Recycling and Composting for Retail Tenants

From cardboard shipping containers to leftovers in the food courts, solid waste is an issue for all retail facilities. Property Managers and Recycling Coordinators can use the resources and information below to design their own program.

In establishing a successful retail recycling program, here are some essential steps:

1. Assess your waste stream.
2. Identify materials to be collected – cardboard, paper, bottles and cans for recycling; food scraps, waxed cardboard and soiled paper for composting. Please note that not all cities have collection opportunities for food scraps, waxed cardboard and soiled paper for composting.
3. Select one or more recycling service providers.
4. Educate Tenants
   a. Conduct face-to-face visits
   b. Develop a Retailer Recycling Handbook
   c. Add language to lease agreements about participation in recycling and composting programs
   d. Make clear signage
      i. Posters - Bottles & Cans Recycling, Composting
      ii. Labels - Cardboard, Bottles & Cans, Compostables, Trash Only
   e. Sponsor shopper events

By following these simple steps with your Retail tenants, you can create a cost-effective program that caters to each individual tenant.

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CHAPTER 1: RECYCLING

RETAIL TENANTS

RESOURCES: America's Marketplace Recycles! www.epa.gov/rcc/amr.htm

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) <www.icsc.org> and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have teamed up to form America's Marketplace Recycles! (AMR!). AMR! is an award program aimed at shopping centers, their retail tenants and employees, and the shopping public. The purpose of America's Marketplace Recycles is to promote recycling and encourage waste reduction in packaging.