From Waste to Resource: Sustainable Solid Waste Management in a Desert City (Phoenix, AZ)

TAMSIN FOUCRIER
SARITHA RAMAKRISHNA
What is the purpose of this study?

- Identify municipal leaders in:
  - Diversion
  - Contamination
- Provide recommendations to the City of Phoenix as part of the “40% by 2020 Initiative”
- Focus on national, with some research on international
- Cities
  - Similar populations
  - High diversion rates (>50%)
Who are the leaders?

• San Francisco, 80%
• Los Angeles, 76.4%
• San Jose, 71%
• San Diego, 68%
• Seattle, 60%
• Vancouver, 57%
• Toronto, 53.3%

As a comparison, the City of Phoenix’s rate is around 18%.
Highlights of Best Practices

• Mandates
• Collaboration with the private sector
• Emerging technologies
• Education and outreach
• Food waste
• Contamination reduction
  • Note on contamination and diversion
Key Indicators

• Equitable governance
• Environmental control and protection
• Protection of public health and access
• Focus on resource movement and value
Overall Recommendations

1. Continue with public-private partnerships, leverage resources.
2. Provide incentives for commercial entities, investigate PAYT as a commercially applied program
3. City wide educational programs, voluntary outreach
4. Capitalize on the City’s pilot organics program
5. Target populations: Multifamily units, especially for contamination