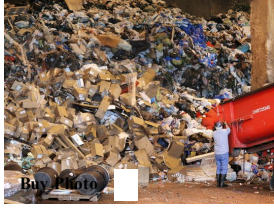


Indy recycling plan a good deal for taxpayers

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(Photo: Matt Detrich/The Star)

As a resident of Indianapolis, a city that has struggled to find funding for everything from police to pot holes, I find it difficult to understand the arguments of environmental groups against Covanta's deal to pay for a new recycling center at no cost to Indianapolis.

A private company wants to invest its own money and do something that otherwise would cost taxpayers money, and still share the profits with the city. What's the problem?

The city has tried curbside recycling for over 10 years – and as soon as a private company offers to use its money to do it for everyone, there's a problem? Will the Wal-Mart/Coke loan to buy bins also cover the equipment needed for pick-up, the fuel for trucks, the sorting and the baling? Taxpayers would get those millions in ongoing costs.

The city and Covanta found a way to make it easier for everyone to recycle with no new taxes. More people recycle, less trash goes to the landfill and there are more profits for the company, which, by the way, are split with the city.

The recycling groups must not understand the adage "If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten." Thank you, to the city and Covanta, for thinking outside the box and not increasing taxes like certain folks always want to do!

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