

# Anonymous Anonymous

I've given this a lot of thought over the past year

The problems I run into regularly are:

1. It is unclear when a paper product isn't recyclable and we allow packaging to be recyclable if steps like peeling labels are followed but those steps are not clear.
2. It is unclear how clean and dry plastic needs to be for recycling
3. It is unclear how much water we should use to clean the above before recycling plastic/glass before we've wasted more resources than the recycling saves (I even asked someone at recology and they could not answer that)

The solutions I think we need are:

1. There should be some way for people to get feedback on their household recycling efforts. It could be something like a requesting a free annual audit where their week's recycling gets tagged and the household gets a report with encouragement and suggestions for their specific items. alternatively, with technology this report could be regularly generated and accessible. Or, if per-household is too difficult, it could be per dump truck where you'd essentially get to see your neighborhood's rating
2. Having a phone/video hotline where people can call/text pictures of an item and get advice on whether or not it is recyclable. for example, i just got a thing of "allertec" from Costco which comes in a cardboard sleeve with a plastic-wrapped bottle and I'm not sure if I need to cut the plastic part out or if I can leave it in or what. If done right, documenting requests from the hotline could identify communication gaps or necessary packaging regulations
3. Separate containers for some recycling so that facilities can focus on separating more difficult items than paper from glass from plastic
4. More recyclable items accepted from the house (telling people to take batteries or plastic bags to the store will never, ever work) or prohibiting those items from being sold (like plastic bags or single use batteries)
5. Try partnering with delivery services to get them to pick up some recyclables (like UPS could pickup batteries whenever they drop off a package)