60 Gallon Trash Cans

The implementation of universal curbside recycling service was planned to coincide with a push to get households to use smaller (60-gallon) trash cans for their non-recyclable wastes.

Table 5 suggests that prior to the countywide curbside program, roughly 20 percent of respondent households already used 60 gallon trash cans. At the time of the survey, roughly 30 percent were using these cans (an increase of almost 10 percent of households).

Table 5: Use and Impacts of 60 Gallon Trash Cans

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Weighted Combined Total
Size of Current Trash Container (summer 2007)				
60 gallon can	30.7	26.2	40.6	30.5
90 gallon can	56.7	71.5	59.4	60.3
Other and Not Sure	12.7	2.3	0.0	9.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(Asked only of 60 gallon can customers:)				
Did your household already use the 60 gallon trash can before your curbside recycling service started?				
(percent yes)	77.8	38.7	59.3	69.2
Estimated percent of all households with 60 gallon can before the curbside recycling program	23.9	10.1	24.0	21.1
Estimated percent of households that switched to 60 gallon can since last year	6.8	16.0	16.5	9.4
(Asked only of 90 gallon can customers:)				
Now that you have tried curbside recycling, how likely is it your household could get by with just a 60 gallon trash can?				
Impossible	9.8	4.3	7.7	8.1
Not very likely	20.7	35.5	20.5	24.0
Somewhat likely	28.0	37.6	59.0	32.9
Very Likely	41.5	22.6	12.8	35.1
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Among those who were still using the regular 90-gallon trash cans, over two thirds said it was “somewhat likely” or “very likely” that their households could get by with a smaller 60-gallon trash can now that they have curbside recycling. Referring back to Table 3, it is also the case that almost a quarter of all respondents filled their trash cans less than one-half full on average (suggesting an ability to reduce the size of their regular trash can in many instances).

We did not collect information about the possible barriers or obstacles to their switching to a 60 gallon can trash service, but this issue was explored in more depth in the Phase III report issued earlier in 2007 (Jackson-Smith et al. 2007).

3.d) Views toward Recycling and Recycling Programs

Table 6 summarizes the percent of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with a number of statements about recycling, environmental impacts, and related policy issues.

Relatively few respondents agreed with statements that recycling “takes too much time” or “too much household space.” Similarly, only 7 percent of respondents indicated that recycling was not important to them, while 89 percent agreed that recycling is something that they felt they should do. Somewhat surprisingly, only a third of respondents agreed with the statement that “recycling should be a personal decision.”

Most respondents were concerned about the environmental impacts of their trash, and 79 percent felt that expanding recycling would improve environmental conditions in Cache County. Relatively few respondents agreed with two statements suggesting that individual actions are unlikely to have much impact on the environment.

Two attitudinal items on the survey were aimed at measuring the extent to which respondents were expecting future increased in household waste fees. Overall, just under half of respondents expected their fees to increase in the next 5 years. A larger group (64 percent) agreed with a statement that trash disposal will become more expensive when the current landfill fills up and a new landfill is opened. In each case, the results suggest that the efforts by the Logan Environmental Department to inform the public about the costs of future waste disposal have made an impression on a large fraction of the county population.

A final battery of four items addressed specific aspects of recycling policies. The results suggest that 61 percent of respondents felt the county has an obligation to provide recycling services. Only 16 percent felt that universal curbside recycling service would cost too much money. Meanwhile, a majority felt that all households should pay for recycling (even if they did not participate), while just 28 percent of respondents felt that recycling programs should be forced to pay for themselves.

Table 6: Views toward Recycling and Recycling Programs

	Logan City	North Logan, Hyde Park, Smithfield	Providence, Millville, River Heights	Weighted Combined Total
<u>General Recycling Views</u>				
<i>(percent agree or strongly agree)</i>				
Recycling takes too much time	3.9	6.9	4.3	4.5
Recycling requires too much household space	8.6	13.0	8.7	9.5
Recycling is <u>not</u> very important to me	6.6	7.6	10.1	7.1
Recycling is something I think I should do	89.4	89.1	89.9	89.3
Recycling should be a personal decision	32.2	35.9	34.8	32.7
<u>Environmental Concerns</u>				
I worry about the environmental impact of where my trash goes	79.6	74.6	73.9	77.8
Expanding our current level of recycling will improve environmental conditions in Cache County.	81.5	73.6	72.5	79.0 **
There is no point in doing what I can for the environment unless others do the same things	17.2	18.8	10.1	16.5
It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment	5.9	7.0	2.9	5.7
<u>Future Expectations</u>				
As the current landfill site fills up and we open a new landfill, trash disposal will become more expensive	67.5	55.8	58.2	64.3
I expect my monthly trash fees to increase over the next 5 years	49.7	35.7	37.7	45.9
<u>County Policy Issues</u>				
The county has an obligation to provide recycling services	61.3	66.4	52.2	61.2 *
Making curbside recycling a universal service in Cache County will cost taxpayers too much money	14.7	18.6	14.9	15.5
All households in Cache County should help pay for the costs of recycling programs, whether they choose to recycle or not	56.3	44.9	48.5	53.4
Recycling programs should be forced to pay for themselves	26.4	32.8	29.4	28.0

Section 4: Summary and Conclusions

Results of this survey demonstrate that survey respondents are using the curbside recycling program implemented in many communities in Cache County in 2006 and 2007. Respondent households with the curbside service are recycling more household materials, and drop-off bins continue to be used to recycle some materials that are not accepted in the curbside bins.

Respondent households reported high degrees of satisfaction with many aspects of the curbside recycling program service. Moreover, over 9 out of 10 respondent households were satisfied or very satisfied with the service overall. Respondent households also generally indicated that the cost of the program was worth the additional fee, though this support was not universal. In fact, roughly one-third of respondent households either did not agree that the program was worth the fee or were undecided. In general, respondent households were supportive of the program, noting links with an awareness of how much of their household waste could be recycled. Some concerns remain about recycling linked with space for housing the container, the pick-up schedule, and materials accepted. Overall, results indicate that respondent households are using the curbside recycling service, are satisfied with nearly all aspects of it, and tend to express support for continued countywide recycling efforts. Respondent households also reported that they either used or potentially could get by with a smaller waste receptacle when the recycling container was also available and utilized.

Results of this survey of households are similar with previous countywide recycling surveys conducted by Utah State University researchers. Earlier survey results suggested support for the experimental curbside service, which are reinforced by results presented in this report. That is, though a sizeable minority continues to express reservations related to the recycling program in general and to specific aspects of the curbside service, the results generally paint a picture of a community that is receptive to a curbside recycling program and its continuation, though noting potential barriers to its effectiveness.

An analysis of survey results suggest that the respondents represent the demographic characteristics of the broader community in the area. The main group that is underrepresented in the study are the transient university students in Logan City. The results also reflect the full range of sentiments reflected in the debate surrounding the program during the early phases of its implementation in 2006.

Appendix I:

Copy of Survey Instrument

CACHE COUNTY SERVICE AREA

CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM EVALUATION SURVEY

SPRING 2007

In the summer of 2006, the Cache County Council voted to begin curbside recycling as a universal service in the seven-city area surrounding Logan. Our records indicate that your household has received a blue curbside recycling container. We are contacting you now to ask how you feel about this curbside service and about recycling in general.

1. How much have you used your blue recycling can? (check the box that best applies to you)

- I never use it at all
- I use it a little (usually less than ¼ full and/or only put out a few times)
- I use it some (usually about ½ full and/or put out regularly)
- I use it a lot (usually more than ½ full and put out regularly)
- I usually fill it all the way by the time it is picked up

2. Did you recycle more of your household waste once you had the blue can? (In other words, did the total amount of material you recycled increase compared to before you got the can?)

- NO YES

3. We are interested in how recycling affected your household trash production. Most households in the county use a black 90 gallon trash can for regular household wastes. However, some households have chosen to take a smaller black 60 gallon can because it saves them about \$2.25 on their monthly bill.

a. What size container does your household use currently for its regular trash pickup?

- Smaller
60 gallon → →

Did your household already use the smaller 60 gallon trash can before your curbside recycling service started? NO YES

- Larger
90 gallon → →

Now that you have tried curbside recycling, how likely is it your household could get by with just a 60 gallon trash can? (Assuming there were extra pickups on holidays or on request.)

- Impossible Not very likely Somewhat likely Very Likely

Other: _____

Not sure

b. In a typical week, how full is your current trash can when you put it out for pickup?

- Completely full Almost full (75-99%) Over ½ full (50-75%) Less than ½ full

c. How has the blue recycling can affected the amount of trash in your regular trash can?

- I have not used the recycling can much, so there was no change
 I have used the blue can, but haven't noticed much difference in the amount of trash
 I have noticed a slight decrease in the amount of regular trash
 I have noticed a significant decrease in the amount of regular trash

e. In the six months before your curbside recycling started, did your household recycle any newspaper, plastic, cardboard, aluminum/tin cans, or glass?

- NO YES

f. Since you got curbside recycling service, have you used the remaining recycling drop-off dumpsters/bins around town?

- NO YES → if yes, what things do you take to drop-off bins? _____

4. How satisfied have you been with the following aspects of the Curbside Recycling Service?

ASPECT OF SERVICE	<i>Very unsatisfied</i>	<i>Unsatisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Very satisfied</i>
Space required for recycling container	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time required to set recyclables aside	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Types of materials that are accepted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convenience of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every other week pickup schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability of pickup service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OVERALL EVALUATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What is the BEST thing about your curbside recycling service? _____

6. What is the WORST thing about your curbside recycling service? _____

7. Do you think the curbside recycling service is worth the \$3 extra cost on your monthly bill?
 (Note that if you switched to a 60 gallon trash can, the net increased cost was roughly 75 cents.)

- NO YES Undecided

Views toward Recycling and Recycling Programs

8. We are interested in your views on recycling (in general) and specific recycling programs. **For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.**

STATEMENT	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
Recycling takes too much time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling requires too much household space.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in the curbside recycling program made me more aware of how much of my garbage can be recycled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The curbside program has reduced my concerns about recycling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling programs should be forced to pay for themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling is <u>not</u> very important to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The curbside program is a good value for my money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling is something I think I should do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worry about the environmental impacts of where my trash goes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling should be a personal decision.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I support the recent expansion of curbside recycling in the county.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The county has an obligation to provide recycling services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I expect my monthly trash fees to increase over the next 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding our current level of recycling will improve environmental conditions in Cache County.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is no point in doing what I can for the environment unless others do the same things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making curbside recycling a universal service for all Cache County households will cost taxpayers too much money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All households in Cache County should help pay for the costs of recycling programs, whether they choose to recycle or not.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As the current landfill site fills up and we open a new landfill, trash disposal will become more expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Information about You and Your Household

We now have a few questions about you and your household. This information enables us to ensure that our results represent the entire population of the area, and helps us understand patterns of recycling attitudes and behavior. Remember that your answers will be treated as confidential, and no information that identifies any individual respondent or household participating in this study will ever be released.

9. Are you male or female? MALE FEMALE
10. In what year were you born? 19 ____
11. How many years have you lived in Cache County? _____ years or All my life
12. How many people currently live in your home (including yourself)? _____
13. Do you have any children living at home with you? No Yes
14. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Check the one box for the highest level you have completed).
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade school or Associates (2-year) degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, no degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate school or professional degree |
15. Do you currently rent or own the home or apartment you are now living in?
- RENT OWN OTHER (specify: _____)
16. What would you estimate your total household income will be in 2007 (before taxes)?
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$15,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000-\$49,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 to \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 to \$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 and over |

IN THE SPACE BELOW, PLEASE WRITE ANY OTHER FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHARE REGARDING RECYCLING.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

Appendix II:

Written Comments
(Summarized by major theme)

Written Comments Generally Positive Regarding the Recycling Program

<p>I am impressed with the ease of recycling using the blue containers. We have a mulching lawn mower and a compost pile which is combined with the recycling program leaves our family with very little regular trash, I think it is good to educate people in the area about recycling and other ways to produce less regular trash. It appears to be a real need. and rather difficult.</p>
<p>I think recycling is important. Some of us want to recycle, but do not have to want to take time to sort our trash. If you have any time saving tips for recycling I think people would like to hear them.</p>
<p>4-5 years ago the family here got a container I am the only one left here now, but am surprised how much that I can recycle.</p>
<p>I do appreciate recycling, and the county making it easier for everyone to participate in. I would be interested in a green waste bin as well. It is hard for me to put money into more than one thing, but if I had it would definitely use it.</p>
<p>Keep up the good work! The environment is important</p>
<p>Thank you for the mandatory recycling program</p>
<p>I have never had any problems with my pickups, any trash being left behind on volume of material. I am able to put in the recycling can, overall I am very satisfied with my service.</p>
<p>Recycling gives all households a way to make our community better and do something important to protect our environment.</p>
<p>Thank you for all that you do!</p>
<p>My need for a good program is greatly appreciated by my family. Especially with my wife running a daycare from our home. We produce both rather quickly</p>
<p>Keep it going!</p>
<p>Thank You!</p>
<p>I am pleased that the valley has finally started a recycling program, I support it completely.</p>
<p>I love that we have a recycling program. I talk to family in other areas who wish they had a similar program. It is great.</p>
<p>I love the recycling service. Before I used to only recycle everything that is allowed in the blue bins. Some times I need it to be picked up every week.</p>
<p>Recycling is great for our environment and community. This curbside program has really helped me recycle more so thank you.</p>

I started recycling in Logan before the current program, I think that everyone should be forced to recycle.
I am happy to finally have my own blue can. I would save up recyclables in my small apartment and make trips to the big bins and to the few neighbors that had blue cans. I am glad!
I think that all of us should recycle to help the environment stay alive.
I enjoy recycling. City is doing a great job.
I am glad you started the blue can program. It made me more aware of how much could be recycled. And it makes it very easy to help out with recycling. I feel like we are helping.
it is good to go blue and green!
thanks!
I am sure our household would not recycle if we did not have to pay for the blue canister. I think the county council in looking forward our beautiful valley's future and helping us be responsible. In addition all of the recyclables ought to pay for the program and the left over funds should be used to purchase future landfill area if it is needed.
I personally feel just as people should not litter they should recycle. We must all do our part for the earth's future.
I think recycling is a very good idea
I want to be able to recycle all I can, that is why I still drive my items to the university.
thank you for providing recycling services!
It is a must
This is a great program, I only wish that my can was larger.
We are very pleased with the recycling service. We appreciated the extra pick up at Christmas time when there was so much paper and cardboard to recycle.
I like it more than I thought I would!
Thanks!
I have always recycled. Getting the rest of the family on board has been tougher. The blue can make it more convenient and less annoying to my wife than cans in the garage. I still end up picking stuff out of the garbage that my family has thrown away.

I do not understand why people are so opposed to recycling. It is convenient and very easy to do. Especially with the blue bins. In other communities it is the law and they have different containers for different products. We are very spoiled here in Cache Valley!

We had decided to enroll in the recycling program at our new home even before the program had started, so to get our new blue can through the program was nice. Before our home we lived in a townhouse where there were only dumpsters for all garbage. Is there anyway to add recycling dumpsters to town homes, apartments and condos?

I think everyone should share the cost of recycling because those who don't recycle still get rid of the same amount of trash they just send it all to the landfill instead. So in the long run they probably cost us more taxes than recycling would.

We probably would not have started to recycle as much as we do if it were not for the curbside recycling project.

I believe that as responsible citizens, good stewards of the valley, we should all recycle as much as possible. Curb side pick up makes it about as easy as I can imagine to recycle.

Fantastic program- we have to recycle or waste will bury us.

I am so glad the program is in place. Maybe more could be said for other people to see the importance of it.

Keep it going!

We have enjoyed having the program and think it has been easy to incorporate it into our routines. We only put the blue can out when it is close to full which is about once a month. Our trash is 1/4 full every week. We like the program!

I feel it is a good thing for our valley. The change in collection from when I was young. When they wanted us to burn the trash at the dump. It also saves many of us from driving out to the landfill so much.

I strongly agree with the recycling program and wish that all residents of Cache Valley would have the opportunity to recycle I would prefer pickup every week. I have forgotten to put my blue can out a couple times.

Thanks for making and encouraging us to change and start recycling!

Written Comments Generally Critical of the Recycling Program

<p>I think it is important to recycle however I think it is possible to support itself and not put on the added expense on every household where some people are on fixed incomes and it makes it another expense for them.</p>
<p>I do not believe in forcing people to do it. But at least provide some sort of subsidy for the poor and elderly who need to count every penny. I think the program is good, but there is always room to improve.</p>
<p>It is nice to have the option of curbside recycling for those who can afford the extra expense, such as with the green waste cans. For those of us who struggle to make ends meet (but do support the environment) drop off bins need to be available around the towns and we shouldn't be charged for everyone else's pick up. The rates are already high enough. Why can't those running our cities and county try to be mindful of the cumulative expense/ burden they impose upon the citizens? It adds up!</p>
<p>I think it is a good thing. I just do not think it was right how we were kind of forced into doing it.</p>
<p>Getting a blue can was a pain. Getting a smaller can is still a pain. Multiple requests with no action, every week pickup 1,3,5, is all or none. What is this questionnaire supposed to accomplish?</p>
<p>I felt that there was no notice given that the recycling would be implemented or mandatory, that we didn't have a choice if we wanted it or not. And that we paid for the bin 3 months before we even had a bin available for us to use. That makes me angry!</p>
<p>Why does someone who chooses not to use the can have to pay for it? If someone chooses not to have Logan city power service, would you still bill them for it?</p>
<p>I don't think its right to make it mandatory to pay for recycling. I think the program should pay for itself. The recycled product can be sold.</p>
<p>I feel that it should be a choice to recycle not forced upon us!</p>
<p>I believe the program should be self sufficient. I would have liked to seen a bit more openness in the implementation of the program. I do not believe all options were fully studied.</p>
<p>We should not need to pay for recycling or take it out of what we already pay.</p>
<p>I just think that the country should have given the residents time to decide instead of making it mandatory.</p>
<p>I don't know what can be done about the situation, but it is very unsightly to have any of the garbage cans green black or blue. Sitting on the curbs every day of the week. It doe not do much for the beauty of the valley.</p>
<p>I do not like the fact we were forced to recycle. I feel you pay too much money to have someone recycle the blue can.</p>

<p>I make sure all my waste is put in the trash. I think that is the most important issue. We recycle to save money that does not make sense. Maybe they should hire people to divide the trash to recycle if everyone is so concerned. I have three kids, am a single mom, and go to school and work full time. That takes a lot! You need time to recycle. I do agree we need to keep the environment clean!</p>
<p>I certainly encourage recycling, but I don't understand all the details regarding the decision to charge citizens to recycle. I have used the in town bins for years and I am very satisfied with the extent of items accepted. I really dislike the large blue bins my in garage smaller bins are more aesthetically pleasing!</p>
<p>I really do not want to pay to recycle when you can take your things to a recycling place and get money for them.</p>
<p>I think it should not be a mandatory program. The county is getting overly intrusive into the public's life!!</p>
<p>Being a senior and a widow this is an unjust burden on me. I do not have a lot to recycle. I should have a choice and not have the expense forced on me. Seniors should be exempt. Prorate based upon age and number in the household is much more fair!!</p>
<p>I do not think a forced payment of recycling is the right way to go about recycling. The recycling project should pay for itself.</p>
<p>Container is too big and bright. Hard to find a place for container. Do not like mandatory.</p>
<p>I hate paying for it!</p>
<p>Instead of buying more trucks and garbage cans, like they have done in other large towns, where they have drop off recyclable centers which are manned and functioning. This would eliminate the biggest expenses and the recyclable items should be able to be sold to larger centers so the towns could make a profit or at least break even. Mandatory is communistic!!</p>
<p>I agree with recycling but I do not believe it should be forced on everyone. It should be a personal decision just like it is to buy products made from recycled material.</p>
<p>I felt this was forced on us, we should have put it to a vote, I would have felt a hell of a lot better about it and would probably voted for it.</p>
<p>I believe recycling is important. But I think it should be handled like the green waste. Those who want the convenience of curbside recycle can choose to pay for it. I don't believe forcing it in all households was the best way to encourage people to recycle.</p>
<p>Forcing people to pay or participate is socialism, people should have a choice. I recycled prior to the program for free and now I have to pay for it. That just does not seem right.</p>
<p>I am not convinced that recycling actually helps given the cost in terms of energy, water, and other resources to return the recycled items to something useful.</p>
<p>We would be willing to recycle if we were given some kind of sorting system to make it easier inside our home. Otherwise we think it's unfair that we are forced to store your big blue can at our own expense.</p>

Recycling is important the way this was pushed upon us was irresponsible. The total budget for this program is way too costly!

Recycling should pay for itself. If you are essentially going to levy a tax for it, what keeps it from growing out of control? What assures the common citizen that what is charged for recycling is a part of recycling?

County should have if necessary expanded the dump bin program and let it go at that. What they should do now is charge households by the number of times the black cans are put out for emptying.

Written Comments with Suggestions for How to Improve the Recycling Program

<p>I have been amazed at the amount of recyclable material we have thrown in the regular garbage for years. I like this program, I just feel like it should have been voluntary rather than mandatory. It hurts those on fixed incomes like the elderly who hardly have anything to recycle.</p>
<p>I appreciate the concern and services offered for recycling however I am concerned about the price and do not want to keep seeing yearly rises in cost.</p>
<p>I think that there should be some punishment for those who don't recycle. I was collecting recyclables from my neighbors and delivering them to Ogden before any service was here. After that I paid for a private service. Why did you use such a large envelope for this mailing?</p>
<p>Maybe mandatory recycling fees will motivate taxpayers to take advantage of the service. We can no longer disregard the impact of our lifestyles on the environment. We are years behind the east coast. This is a great start!</p>
<p>I think that recycling should be enforced because it makes a larger impact. But there should be smaller recycling & trash can available. On average my husband and I only throw away 30 gallons of trash when we recycle. As students 60 gallon cans are unnecessary and there should be more options.</p>
<p>We have been at this a long time using sunrise recycling and tlc. Then the drop-off sites. I wonder if people throw stuff in protest of having to pay - then maybe would still use drop-offs if they were not charged. Maybe put back one full capacity site?? Also the dumpsters are often too full (cardboard) maybe monitor them better.</p>
<p>I would like to recycle my beer and liquor bottles ...other than that I am very satisfied.</p>
<p>Recycling program should take the following items: plastic bags, small batteries, appliances.</p>
<p>My problem is during summer and the grass clippings that need to be recycled</p>
<p>I feel cities outside of Logan should recycle, and not fill up the landfill site in Logan and should pay their fair share. Everyone should be a part of this program not just a few. It is easy to recycle when we don't have to sort items.</p>
<p>I have come to accept the necessity to pay for the opportunity to recycle in Cache Valley, but I remember actually earning money as a kid for aluminum and glass. It seems to me that the whole idea behind recycling means that it should be self-sustainable.</p>
<p>Being a newer resident of Logan, I am not sure what I can recycle in the blue can.</p>
<p>Since I was already recycling via facilities at dumps and bins at smiths. And I use a smaller can for years why should I have to pay additional? At most blue can goes out every other pickup and same with the black can. Yet again singles are subsidizing larger households</p>
<p>Should be able to recycle glass and grocery plastic bags through the recycling program.</p>

<p>We are college students, and we live in an apartment complex. We only live here 9 months of the year, and except for things that concern the University we don't really know what goes on in Logan, and we have a hard time being concerned about environmental things. Maybe if we were more informed we would be more willing to recycle.</p>
<p>Having two containers in pantry provide a great way to dispose of garbage and recycling at the same time.</p>
<p>I would like to be able to recycle glass in the blue bin. I would like a weekly pickup. Before this program started I made a half effort to recycle some items but found it a hassle to find a recycle bin and haul it there.</p>
<p>We love it and have no complaints; however we would like to be able to continue to recycle glass even if it means taking it to Smith's parking lot. Also we would like a way to recycle yard waste-like the green container program in Provo.</p>
<p>I think the program should be expanded with another bin for glass and aluminum such as in other cities and another for glass, branches and other natural debris. In other cities three small stackable bins are provided with no additional cost per month.</p>
<p>I feel that the recycling program is quit important to the Cache Valley and the world as a whole. An increase to the programs list of recyclables would help to decrease normal trash and would hopefully reduce the cost involved in trash processing. One start would be to include the pickup of glass. Thanks!</p>
<p>I have to start filling my garbage can with recyclable material before they pick up the blue can because I fill it too fast.</p>
<p>I think the program is great however remembering which week the recycle is picked up is confusing. There have been times that I see a lot of blue cans out so I put mine out and then find out we were all wrong. And also liked selling my aluminum cans for cash.</p>
<p>I was voluntarily participating in recycling program before implemented and paying double the cost charged now. Don't quite understand why all recyclable items are all thrown together. I believe so strongly in recycling that I would gladly separate individual items like glass and newspaper, also I don't feel enough is being done to educate our youth as all grandchildren do not understand why I recycle so much. Educate our youth after all it is there future world.</p>
<p>Every week pickup or option for larger container.</p>
<p>We live in a condo-complex and the blue bins have been put out in different cul-de-sacs, but not all of them have them and many people do not recycle in this area. I wish that there was at least one blue recycle bin for all parking areas, and what about glass?</p>
<p>The program should become self sustaining. And all cities should participate as it seems Cache Valley is not so huge that there should be any need for competing landfills. Economics or scale should allow all the benefits.</p>
<p>Let the government lead ...reduce water usage. Turn off unneeded lights. Wasteful use of heat and ac, idling vehicles etc. Then I might consider following their good example instead of their bad one.</p>

Unless everyone does it environmental impacts will not be reduced. Corporation's small and large businesses including industrial businesses should not be exempt.
Given the fiscally and politically conservative mindset of many Cache Valley residents, incentives to recycle might be a good tactic to try when going valley wide.
Can the recycling program fund itself?
I would like to see a weekly pick up. I also use the green waste container and would like to see this service only in the months of pickup and would like to see it begin earlier in the year.
The responsibilities for recycling should be transferred more on the manufacturers and the retailers rather than on the consumers. When they sell products that are hard to recycle there should be a tax or penalty and incentives for more environmentally friendly products that are easy to recycle. For example Biodegradable products that can be used as compost.
Portland pays their recycle (curbside) customers. This encourages more to recycle.
I lived in Plano TX for many years and if I remember correct the recycling paid for itself. We were doing 20 years ago what Cache Valley is just getting started. Do It now! While the population is low. This place will grow and then the problem is massive!
Expanding service by increasing items received may generate more income reduce cost. Tires cost to dispose but value to recycle.
We are still unsure of what goes in container and if glass and plastic has to be washed before it goes in. We would like to use it more but find ourselves throwing stuff away because we are not sure.
I am not quite sure about some things --whether I can recycle them or not. I worry about combining newspapers, aluminum, cardboard, etc. and would support an extra can to divide them up better. I also think most of us could use some reminders and tips on how to recycle better. Newspaper or radio in our area are probably the best ways to get info. out.
Is the three dollar fee necessary? Is there a profit being made?
If the county offers recycling in rural areas they will need to find a truck with two bins on it, more expensive I am sure but would pay for itself over time by reducing route miles vs. 2 separate trucks. Do small business and schools separate?
Why not have 60 gallon blue cans also!
I think this program needs to be expanded.
Just please pick up more often if at all possible!
Hope glass can be recycled

Recycling is ok and we have been doing it before the blue can. County wide recycle should have been on a voting ballot.

I would like to see adjustments made for those that can not afford the extra expense. I would like to see the plastic grocery bags taken also.

We need a better defined definition of what is recyclable, i.e. plastic bottles, tin cans and other aluminum cans. My family argues about it.

Great program, but my cans are too big for my little family. I asked for a smaller 60 gallon can, and was told they are reserved for the elderly

Please include a way to handle glass.

Can fills up with papers because of junk mail, newspapers, and flyers for ads. Stop the needless paper distribution from the post office and we won't need the blue cans.

Possible weekly pickup.

Comments addressing the need for more public information and education

My husband also totally agrees with recycling. When my daughter moves, we will probably go to the 60 gallon can. Thanks to the county's effort on recycling. I would be interested in knowing exactly where the recycled materials are taken used and how much the county is reimbursed. We observed a paper shredding company dumping the paper at the dump.

I had curbside recycling before it was mandatory. A website on what, how to, etc. would be useful. For example I recently had a question on recycling a cell phone and PDA that I tried to answer via the internet with no luck.

Teaching programs to buy less packaging and disposables re use bags and boxes etc. As part of recycling make sure there are options for glass available in the country.

I Know that recycling is important, but if others don't see the importance they won't take the time to separate items out of their garbage. What are the consequences of not recycling? Knowing them may make people want to do it.

I want to know how much of a difference we are really making in Logan. It would be nice to get sent some information on its effects here. It might make more people want to recycle.

There needs to be more public education about the benefits of recycling such as; what is done with recyclables; environmental benefits (landfill/resources). Encourage local church service/groups to help sort out recyclables. Target elem. Schools. I grew up in Colorado and my parents did not teach me about it my parents did.

I like the idea of recycling. I think now it has started a lot of people who disagreed with it at first have found it is not so bad. I might spend more time recycling other things besides cardboard cans and newspapers if there was more dumpster room where I lived.

If using the recycling bins becomes mandatory I believe that it will become more accepted as it becomes common place - Just as trash pickup have replaced burial or back yard burning.

Recycling is great and we should all do it. We somehow need to make it habitual or it will never get done. We also need to increase public awareness. If garbage fees go up recycling may become more popular. The country of South Korea has a great program---check it out.

Please provide services for incoming students to educate about the recycling locations/programs in Logan.

The recycling program worked out better that I thought. What really helped was making me educated about recycling and what the blue bins can contain and what they can not. But more education needs to be done to help the public.

People need to be forced into trying something like recycling, especially in an area like this where citizens are wary of any government "intrusion" on their lives However once they realize how easy it is and how much it can reduce their trash, most will come around.

I am very please with the new recycling program. It is very convenient and I have been teaching my kids and making them aware of recycling and the space savings it makes in the landfill. They always recognize the symbol!

What is the best way or source to obtain the "facts" about recycling Cost vs. Benefits fuel used vs., energy saved by recycling etc. Is there any county data. Online etc.?

I would really like to be reassured that the recycling is happening. I would also like to know more about the grocery plastic bags and where they are going. Maybe a push to use cloth grocery bags that people owned. The whole thing is worrisome.

Other Written Comments

Comment
I hope that someday the pickup is every week often our bin is quite full after two weeks. Re: question 8: I don't think that recycling will necessarily improve environmental conditions in Cache Co. specifically but improve conditions elsewhere as fewer resources (Trees, etc. are extracted).
I like the recycling program but it would be nice if it paid for itself. We need glass recycling too. What ever happens I/we will continue to recycle.
I live in an apartment that provides individual black trash cans but that has a commercial recycling bin. This bin is too small to accommodate the amount of recyclable materials that are placed in it.
Unfortunately we have lost our privileges. I live in an apartment complex and someone would use it for trash-even putting a broken lawn mower in there. I filled out this questionnaire as though we could still use it.
I have moved to South Carolina but have given my opinion
We have only lived in Cache County for a short while. Las vegas does not have a recycling program that we are aware of I have always thought it was important to help protect our environment
Please do what you can to keep the cost of living down.