

From the Director's Desk

September 2011

Irony!

People who bring their recyclable materials to our drop off centers and dump it outside the containers; thus becoming litterbugs instead of recyclers.

We at the District are working hard at creating workable recycling programs that will provide convenience for all. However we have to start somewhere and our drop off sites are that point.

When I first took over in April we had trailers that we serviced when they were full. This was a time consuming process and had proved expensive. Our first attempt was to remove the trailers and place segregated roll-offs to accept the three primary materials; paper, plastics and metals in an effort to reduce cost. This effort did not prove cost effective either because the paper section filled up faster and required emptying even though the metal and plastic segments were not full. Our latest attempt is to place an independent paper collection bin at each location and use the long roll-off for plastic and metal only.

I am pleased to report that traffic has increased at the recycle locations and we have increased pickups to at least twice a week. However the amount of cleanup we do around each site daily distracts from the positive efforts we strive to achieve.

Our next step in this District's evolution process is to provide manned drop off centers that will provide convenience to our citizens. For an ideal of how that will work come out and be part of our E-Waste collection day on Saturday, October 1st. When participants bring their E-Waste this weekend to our manned drop off locations, they will be directed to stay in their car and when they pull up to the drop off point our student staff will empty their vehicle of its electronic waste and the driver will then depart.

In the future we would like to try neighborhood drop off centers where collection containers are available in strategic locations within easy reach of your home. But in order for this to work we need to be able to insure that our citizens properly dispose of their recyclables in the proper containers and not deposit it upon the ground. If we cannot keep the four current locations clean it will be an impossible task for us to keep ten folds that many areas clean.

We are also looking at developing better containers that are more user-friendly. If you have any input on your experiences we would welcome your suggestions.

We are all on a steep learning curve trying to find the right mix of services to meet the needs of our citizens and reach the goals of ADEQ. Be patient with us, we are working for a greener tomorrow and we need your help!