

City Auditor's Highlights

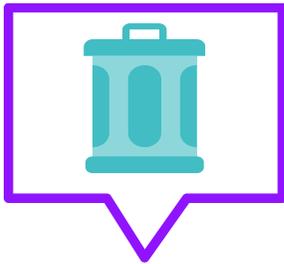
Audit of City's Recycling Program

Report No. 17-06



The city has been effective in its efforts to divert municipal solid waste and recycling has contributed significantly to landfill diversion.

Solid waste disposal costs can be reduced by diverting recyclable waste to the H-Power waste to energy facility. Based on contract obligations for delivering solid waste to H-Power, we estimate the city could have reduced solid waste disposal costs by \$7 million dollars and could have generated about \$29.5 million dollars in electric revenues by diverting recyclable waste to the H-Power facility. Reducing waste at its source (source reduction) can further reduce the amount of waste generated.



The Market for Recycled Waste Has Declined

The recycling program has successfully diverted material from the landfill. The market for selling and buying recycled waste has declined, as a result, revenues from the sale of recyclable waste are insufficient to offset the costs of collecting the recycled waste. Ending the curbside recycling program and sending recycled materials to H-Power could save the city millions.



Source Reduction Can Save Waste Processing Costs

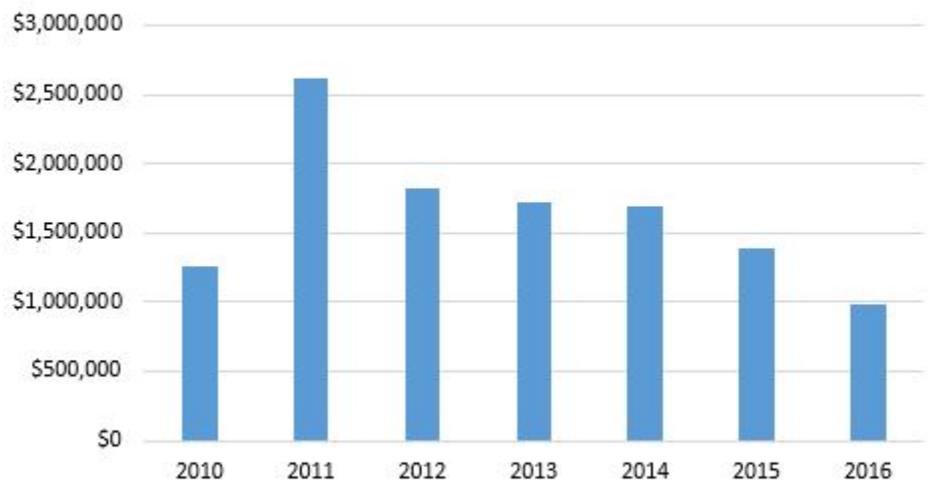
The amount of waste processed by H-Power grew by 11% over the past ten years while the amount of waste recycled grew by 7%. Reducing the origination of waste at the source could reduce the amount of waste generated and the subsequent need to process and dispose of waste.



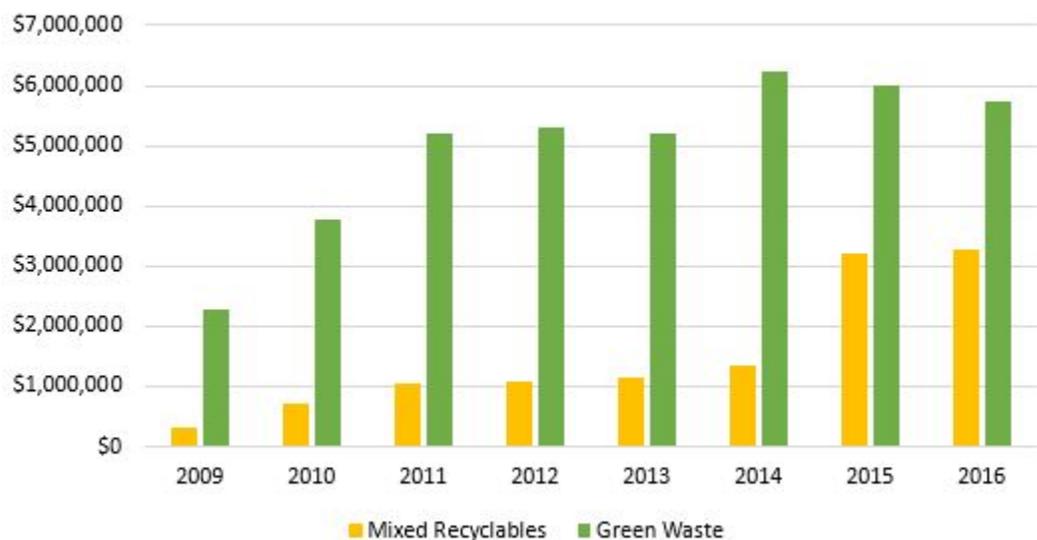
Community Recycling White Bin Program Is No Longer Viable

Cost-efficiency declined after the 2008 service contract was expanded, due to factors such as increased collections costs and the start of island-wide curbside recycling collections. The island-wide curbside recycling collections impacted the original cost and collection estimates and reduced the actual collection. As a result, the community recycling (*white bin*) program was no longer viable.

Declining Sales Value of Materials Collected



Increasing Processing Costs



We made 10 recommendations to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the city's recycling programs.



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