

IRN THE RECYCLING NETWORK

Case Study

OneStop Addresses Many Issues at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

If you've been to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, you know their biggest recycling problem: space. DFCI is wedged in by other institutions, with a single loading dock to handle all shipping and receiving. Inside, all available space is devoted to research and patient care. Space for recycling is practically nonexistent.

Another issue at DFCI is access. Traffic can come to a standstill in Boston's Longwood area at almost any hour of the day or night. For a recycler, delay time is a bad thing. Anything that can be done to reduce the number of trips into DFCI is good; anything that adds trips is bad.

Recycling History at Dana Farber

DFCI is an IRN founding member, and for nearly a decade we've worked with them as their recycling programs have expanded. Dave Fordham, Director of General Services, and Melissa McCullough, head of Environmental Health and Safety, have been the driving forces. DFCI's list of recyclables is impressive: Baled cardboard; Mixed paper; Beverage and kitchen containers; Appliances; Electronic equipment; Universal Wastes; and Surplus property.

The problem was, almost all of these materials moved on different trucks, at different times, and in some cases a couple of times a week – tying up the loading dock, adding to congestion in the Longwood area, and often running up extra costs when recycling vehicles got trapped in traffic.

OneStop Cures Many Headaches

That was the situation in early 2006, when IRN approached DFCI with our OneStop Program. OneStop allows a half dozen or more materials to be recycled on one truck at the same time, with a single pickup. We drive the full truck back to our warehouse, where we separate materials to go to different markets. We combine loads from multiple generators, then ship these consolidated materials in truckload volumes, gaining efficiencies in cost that we pass back to the generators. Whenever possible we bypass the warehouse and take materials directly from the generator to market for additional savings.

DFCI recognized the advantages of OneStop right away. We worked with Dave, Melissa, and other DFCI staff to set up the internal logistics, and DFCI switched over in October 2006. Here's how it works:

- We dispatch a truck to DFCI once a week. We're at the loading dock by 6:30 am, and we're gone by 7:00. IRN's driver has a DFCI security pass, so DFCI doesn't even have to have a staff member at the dock when we come and go.
- DFCI set up a recycling cage in its loading area to hold most of its recyclables. DFCI staff know that all they need to do is get materials into the cage, and it will be emptied every week.
- IRN's driver empties materials from the recycling cage, and goes into the building to pick up materials (universal wastes and surplus property) that are collected and staged elsewhere.



Logging recyclables at DFCI's recycling cage

Materials that flow through OneStop at DFCI include nearly all its recyclables:

- Cardboard
- Beverage Containers
- Surplus Property
- Computers & other electronics
- Kitchen Containers
- Appliances
- Universal wastes
- Pallets
- Fixed Assets

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The only DFCI recyclable now handled outside of OneStop is mixed paper, which is collected on a dedicated paper recycling route that we run through the Longwood area

Tracking and Recordkeeping

More and more, facilities managers are being asked to account in detail for the results of the recycling programs they oversee. Financially and operationally, there's unprecedented scrutiny on the bottom line: how much does waste management cost, how much is actually being diverted from the waste stream; how can recycling be made most cost effective?

IRN's reporting capabilities respond to all of these questions. DFCI receives a single invoice for all materials that move through OneStop, with quantities, costs and revenues broken out by commodity. Even transportation and handling are broken out, so DFCI knows exactly how much time goes into managing its recyclables. And every month (supplemented by quarterly and annual information as needed), IRN provides a consolidated recycling report that tracks every material we handle.

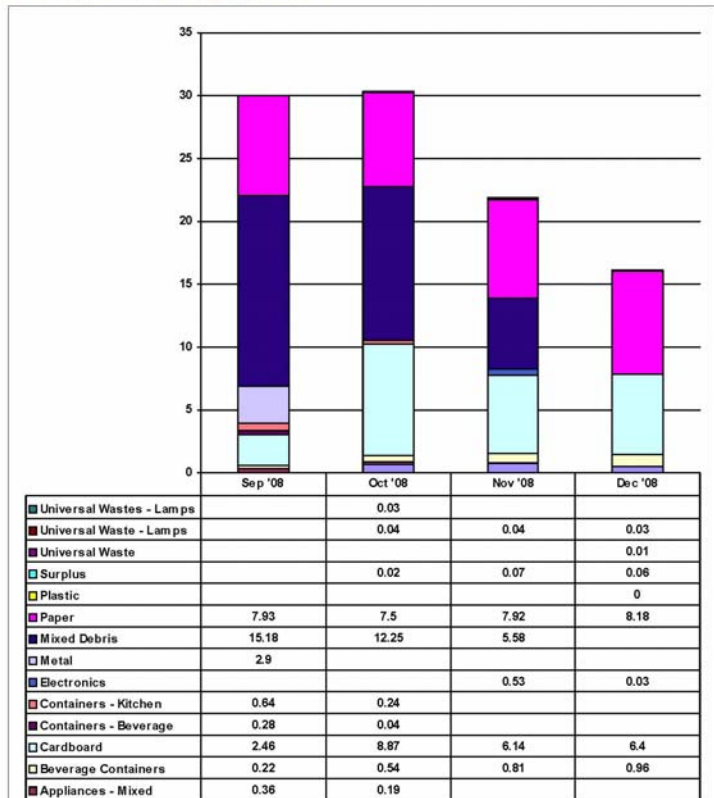
At a time when they're being asked to justify every penny, meanwhile adopting and implementing sustainable practices, this level of reporting is critical to DFCI's mission.

The OneStop Bottom Line

According to Dave and Melissa, Dana-Farber has come out ahead on many fronts since it adopted the OneStop program:

1. **Simplicity:** One set of recycling practices for multiple materials across multiple departments.
2. **More efficient use of staff time:** The program more or less runs itself; day-to-day DFCI staff involvement is minimal.
3. **Cost effectiveness:** DFCI pays one pickup and transportation charge where it once paid four or five
4. **Consolidated invoicing, material tracking, and recordkeeping:** This saves dozens of hours of staff time, and is critical to documenting the financial and operating results of DFCI's program.
5. **Reduced loading dock congestion:** DFCI eliminated about three-quarters of recycling-related trips to and from its loading dock.
6. **Contribution to safety and health in the Longwood area:** With Sustainability a core part of its mission, DFCI has done its part to reduce congestion and other traffic impacts.

Commodities by Weight and Service Month
Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Sep-Dec 2008



Comprehensive reporting by material and time period is standard for IRN. DFCI can track all recyclables through a single inclusive report. Invoices break out costs and revenues in similar detail.