



# ORDINANCE ON PAPER AND BOARD SEPARATE COLLECTION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



## Background (REF: 2)

Separate collection should be promoted by public bodies in public institutions and buildings. It is important that municipalities and public entities normalize and encourage the separate collection of recyclables, thus reducing waste. In this way, citizens perceive that segregation of waste and recyclables is a good practice.

One action that cities and towns may choose to reach these goals is to establish and implement a mandatory recycling initiative at the local level in public institutions and buildings. Many cities and towns have found that these initiatives are not only effective at increasing recycling, but also result in financial savings through avoided disposal costs and recycling revenues.

## ACTION

Ordinance implementation for the separate collection of paper and board in public institutions (schools, universities, hospitals and public buildings)

## Example of best practice implemented

### Town of Chelmsford Mandatory Recycling Case Study (EEUU) (REF: 1)

In 2005, with trash disposal at an all-time high – 16,000 tons of trash incinerated at \$67.50/ton and a recycling rate of 16% - **the Town of Chelmsford adopted a bylaw prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials in the residual waste.** This bylaw went into effect on January 30, 2006 and was applicable to all households, including apartments and condominiums, municipal and school properties.



Direct outreach to building and property managers;

Town Manager notified all municipal department heads and employees that EVERYONE must recycle;

Articles ran on the front page of the local newspaper;

Created information for town web page, including information on where to get a recycling bin, resulting in more bins being distributed than ever had been before.

The first three months under the bylaw the town recycled 570 tons of paper, 255 tons of containers, and 40 tons of cardboard.

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## Keep in mind that...

- ⚠ Public bodies shall promote separate collection of paper and board as a consequence of the ordinance implementation.
- ⚠ The employees should ideally be made owners & ambassadors of this change, through a comprehensive approach in strategy & communication.
- ⚠ Concern and commitment by the responsible of the public institutions (schools, hospitals, cultural centers, municipal buildings etc.) to practice separate collection of paper and board is key.
- ⚠ Resources (space and financial assistance) for the implementation of systems suitable for the separate collection of paper and board need to be provided.
- ⚠ One of the key factors is that all stakeholders are committed in making and maintaining an efficient collection scheme. By contrast, high cost could jeopardize the project not long after its beginning.

## How to start? (REF: 1)

- Determine program characteristics. The municipality needs to determine what kind of enforcement the program will have. Things to consider:
  - What materials are you prohibiting from disposal?
  - What action will be taken against those violating the disposal prohibition?
  - Will you implement incentives for good performing individuals or departments?
  - Will there be a grace-period of “friendly reminders” before fines go into effect?
- Determine point of contact: No matter how effectively you’ve communicated, there will be those who have questions, and you’ll need to designate a point of contact to handle them. Be sure to include a phone number to a real person.

- Determine baseline trash and recycling figures before start of program to monitor progress.



## Potential Benefits

|  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|
| Increase of the quantity and quality of paper and board collected      | ●   | ●   |   |
| Increase of the environmental awareness regarding separate collection  | ●   | ●   | ●   |
| Improvement of the green image of the municipality                     | ●   | ●   | ●   |
| Improvement of the citizens' perception about their municipal entities |   | ●   | ●   |
| Increase of the recycling rates of the city                            | ●   | ●   |   |



### References:

1. MASSDEP MUNICIPAL WASTE (2005): Using Mandatory Recycling to Reduce Disposal Costs