

CURBSIDE PICKUP SITE IDENTIFICATION

Background:

When implementing a curbside pickup program following a disaster, planning is imperative to maximize the resources available. Regardless of the method used, some preliminary field work is needed to ensure that similar loads of debris, as well as full loads of materials, are transported to recycling and disposal facilities. To accomplish the preliminary site mapping, two approaches can be taken. They are as follows:

GIS Mapping

A geographic information system (GIS) can be used to map out a targeted area and pre-plan material pickup schedules to maximize both resources and equipment. In its simplest application, a GIS is used to electronically collect the attributes of a site in a hand-held controller.

The system's software then determines a three-dimensional Global Positioning System position. Various software packages can compile the information in numerous fashions, which best fit the needs of your organization.

Pros/cons:

The advantages of GIS is that it is quick, offers the ability to evaluate the data in several forms, and offers several competing forms of software and hardware.

The disadvantages include the need to purchase/lease the software and hardware and the need to still go out into the field to identify the pickup locations.

Furthermore, depending on the system, additional time may be needed to learn the system before it can be adequately implemented.

However, if a local agency already has a GIS, or if there is a potential need for one in the future, implementing a GIS for curbside pickups in response to a disaster may be justified.

CANVASSING STREETS

Identify on map:

An alternative to using a GIS is to have staff canvass the streets and identify the types of materials in the area to increase source separated recycling opportunities. Locations of material piles can be marked on a map. This information can be used to determine crew size, pickup routes as well as primary disposal and recycling locations. These would be developed before the disaster.

The City of Los Angeles chose this method over GIS. The City felt that the learning curve for the GIS that they had would take too long. The City preferred to dedicate the time towards immediate clean-up efforts.

Advantages:

The advantages to canvassing the streets are:

- ◆ immediate results,
- ◆ almost no learning curve,
- ◆ avoided cost of a GIS , as well as the fact that
- ◆ the staff must patrol the streets even with a GIS to locate the material piles.

Decision factors:

An individual jurisdiction must decide which method to use to identify locations for curbside pickups. The decision is based on various factors including:

- ◆ cost,
- ◆ availability of systems,
- ◆ response time,
- ◆ size of area, and
- ◆ future needs.

Regardless of which method is chosen, it is extremely important to plan pickup locations and routes to minimize disposal costs and to maximize reuse of materials.