



# PRACTICAL RECYCLING ECONOMICS

MAKING THE NUMBERS  
WORK FOR YOUR PROGRAM



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
**RUTGERS**

**Practical Recycling Economics:  
Making the Numbers Work for Your Program**

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# Some Important Context



## *The target audience*


Coordinators of municipal and county recycling programs. The examples and discussion are heavily weighted towards collection and marketing issues because those are the areas where local coordinators have the greatest control. Processing receives far less attention because in New Jersey it's done primarily by a few counties or private processors.

## *The intent of the manual*

This is written as a reference and instructional manual to provide specific information, tools and strategies to make recycling more cost-effective for individual recycling programs. It does not critique or study the economic and environmental returns of recycling. Instead, it suggests concrete, practical ways to make existing programs more cost-effective.

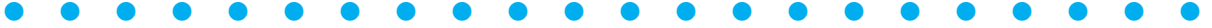
## *The tone of the manual*

Let's be honest: this topic could be killer boring. The manual attempts to avoid that with an informal tone that is always and only meant to make the information more enjoyable. All the examples are intended to be honest, representative numbers that reflect costs and revenues in New Jersey.





# Contents



Introduction to Practical Recycling Economics .... 5

How to Enjoy This Manual ..... 7

1. Understanding Recycling Economics ..... 8

    Fundamentals of supply and demand ..... 8

    Economics: What's the use? ..... 11

2. Fully Understanding Costs ..... 19

    The weird world of costs ..... 20

    Full cost accounting ..... 32

    Cost benchmarks ..... 42

    The route audit: The numbers you need to reduce costs ..... 50

3. Putting the Numbers Together:

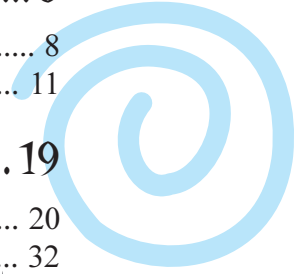
    Tools for Cost-Benefit Analysis ..... 55

        Recycling's head start to a better bottom line ..... 56

        Doing the math ..... 57

        Designing a system for financial success ..... 65

        Strategies for recovering avoided costs ..... 66



<b>4. Marketing Recyclables .....</b>	<b>69</b>
It's all about marketing .....	70
Forces that drive markets .....	71
Long-term vs. short-term markets .....	74
Market players .....	74
Cooperative marketing .....	77
Market indicators .....	78
Talking to markets: A checklist .....	81
<b>5. Contracts .....</b>	<b>83</b>
Smart contracting .....	84
Definitions .....	85
From bid to contract .....	85
Legal considerations .....	97
Negotiating contracts with markets .....	100
<b>Conclusion: Recycling your way to sustainability .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>105</b>
Talking like an accountant .....	107
Appendices .....	110
Appendix A: Market indicators .....	110
Appendix B: PSI Specifications .....	113
Appendix C:	
Local Public Contracts Law Reference Guide .....	118
Appendix D: Uniform Solid Waste Bid Specifications Reference Guide .....	121
Appendix E: Worksheets .....	123
<b>Acknowledgments .....</b>	<b>131</b>

