Glass Recycling in Atlanta
Core strengths in packaging, waste and organics recovery, coupled with expertise in life cycle management and applied sustainable design.
Abbey Patterson

25 Years - Municipal Marketing; Event Management for Waste & Recycling; Permitting of Landfills, Transfer Stations and MRF’s; Public Relations, Sales and Marketing

• BFI, Allied Waste, Republic, Pratt Recycling, Cleanevent, Green Group Holdings
• Leadership - Atlanta Recycles, Georgia Recycling Coalition, CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials)
• Municipal Marketing, Olympic Games, Infrastructure Development, Community Outreach
Glass Recycling in Metro Atlanta

History of Collection

Glass End Users

Resulting Solutions for Residential Glass Recovery
History of Glass in Metro Atlanta

• Separate Drop-off Collection - 1980’s
• Source Separated Curbside Collection of Recyclables – 1990’s
• Inclusion of Glass in Single Stream Collection and Processing at MRF
• In last 13 months, glass has seen a decrease in recovery at metro-Atlanta MRF’s
• Many haulers and MRF’s have notified customers about the intent to stop taking glass
Glass Struggles

• The Georgia Recycling Coalition, the Glass Packaging Institute and the Glass Recovery Coalition convened the Georgia Glass Recycling Summit in August to address the glass recovery issues
• What we learned:
  • More stringent glass specifications have led to increased landfilling of residual MRF glass
  • End Users in Georgia – Want the Glass, but want it clean
  • Currently End Users are importing glass into Georgia
End Users of Georgia Glass

- Two glass container manufacturing plants
- Two secondary glass processing facilities
- Three fiberglass manufacturing facilities
- At least one company that manufactured glass countertops
Solutions Resulting from the State of Glass

• Source Separated at the Curb
• Opportunity for Glass Specific Drop-off Locations
• Increased Glass Collection at Recycling Facilities and CHaRM
• Additional Municipalities Are Looking at Sharing the Costs
Source Separated at Curb

• City surveyed residents to see if they wanted to continue glass collection at the curb.
• and if so, were they willing to pay for it.
• Over 90% responded “yes”.
• Now glass is being collected source separated at the curb via a custom designed truck.
• An additional yearly fee was added.
Glass Specific Drop-off Locations

• RippleGlass has a successful roll-off collection model out of Kansas City
• Roll-off’s are branded and collect glass from a 90 mile radius of its plant
• Momentum has a similar system in Utah
Glass Specific Drop-off Locations
Increased Glass Collection at Recycling Facilities and CHaRM

• With increased awareness of the state of glass recycling in Metro Atlanta, existing drop-off facilities and CHaRM have seen a dramatic increase in glass recovery.
Municipalities May Look to Share Cost

• A couple of municipalities are looking at sharing the cost of glass recovery at the curb, if possible.
• A collaboration between Municipality, MRF, glass processor.
Glass, the way it is......in Metro Atlanta
Made in GA Video