



Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—January 2023

'apaqa'áño' 'ee kaa 'epeqícxnu' wéetesne

- Respect and take care of the earth.



Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program

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Did You Ever Wonder If It Would Matter If We Stopped the Recycling Program?

Well the Florida Recycling Foundation Partnership and the University of Florida did a study to find out just that. Among the report's main findings is that discontinuation of recycling systems offered little cost savings for cities while significantly increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Instead, it was determined that municipalities should consider a market-based recycling system, which means targeting high value recycling commodities, such as plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs; aluminum and steel cans; and newspaper and cardboard to generate savings and mitigate the impact of waste on the environment. This is exactly what the Tribe's program does and has been doing since 2017!! We only take those materials we have a way to recycle and try to maximize collection of those that are of more value in resale markets. Recycling markets are down this year quite a bit this year over last year and that makes everyone wonder if it is worth recycling. The answer is YES, both in terms of economics and the environment! It is worth recycling!!

See all of the key findings of this study in the box below.

Key Findings

Under most circumstances providing curbside recycling collection does result in a net cost to a local government and residents, but this cost on average is a relatively small percentage of the overall waste management system cost (16-26% of total costs).

A recyclables program that focuses on targeting a small suite of materials (e.g., newspaper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, HDPE and PET bottles) provides local governments and residents a more optimized system to participate in recycling with the goals of lowering costs and mitigating GHG emissions.

Recycling a target material suite only, even if the total recycling rate is as low as 19%, can achieve the same GHG emissions savings as recycling as much of 40% of the total waste stream.

The most effective way to control the cost of recycling is to reduce contamination (saving processing time/capacity/labor/energy usage; transportation costs; and disposal costs)

[Investigating-the-Economics-of-Current-and-Future-Recycling-Programs-in-Florida-UF-Study.pdf](https://www.firecycling.org/investigating-the-economics-of-current-and-future-recycling-programs-in-florida-uf-study.pdf) (firecycling.org)

"Talkin' Trash"

It's a new year!

Begin with the Bin!

Recycle!

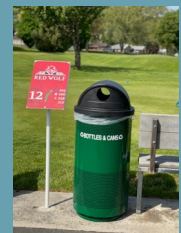
At home:



At work:



At the golf course!



Qe'ciyéw'yew'



Lapwai Recycling Schedule

Community Recycling

January 12 & 26

Páyniwaas Parking Lot , 11 am—1 pm

Office Collections

January 5 & 19

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and prosperous new year !