

The Recycling Partnership

Trends in Fighting Contamination

& How to Help



We mobilize people, data, and solutions across the value chain to unlock the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and a circular economy.

THE CORE VALUES

WE LIVE BY

**PARTNERSHIP IS
PART OF OUR
NAME FOR A
REASON**

Embrace **Change**
&
Drive **Action**

Have
FUN!

Act with
INTENTION
&
INTEGRITY

Be your
whole
self

Play well with others

PURSUE GROWTH AND LEARNING

STAND UP & SPEAK OUT
FOR
EQUITY &
INCLUSION

Take **time** to
reflect and dream



Samantha Longshore
Community Program Manager

Who We Are

Each day we work together with communities and companies to help families in America recycle and recycle well.



How?

- Increase access to recycling
- Increase capture of recyclables
- Improve quality of recyclables



Why?

- 40 million homes in the U.S. cannot recycle at home as easily as they can throw something away.*
- Those that can recycle easily are still putting 40% of their recyclables in the trash.**

*2021 Paying It Forward Report;
** 2020 State of Curbside Report



Community Impacts



2451
communities
impacted



514M lbs
of recyclables kept
out of landfill



1M
new recycling
carts placed



570K
metric tons of
GHG avoided

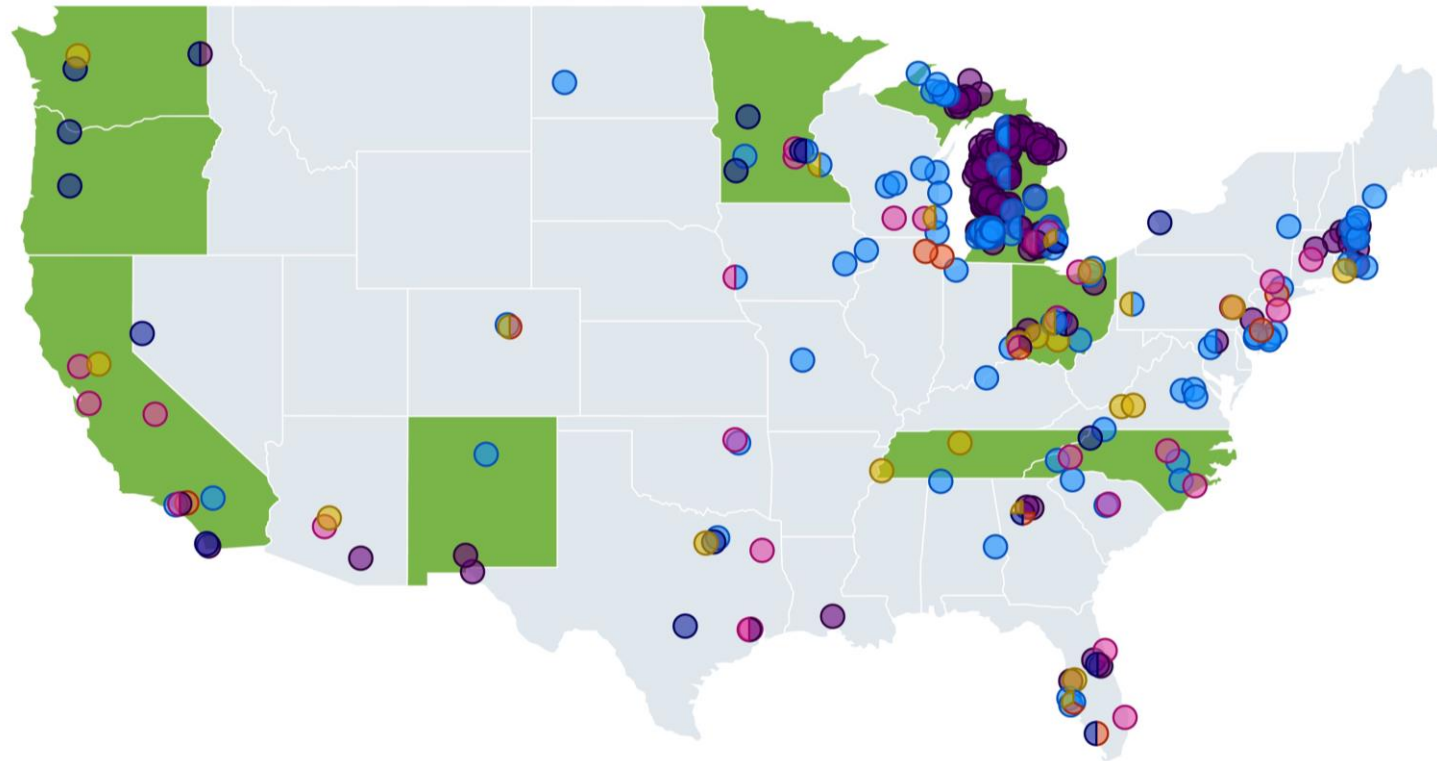


51%
recycling boost with
infrastructure projects



114M
households
impacted

Partnering with Communities/States across the Nation



Project Type

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|---|
| Multifamily | ● | Capture & Behavior Change Research | ● | Cart Grants | ● | Education Only | ● |
| Reduce Contamination | ● | MRF Grants | ● | Research & Education | ● | Drive Regional and Statewide System Change | ● |

Strategies to Fight Contamination



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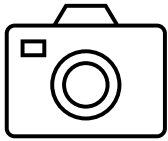
Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) Upgrades

Last line of defense against contamination

- High quality sorting during difficult labor markets
 - Provide opportunity to upskill existing labor
 - Safer sorting
 - Produces better bales
- Turn a contaminant into a commodity
 - Polypropylene opticals, carton robots
- Capture commodities recycled the wrong way
 - Eddy currents and robots to capture crushed cans
- Let's connect and talk about your MRF



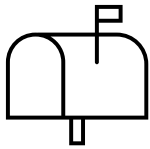
Prairie Robotics Fleet Artificial Intelligence



Camera in truck photographs contents of cart after tipped



Contaminants are identified and labeled



Postcard with photo sent to household



Measure for decrease in contaminated carts and determine effectiveness method



Quality Improvement Projects

Measure

Inform

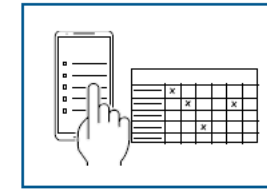
Direct feedback

Gather data

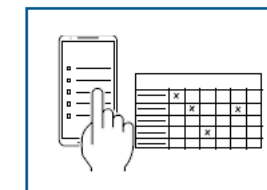
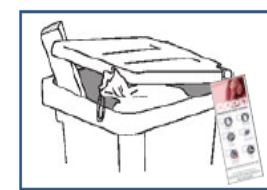
Measure



Drop-Off

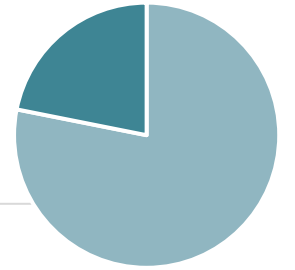


Curbside



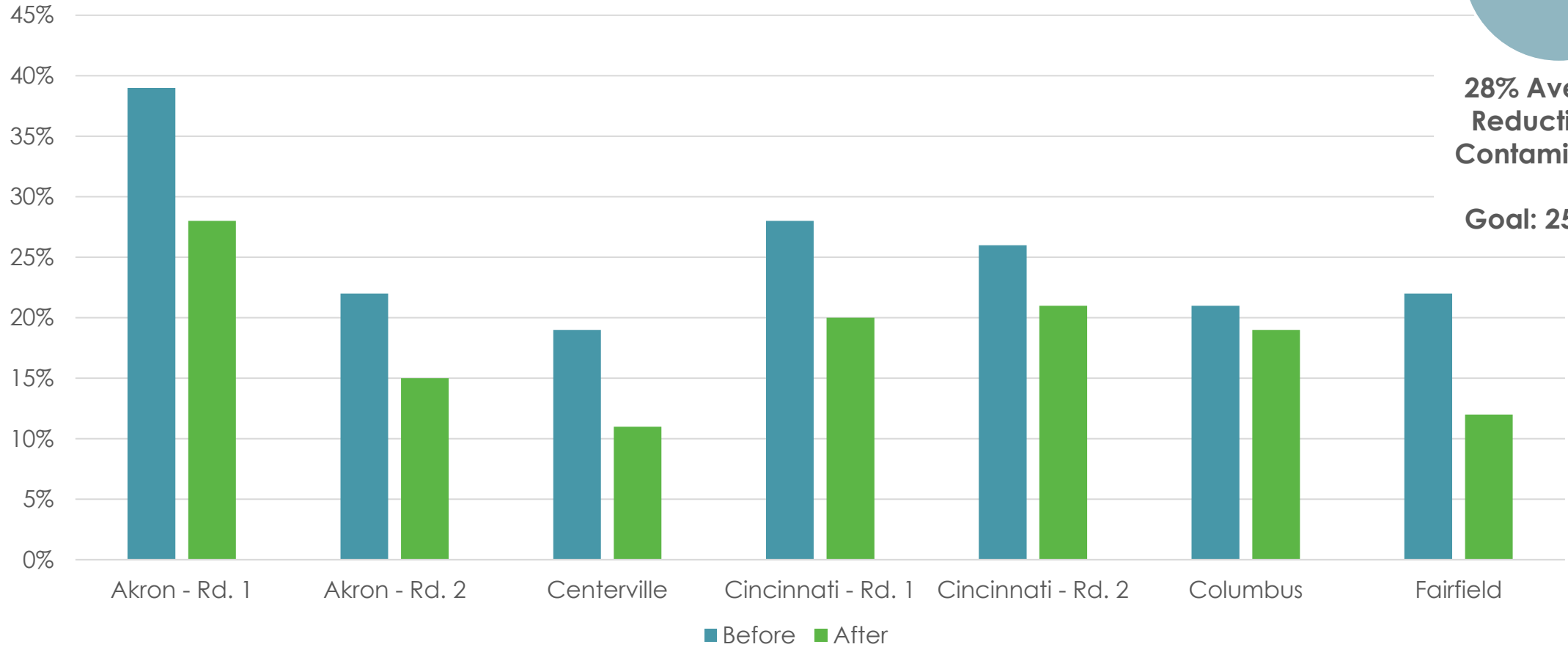
Feet on the Street Curbside in Ohio

Contamination Reduction in OH Curbside Programs



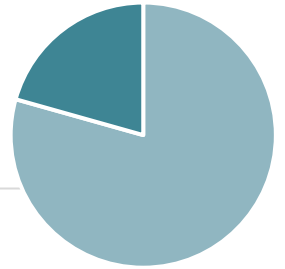
28% Average Reduction in Contamination

Goal: 25-35%



Drop Off Recycling Quality Improvement in Michigan

Contamination Reduction at MI Drop Off Programs



**26% Average
Reduction in
Contamination**

Goal: 20-30%

Drop-Off Recycling Quality Improvement Grant

WHAT

- The Recycling Partnership, through funding from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, with additional financial support from Rumpke and WM, is offering grants to local governments (cities, townships, and villages), counties, and solid waste management districts to improve quality, capture, and participation for drop-off recycling programs.

WHEN

- Grant applications are **due by 3 p.m. on Nov. 18**, with grant awards made in December.

HOW

- Instructions can be found in the request for proposals at www.recycleohio.gov.
- Learn about best practices in The Recycling Partnership's [Drop-Off Contamination Reduction Kit](#).

