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## ISRI says it opposes one-bin collection

By Bobby Elliott, Resource Recycling

Aug. 5, 2014

The country's largest recycling trade organization has taken a quiet but definite stance against programs that ask residents to commingle trash and recyclables for post-collection sortation.

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) issued a two-paragraph [position statement](#) on July 23 regarding the collection and recycling method.

"ISRI supports the collection and sortation of recyclable materials in a manner that optimizes the value and utilization of the material as specification grade commodities to be used as a feedstock to manufacture new products," the statement reads. "Since the quality of the recyclables as specification grade commodities is essential, ISRI opposes the commingling of recyclables with solid waste or mixed waste processing in a one-bin system where all solid waste and recyclables are placed together with no separation prior to recycling."

Approved by ISRI's Board of Directors on July 23, the official position comes at a time when various cities are considering the merits of the "one bin" approach. An [Aug. 6 vote](#) will decide the fate of a proposed \$45 million mixed-material facility by Covanta in Indianapolis — the company and city have argued the operation will be able to effectively recover marketable recyclables from the trash.

Further, the city of Houston is the midst of choosing from a variety of likeminded proposals, while Cleveland is also said to be considering the change.

Many recycled commodity experts argue the relatively new method jeopardizes the quality of recycled materials due to high rates of solid waste-driven contamination.

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