How Igiugig Recycles!

By: Christina Salmon-Wassillie

Separating Recyclables & Storing Hazardous Waste in your Communities
About me,

Christina Salmon-Wassillie.
Environmental Program Director for the village of Igiugig.
Born and raised in Igiugig, AK
Ig-ee-ah-gig? (Igiugig)

Igiugig is a small community on Lake Iliamna current population: 68.
We are 250 air miles southwest of Anchorage, AK.
How to start

3 E’s:

Educate
Encourage
Evaluate
Educate

- All ages, all the time! Start at Council meetings, in the classrooms, door to door visits and flyers.
- Let them know what you hope to achieve and why.
- Explain the process, how we will begin, how simple it will be!
- Never stop educating, encourage life-long learners.
Encourage

You are doing a great job…
Take the time to commend.
Aim for 100% participation.
Evaluate

How is it going overall?
What is our participation rate?
What can we improve on?
Do we need to communicate differently with our residents?
What is working well?
Always focus on the positive!
How we started

1) Made a plan.
2) Announced it at a Council meeting.
3) Purchased necessary equipment.
4) Established vendors to send our recyclables too.
5) Made agreements with local lodges on backhauling with their charters.
6) Set up drop off points for residents and lodges.
7) Stage, package and backhaul.
What goes where?

• Aluminum cans is simple, in a large bin, then cleaned and sorted by students. Set via Local Airlines.

• Household batteries, in 5 gallon buckets stored at the Hangar.

• Lead acid batteries, there is a fee, in a tote at the landfill.

• E-Waste, in a connex at landfill.
Staging

- Keep staging area clean!
- Have materials in clean groups, makes for easy packaging and pick up.
- Only authorized personnel allowed.
- Safety and security.
Handling of HazMat

- Certified adults only!
- Follow Emergency Response Guidebook.
- Wear safety equipment at all times.
Shipment

- Council pays or
- Partnership with lodges or larger companies.
- EPA-IGAP Funds can be used for freight.
- Properly packaged.
Repeat!

- This is when I evaluate.
- Did we do alright?
- Did we make a positive difference?
- Prep for the next round!
My Thoughts

- Never be afraid to try, and remember that failure is not an option.
- Don’t be scared to ask for help.
- Remember that the work you are doing today, is not for the people living in your village now, it is for your grandchildren.
- What do you want life to be like for them?