

# EECBG Case Study #2

## Single Stream Recycling



southeast michigan regional  
**energy office**



### Single Stream Recycling



Municipality:	Huntington Woods
Population:	5,815
Governance:	City Manager
Grant Allocation:	\$104,000

#### Lessons Learned

- Make sustainable practices the default choice
- Education is key for widespread adoption



### The Takeaway

By providing one convenient, weatherproof cart that residents can put ALL their recycling into without sorting, residents in the pilot program areas now have no excuse for not recycling. Indeed, it is even easier now than putting something in the garbage and thus, can become the “default” choice.

Some residents were wary of using the cart, given that it was a change. Current “super-recyclers” were dubious of doing things differently whereas some senior citizens were wary of the cart’s size and weight. Program advocates have noted that one on one citizen interaction has eased trepidation regarding the new program. Additionally, SOCRRA had to educate haulers regarding the new pickup procedure.

### Scope of Work

The Cities of Huntington Woods and Beverly Hills, Michigan applied for a single stream recycling pilot program to the state EECBG program. In partnership with SOCRRA, each community has been implementing their pilot program. For the single stream recycling pilot program, each resident received a 64 gallon cart at their home, which they can use to recycle all eligible materials. SOCRRA worked with the current haulers to ensure that they could use existing trucks to pick up the carts. Rather than having to sort paper from plastic and metal, and bale cardboard, residents are able to put all materials into one container. Sorting of the recyclables occurs at the SOCRRA sorting facilities.



Residents in Huntington Woods and Beverly Hills can put all recyclables into one cart

## Project Results

The single stream recycling pilot has resulted in a modest increase in recycling among the households involved in it. Huntington Woods is recording a 5% increase in recycling, while Beverly Hills is recording a 17% increase in recycling.

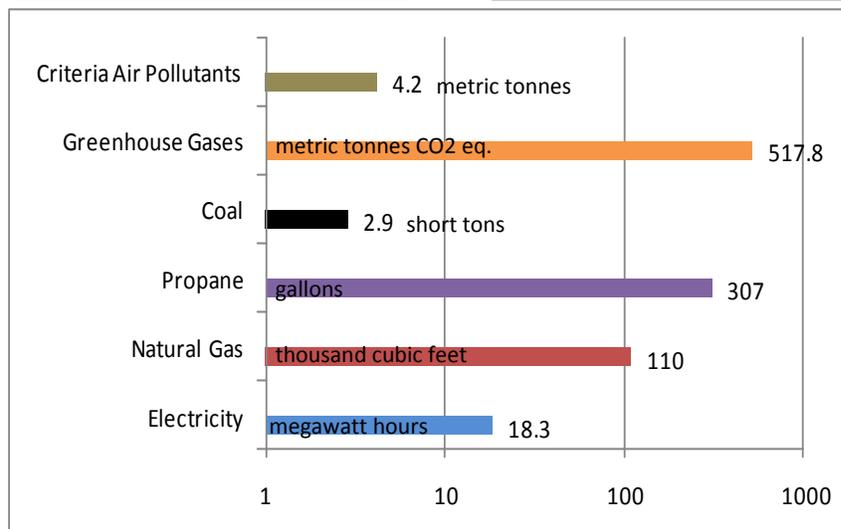
For the 1,104 homes in the pilot areas, this results in 60,000 lbs of additional recycling per year, earning more money for the organization.



Sorters at the SOCRRRA Facility

SOCRRRA holds regular recycling workshops open to the public in all communities that are a part of the organization.

## Emissions Avoided/ Electricity Conserved



## Challenges Overcome

- Lack of dollars to provide necessary technology
- Convincing recycling haulers to use new technology and /or invest in new technology
- Educating residents and haulers on using a new system.

## Further Resources

Southeastern Oakland County Resource  
Recovery Authority (SOCRRRA)  
<http://www.socrra.org/>  
WARM Training Center  
<http://www.warmtraining.org/>  
Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office  
<http://www.regionalenergyoffice.org/>

US EPA Recycling Page  
[http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/  
recycle.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/recycle.htm)  
Recycle Here Detroit  
<http://www.recyclehere.net/>  
State of Michigan DNRE Recycling  
[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-  
3585\\_4130--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3585_4130--,00.html)