

Controversial recycling deal between Indianapolis, Covanta on hold

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A recycling plan that would have brought free curbside service to all Indianapolis residents is on hold. Mayor Joe Hogsett says the deal between the City of Indianapolis and Covanta Indianapolis Inc. to build an Advance Recycling Center (ARC) will be temporarily suspended.

The plan would have allowed residents to toss trash and recycling into one bin. Covanta, a private contractor, would have separated out the recyclable content at a facility on the Indianapolis south side. The plan called for Covanta to build a \$40 million material recovery center alongside its existing incinerator.

But opponents questioned the idea, arguing that such methods were inefficient and that the plan would have recovered around 24 percent of recyclable materials, while Indiana's recycling goal is 50 percent.

"We've been feeling a change in the air coming. The opposition has continued to build but we are also absolutely thrilled to be working with the Hogsett administration toward real recycling solutions for our city," said Carey Hamilton, executive director of the Indiana Recycling Coalition. "All the evidence shows trying to sort recyclables out of trash doesn't work. It's a failed model."

[Related: Mayor Ballard introduces plan to increase recycling in Indianapolis](#)

Mayor Hogsett announced that the city will gather information over the next 90 days to assist with a reassessment of plans for an ARC facility. Hogsett says members of his administration will meet with "local groups and key stakeholders, ensuring that all voices are included in a conversation over the future of recycling in Indianapolis."

Related: [City plan for free recycling hits snag](#)

The mayor's office says Covanta Indianapolis has offered information-gathering assistance to city officials during the suspension of the ARC, and Covanta's preexisting service agreements with the city will remain in effect. The Office of Corporation Counsel will continue to defend the city's ability to negotiate with Covanta in pending litigation.