

Project: Bloomington Recycling – Evaluation of the City of Bloomington’s Recycling Program and Expansion Program Recommendations

Client: Bloomington Environmental Commission

Term: Fall 2015

Faculty Mentor: Professor Justin Ross

Summary:

The SPEA Capstone group examined the feasibility of expanding the City of Bloomington recycling program to include recycling pickup service for downtown commercial businesses and apartments. The team assessed alternative options for expansion services provided by both the city and private waste haulers. Private waste haulers were found to be cost effective in comparison to funding a city sponsored expansion program. In addition, the report provided recommendations intended to improve Bloomington’s current recycling program. The recommendations include: improve E-governance and financial management of department funds, incrementally mandate recycling, provide support for a more competitive private waste-hauler market, expand the Green Business Network, engage in public-private partnerships for educating the public on recycling practices and consider the franchise model to ensure residents reliable and cost-effective services.