



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

City of Pocatello  
Pocatello, Idaho  
2011

### Environmental Commitment

The city of Pocatello has taken significant strides to reduce pollution by implementing a commingled recycling program for city residents. By diverting waste from the city's use of the Bannock County landfill through recycling, the city of Pocatello and its sanitation department are extending the life of the county landfill and preventing unnecessary disposal of recyclable items. The commitment to recycling is important as cities outgrow the capacity of their solid waste facilities. By extending the life of the city's landfill through the diversion of recyclable materials, the city of Pocatello is generating positive pollution prevention results.

### Pollution Prevention Success

The city of Pocatello has realized significant success and citizen support for its commingled recycling program. Originally a voluntary program, curbside recycling became a general service of the sanitation department in 2011.

### Waste Minimization

The city of Pocatello has realized a significant reduction in the amount of waste that would have otherwise been sent to the city's municipal landfill. When it began in 2009, the voluntary program was able to divert 3 percent of total waste processed by the sanitation department from the county landfill. By 2011, when the program became a standard service of the sanitation department, 8 percent of total waste processed by the sanitation department was being diverted from the county landfill. Fifty-seven percent of residents in Pocatello, nearly 10,000 residents in total, are participating in the program. In total, 3,800 tons of recyclable materials have been diverted from the county landfill. Diverting this material has helped significantly to extend the life of the landfill and will help prevent pollution in the future.

### For More Information

For more information about the city of Pocatello's commingled recycling program, visit the city's Sanitation Department webpage at [www.pocatello.us/sanitation/sanitation\\_recycling\\_reg.htm](http://www.pocatello.us/sanitation/sanitation_recycling_reg.htm).

*Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.*