



Easy Recycling for Apartments

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THE PROBLEM

The City of Fayetteville does not provide recycling for most of its apartment building residents, therefore creating much more waste headed to landfills than necessary.

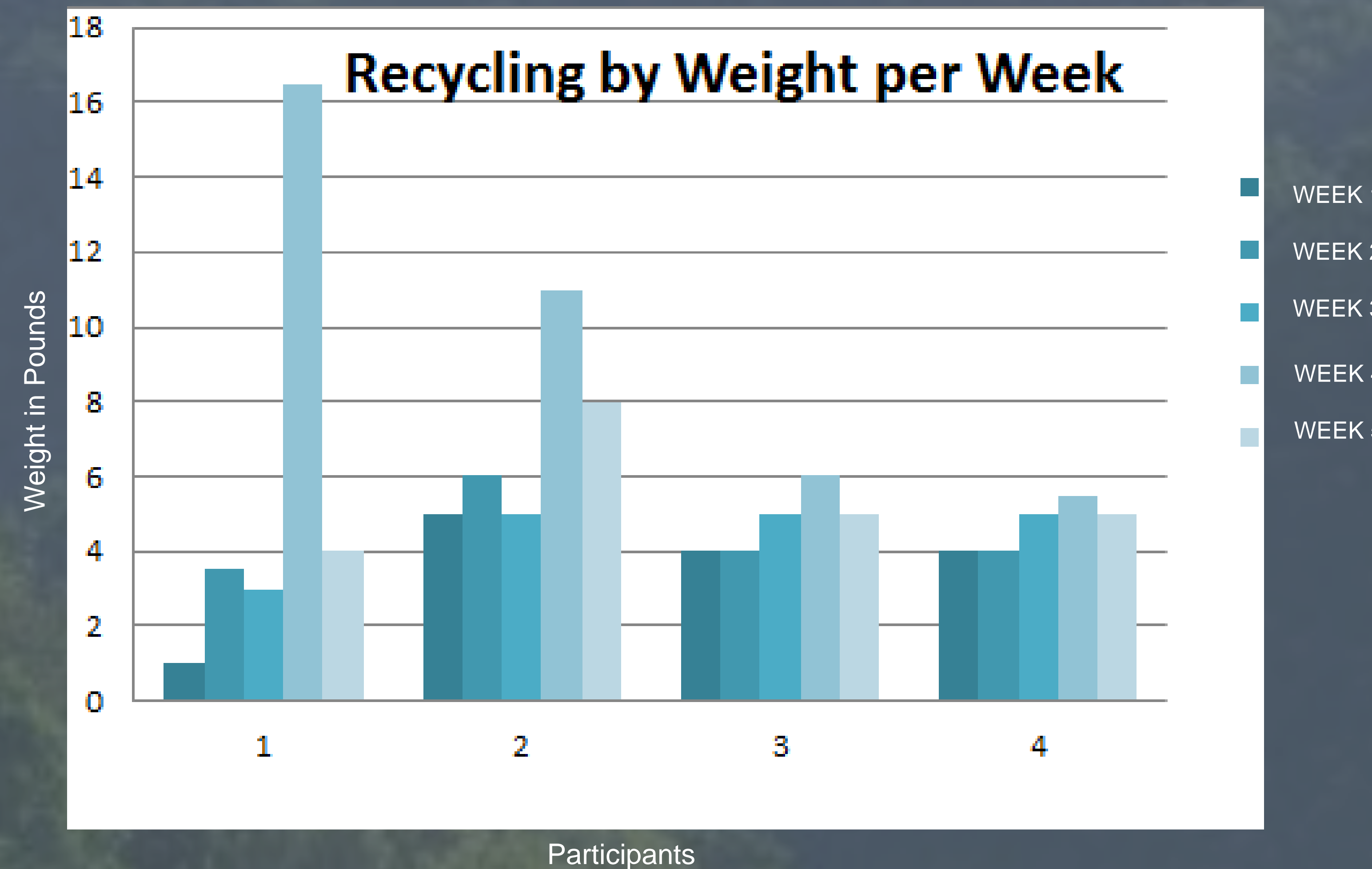
Apartment dwellers must take the initiative and collect, sort, and maintain their own recycling systems, which isn't realistic.

THE PROJECT

Four close friends of mine live in apartment buildings and did not recycle before they agreed to be part of my experiment. I provided each unit with one recycling bin and picked it up every Wednesday afternoon for five weeks. I then weighed, sorted, and recycled everything in these bins. I compared my data with the City of Fayetteville's to see how much waste could be saved and how much money could be earned if recycling was provided to apartment dwellers in Fayetteville.



Dropping off a full carload of recycling to the Marion Orton Recycling Center



Weighing the recycling

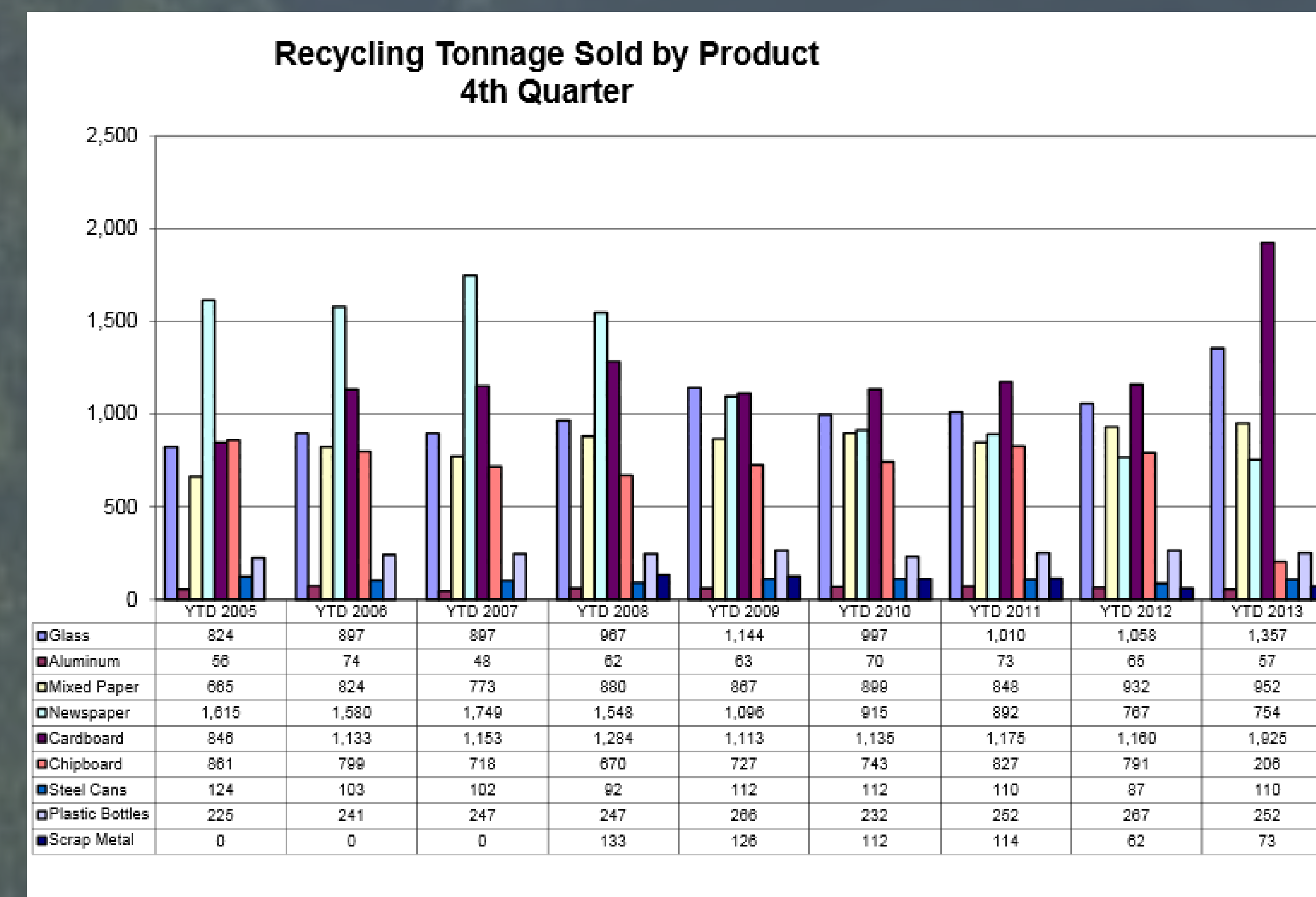
\$ 242,835 annually

On average, the City of Fayetteville can sell its recycled product for \$94 per pound.*



SUSTAINABILITY

In 2013, Fayetteville produced **60,949 tons of waste**, sending it to the landfill. At a cost of \$33.80 per ton, this cost the city **\$2,060,076**. With over 18,000 apartment, duplexes, triplexes, etc. within city limits, that means that much of that waste is being produced by these living structures where recycling is not largely provided.* If Fayetteville could start a successful apartment recycling program, they would save material and make a profit by selling the product, rather than throwing it away, preventing the need to make more materials and deal with distribution and production pollution.



Source: accessfayetteville.org

* source: accessfayetteville.org