Single- vs. Dual-stream Recycling



Single-stream Recycling

Pros

- No sorting required
- No transport required
- Low collection costs
- Higher participation

Cons

- ◆ Poor sorting of material
- Low quality material
- High processing costs
- High disposal costs



Double-stream Recycling

Pros

- Better sorting of material
- Higher quality material
- Low processing costs
- Higher revenue

Cons

- Sorting required
- Transport required
- Lower participation
- High collection costs



Higher processing and ever increasing disposal costs for single-stream or curbside recycling outweigh lower collection costs. The increase in contamination and improper recycling in curbside recycling mostly offsets increased participation due to convenience. Dual-stream recycling is the better overall option.

