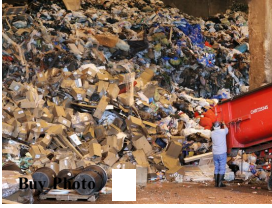


Indy's recycling plan undercuts state's goal

IndyStar 4:13 p.m. EDT July 9, 2014



(Photo: Matt Detrich/The Star)

Just this year, Gov. Mike Pence and state legislators enacted into law a statewide goal to recycle 50 percent of Indiana's waste stream, recognizing the importance of recycling to the state's economy and creating jobs. Many industries in Indiana, such as glass, paper, aluminum and steel manufacturing, rely on recycled materials for their processes.

Indianapolis is considering a plan to sort through our trash to remove paper, plastic and aluminum (but not glass) that are mixed in with dirty diapers and food scraps for recycling. Sorting recyclables out of trash results in dirty materials that most companies can't or won't use.

It is estimated that this "recycling" program will achieve a 23 percent recycling rate. Is the city unaware of the state's 50 percent goal? I don't see how Indiana can achieve a 50 percent recycling rate with its largest city considering a program that expects to recycle less than half the state's goal.

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