

1 **An Environmental-Economic Assessment of Residential Curbside**  
2 **Collection Programs in Central Florida**

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8 ***Abstract***

9 Inefficient collection and scheduling procedures negatively affect residential curbside collection  
10 (RCC) efficiency, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and cost. As Florida aims to achieve a 75%  
11 recycling goal by 2020, municipalities have switched to single-stream recycling to improve  
12 recycling efficiency. Waste diversion and increased collection cost have forced some  
13 municipalities to reduce garbage collection frequency. The goal of this study was to explore the  
14 trade-offs between environmental and economic factors of RCC systems in Florida by evaluating  
15 the RCC system design of 25 different central Florida communities. These communities were  
16 grouped into four sets based on their RCC garbage, yard waste, and recyclables collection  
17 design, i.e., frequency of collection and use of dual-stream (DS) or single-stream (SS)  
18 recyclables collection system. For the 25 communities studied, it was observed that RCC  
19 programs that used SS recyclables collection system recycled approximately 15 to 35%, by  
20 weight of the waste stream, compared to 5 to 20% for programs that used DS. The GHG  
21 emissions associated with collection programs were estimated to be between 36 and 51 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>  
22 per metric ton of total household waste (garbage and recyclables), depending on the garbage  
23 collection frequency, recyclables collection system (DS or SS), and recyclables compaction.  
24 When recyclables offsets were considered, the GHG emissions associated with programs using  
25 SS were estimated between -760 and -560, compared to between -270 and -210 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per  
26 metric ton of total waste for DS programs. These data suggest that RCC system design can

27 significantly impact recyclables generation rate and efficiency, and consequently determine  
28 environmental and economic impacts of collection systems. Recycling participation rate was  
29 found to have a significant impact on the environmental and financial performance of RCC  
30 programs. Collection emissions were insignificant compared to the benefits of recycling. SS  
31 collection of recyclables provided cost benefits compared to DS, mainly due to faster collection  
32 time.

33 **Keywords:** Curbside collection; recycling; emissions; single-stream; dual-stream;  
34 Florida.

### 35 *1. Introduction*

36 Residential waste collection services provide waste removal from both single family and multi-  
37 family dwellings. A single family dwelling is an individual structure with its own lot and is  
38 usually serviced by residential curbside collection (RCC), whereas multi-family dwellings are  
39 connected structures and are usually provided with dumpsters for waste collection. RCC (the  
40 main focus of this study) includes over 8,660 programs throughout the U.S. (Smith, 2012) and  
41 serves 71% of the U.S. population (U.S. EPA, 2011a). Collection programs are established by  
42 waste management divisions (cities, municipalities, or counties) to provide waste collection and  
43 management services for residents. RCC programs usually provide garbage, recyclables, yard  
44 waste, and in some cases, food waste collection lines. Typically, such service necessitates a  
45 minimum of three weekly collections. These collection services are provided consistently  
46 throughout the year for public convenience, although waste generation rates and collection needs  
47 vary seasonally, e.g., during holidays and low-growth vegetation seasons (Maimoun et al., 2013).

48 In the past, populations in the northern part of the US were served weekly by one day of  
49 waste collection, whereas the southern part of the US was served weekly by two days of waste

50 collection to minimize odors (Kim et al., 2006). However, RCC programs are faced with rising  
51 collection costs due to an increase in collection services, e.g. recyclable and yard waste lines,  
52 providing impetus to switch to once per week or every other week (bi-weekly) waste collection.  
53 On the other hand, the main disadvantage of reducing waste collection frequency to weekly or  
54 bi-weekly is the health concern associated with leaving food waste in containers for up to two  
55 weeks (McLeod and Cherrett, 2008).

56 In the U.S., the implementation of curbside collection of recyclables increased recycling,  
57 diverting reusable materials from the waste stream (U.S. EPA, 2011a). However, customer's  
58 convenience plays an important role in the amount of the recovered material. Everett and Peirce  
59 (1993) studied the effect of collection frequency, collection day, and containers on material  
60 recovery rate, weight of recyclables recycled annually per person, for voluntary and mandatory  
61 curbside recycling programs. The study concluded that providing containers slightly improved  
62 curbside recovery recycling rate for voluntary collection program, but not mandatory programs.  
63 On the other hand, increasing recyclables collection frequency had a slightly positive effect on  
64 the recovery recycling rate, while collection day had only a slight effect on that. Lave et al.  
65 (1999) argued that for most municipal solid waste recycling categories the costs of collection and  
66 processing exceeded the avoided disposal fee and revenues from the sales of recyclables.

67 Weitz et al. (2002) compared the life-cycle emission of waste management practices in  
68 the United States between 1974 and 1997. The study found that adopting alternative municipal  
69 solid waste (MSW) management practices significantly decrease greenhouse gas (GHG)  
70 emissions, despite two-fold increase in waste generation rates between 1974 and 1997. The study  
71 also estimated that collection and transportation of MSW and recyclables accounted for 1 million

72 metric tons carbon equivalents in 1997, which was approximate 2-fold increase in emissions over  
73 1974, mainly due 2-fold increase in the amount of MSW generated and needed to be collected.  
74 When exploring life-cycle emissions of waste management practices, Chen and Lin (2008)  
75 concluded that improving the collection efficiency and reducing the energy consumption of  
76 waste collection vehicle will help the solid waste management practice reaches its goal in  
77 reducing GHG emissions. To achieve this goal, this study was designed to find the optimal RCC  
78 program. The effect of the RCC system design on waste generation rates and recycling  
79 efficiency, e.g. less landfilling and more recycling thus avoided use of new resources, was  
80 explored. This in turn affects waste management cost and environmental impacts of MSW  
81 management practice by altering the fate of the waste at the source.

82         Recyclables curbside collection can be classified according to the number of collection  
83 streams. In the U.S., single-stream (SS) and dual-stream (DS) collection are most common. DS  
84 collection requires residents to separate cardboards, papers, and magazines from the rest of  
85 recyclable materials using 60-liter (16-gallon) bins, while single stream collection allows  
86 residents to mix all recyclable material together using 60-liter (16-gallon) to 240-liter (64-gallon)  
87 containers. The number of containers provided for residents varies based on the collection  
88 system used and the hauling contract. During the last decade, many communities in the US have  
89 switched from DS recyclables collection to SS collection for the ease of operations (Fitzgerald et  
90 al., 2012). On average, 14 new SS material recovery facilities (MRFs) have been added every  
91 year since 1995 (Berenyi, 2008; Fitzgerald et al., 2012). Fitzgerald et al. (2012) examined the  
92 quantities of recycled material at three MRFs and concluded that switching from DS collection to  
93 SS generated 50% more recyclables. Jamelske and kipperberg (2006) found that consumers are  
94 willing to pay for the combined switch to automated solid waste collection and SS recycling in

95 Madison, Wisconsin. The study presented a positive net benefit from moving to SS recycling  
96 with automated collection.

97 In Europe, Tucker et al. (2001) evaluated the integrated effects of reducing the frequency  
98 of curbside collection of newspapers in the UK from once every two weeks to once every four  
99 weeks. The study reported a 41% saving in fuel usage, which obviously had environmental  
100 benefits as well as cost savings of 60%. However, the net environmental benefits were less than  
101 41% as more residents transported their recycling to collection centers. It was estimated that  
102 tonnage recovered suffered a loss of less than 2%, while participation in the curbside collection  
103 program dropped by less than 8%. McDonald and Oates (2003) found that the main reasons for  
104 non-participation in a curbside recycling scheme of paper within a UK community were lack of  
105 insufficient paper and lack of space to store recycling bins. However, the study also reported that  
106 more than half of non-participating customers recycle paper using other facilities. The study  
107 recommended changing the scheme design (mainly the color of recycling bins), scheme  
108 operation and promotion to encourage recycling. In Australia, Gillespie and Bennett (2012)  
109 estimated the willingness of households to pay for curbside collection of waste and recyclables.  
110 The study observed that respondents had a positive willingness to pay for once every two weeks  
111 or once a week collection services, while being less willing to pay for twice a week collection.  
112 Understanding the factors affecting recycling behavior is essential to increasing recycling  
113 participation (Williams and Cole, 2013). Two trials in England compared the recycling  
114 participation associated with changing to SS or DS, while reducing recyclables collection  
115 frequency. There was no difference in the recycling participation between SS and DS trials. In  
116 comparing DS and SS, Williams and Cole (2013) found that DS collected an average of 5.94  
117 kg/household/week compared to an average of 5.63 kg/ household /week by SS.

118           The design of RCC programs varies significantly among U.S. areas; major differences are  
119 the number of collection lines provided (defined as the number of collection services provided to  
120 a resident); the collection frequency of each service line; the type of recycling collection system  
121 (DS or SS); the number, type, and volume of garbage and recycling containers; and the fuel used.  
122 These variables can significantly affect the recycling efficiency and participation rate of RCC  
123 programs. As municipalities try to balance environmental and financial impacts of collection  
124 services and customer satisfaction, optimal design of the RCC system will be their first step  
125 toward sustainable waste management. Accordingly, this research explores the trade-offs  
126 between environmental and economic factors to optimize RCC systems.

127           In 2012, Florida MSW was generated by single-family dwellings (32% of the total  
128 generation), multi-family residences (13%), and commercial entities (55%) (FDEP, 2014a).  
129 Approximately, 35% of the total MSW stream was recycled (FDEP , 2014b). Florida state has an  
130 ambitious recycling goal of 75% by 2020 (FDEP, 2013), calling for municipalities throughout  
131 the state to modify RCC programs as a mean to improve recycling. To increase the recycling  
132 efficiency, many municipalities have switched to SS recyclables collection. Moreover, some  
133 RCC programs have provided residents with multiple or larger recycling containers to encourage  
134 residents to recycle more. At the same time, many collection providers are switching to less  
135 frequent garbage collection, due to waste diversion to other service lines (e.g. recyclables and  
136 yard waste) and the rising cost of collection. As a result, a variety of program designs were  
137 found across the state of Florida, providing a good opportunity to study the effects of the RCC  
138 system design on waste generation rates and recycling efficiency. An environmental-economic  
139 assessment model was developed and used to estimate the life-cycle GHG emissions and cost of  
140 Florida RCC programs using data provided by commercial haulers. The developed model was

141 used to evaluate the sensitivity of the model outcomes to changing input parameters, in  
142 particular, the recycling participating rate (PR<sub>R</sub>), and to determine the minimum required PR<sub>R</sub> to  
143 make curbside recyclables collection environmentally and economically beneficial.

## 144 **2. Methods**

145 Data collection of 112 Florida's RCC programs, serving about four million single-family  
146 households, was conducted using municipality websites. Based on the survey, communities were  
147 grouped into four sets based on their RCC garbage, yard waste, and recyclables collection  
148 design, i.e., frequency of collection and use of dual-stream (DS) or single-stream (SS)  
149 recyclables collection system. For this study, communities, haulers, and municipalities in Central  
150 Florida area were randomly asked to provide data for this study. The selection of Central Florida  
151 area was to ensure the same demographics of population. Only few communities, haulers, cities,  
152 or municipalities agreed to provide data. Twenty-five different Floridian communities, serving  
153 about half million households, were identified to participate. The rest of this Section will discuss  
154 data collection and analysis for the 25 RCC programs, followed by the development of an  
155 environmental-economic assessment model.

### 156 **2.1 Hauling Data and Recovered Materials**

157 Each commercial hauler for the 25 identified central Florida communities was asked to report the  
158 method of collection, collection schedule, number of households served, and the collected  
159 tonnage of garbage, recyclables, and yard wastes during years 2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012 (Table  
160 S1). The composition of recyclables leaving SS and DS MRFs during 2012 was obtained from  
161 local facility operators (Tables S2 and S3). The U.S. EPA Waste Reduction Model (WARM)  
162 version 13 (U.S. EPA, 2014) was used then to estimate GHG emission offsets resulting from  
163 recycling through RCC programs. The contamination rate (the portion of recyclables that was

164 contaminated during collection and could not be recycled, i.e. the waste residue) was evaluated  
165 by analyzing the composition of materials leaving DS and SS MRFs and validated by hand-  
166 sorting of individual collection vehicle contents by commercial haulers. The waste residue  
167 reported by the SS MRF was 9.07% compared to a 10.40% reported by the DS MRF. Therefore,  
168 for the purpose of this study, 10% of all collected DS and SS recyclables was assumed to be later  
169 diverted to landfills.

## 170 **2.2 Analysis of Waste Generation Characteristics**

171 The total household waste generated was defined as the sum of garbage and recyclables,  
172 excluding yard waste. The generation rate of total household waste was calculated using  
173 Equation 1.

$$174 \quad GR_T = \frac{(W_G + W_R) \times 1000}{N_T \times 365} \quad (1)$$

175 where:

176 GR<sub>T</sub>: Generation rate of total household waste (kg per served household per day)

177 N<sub>T</sub>: Maximum number of households served by collection contract

178 W<sub>G</sub>: Annual weight of garbage collected from N<sub>T</sub> customers (Metric Ton (MT) per year)

179 W<sub>R</sub>: Annual weight of recyclables collected from N<sub>T</sub> customers (MT per year)

180 Recycling Percentage (RP) was calculated as the percent of GR<sub>T</sub> that was recycled, as  
181 shown in Equation 2.

$$182 \quad RP (\%) = \frac{W_R}{W_R + W_G} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

## 183 **2.3 The Environmental-Economic Assessment Model**

184 An environmental-economic assessment model was developed and used to estimate the GHG  
185 emissions and cost of Florida RCC programs as a function of recycling participation rate (PR<sub>R</sub>,



186 percent of households' participating in curbside recycling). A sensitivity analysis of the results  
187 was performed to evaluate the effect of input parameters on model outputs.

### 188 **2.3.1. Waste Generation Rate as a Function of $PR_R$**

189 The generation rate of recyclables per participating household ( $GR_R$ , kg per participating  
190 household per day) was calculated using  $PR_R$  as shown in Equation 3.

$$191 \quad GR_R = \frac{W_R \times 1000}{PR_R \times 365 \times N_T} \quad (3)$$

192 In order to calculate the average garbage and recyclables generation rate per household  
193 served by collection contract (kg per served household per day), it was assumed that the reported  
194 collected tonnage was generated by the total number of households served by collection contract.  
195 A statistical analysis was used to test the research hypothesis that Florida's households generate  
196 similar quantity of total waste regardless of the RCC program characteristics.

197 Recyclables collection diverts recyclables from the garbage collection line; the higher the  
198 system participation rate and recycling percentage, the less garbage is collected. In 2012, the  
199 average recycling participating rate reported in Florida curbside collection programs was 67%  
200 (FDEP , 2014c). The average recycling participation rate varied significantly across Florida, thus  
201 this study was designed to understand the impact of recycling participation rate on the  
202 environmental and economic performance of RCC programs. In this study, garbage participation  
203 rate ( $PR_G$ ) was assumed to be 100%, based on the haulers' input.  $PR_R$  was reported to be 70% by  
204 only four of the 25 central Florida communities; this value, 70%, was used to analyze the  
205 environmental and economic impacts for all 25 communities. The garbage generation rate can be  
206 calculated as a function of the  $PR_R$ , as shown in Equation 4, to determine the impact of this  
207 parameter on the environmental and economic performance of RCC programs.

$$208 \quad GR_G = \frac{W_G \times 1000}{PR_G \times 365 \times N_T} = \frac{GR_T - (PR_R \times GR_R)}{PR_G} \quad (4)$$

### 2.3.2. Households Served per Collection Trip as a Function of PR<sub>R</sub>

During each collection trip, a waste collection vehicle starts at the garage and then travels to the collection site where it stops at participating households. At the end of the collection trip, the vehicle transports the collected material to the post-collection facility (e.g., a landfill, transfer station, waste-to-energy facility, or MRF). Then, the waste collection vehicle travels empty from the post-collection facility back to the garage. Time and fuel use for curbside waste collection can be considerably different depending on the housing density along the collection route, however it was estimated that the fuel consumption during waste collection accounts for more than 60% of the total daily fuel use (Nguyen and Wilson, 2010). Because the focus of this study was on waste collection activities that consume most of the fuel and are most impacted by PR<sub>R</sub>, this analysis only reflects emissions and costs for a single collection trip. It was assumed that the characteristics (distance and time) for travel between the garage and collection site, between the collection site and post-collection facility, and between the post-collection facility and garage, are constant for all the tested RCC systems, as well as break times and unloading time at the post-collection facility.

Default values for model variables are given in Table 1. For a single trip, the number of households that can be served was constrained by the truck legal weight limit - difference between the gross vehicle weight rating and curb weight -(C, MT) for garbage and yard waste, truck volume (V, m<sup>3</sup>) or driver daily hours (T, hours) for recyclables. The maximum number of households that can be served for garbage collection during one trip can be calculated based on truck's legal weight and generation rates of garbage using Equation 5.

$$N_{G^*} = \frac{C \times 1000}{\frac{7 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times GR_G} \quad (5)$$

where:

232  $N_G^*$ : Maximum number of households that can be served for garbage collection during a single  
233 collection trip.

234           In case of two days of garbage collection per week, it was assumed that two-thirds of the  
235 weekly garbage generation will be collected on the first day, while the rest will be collected on  
236 the second day.

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255 Table 1: The values of the environmental-economic assessment model’s input variables.

Model Inputs	Symbol	Default Value	Unit	Justification/Reference
Distance between households	$D_{HH}$	22.3 (±14.6)	m (meters)	Distance between households based on a random 20 Florid household’s sample.
Travel speed between households	$S_{HH}$	10	km/h (kilometers per hour)	Assumed travel speed
Time to collect garbage per household	$T_{1(G)}$	8.74	S (seconds)	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Time to collect DS recyclables per household	$T_{1(DS)}$	27	S	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Time to collect SS recyclables per household	$T_{1(SS)}$	9	S	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Truck legal weight	$C$	10.4	MT (metric tons)	Commercial haulers’ specifications
Truck volume	$V$	24.5	$m^3$	Commercial haulers’ specifications
Driver daily hours	$T_{max}$	10.5	h (hours)	Commercial haulers’ specifications
Lunch and Break	L&B	60	Min (minutes)	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Vehicle driving range	$R_{max}$	240	km (Kilometers)	Commercial haulers’ specifications
Distance from garage to start collection (Garbage and Recyclables)	$D_{GA}$	19	km	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Time from garage to start collection (Garbage and Recyclables)	$T_{GA}$	20	Min	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Distance from post-collection facility to garage (Garbage and Recyclables)	$D_{FG}$	19	km	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Travel time from post-collection facility to garage (Garbage and Recyclables)	$T_{FG}$	20	Min	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Distance from collection site to post-collection facility (Garbage)	$D_{F(G)}$	35	km	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Travel time from collection site to post-collection facility (Garbage)	$T_F$	44	Min	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Distance from collection site to post-collection facility (Recyclables)	$D_{F(R)}$	35 (DS); 37 (SS)	km	Curtis and Dumas (2000)
Travel time from collection site to post-collection facility (Recyclables)	$T_{F(R)}$	46 (DS); 44 (SS)	Min	Curtis and Dumas (2000)

256  
 257 In case of one day of recyclables collection per week, the maximum number of  
 258 households that can be served for recyclables during one trip ( $N_{R^*}$ ) can be calculated based on  $V$ ,  
 259 specific weight ( $SW$ ,  $kg/m^3$ ),  $GR_R$  and  $PR_R$  using Equation 6. Based on field data from the  
 260 haulers, the  $SW$  of recyclables was set to 90 and 130  $kg/m^3$  for collection without and with

261 compaction, respectively. Equation 6 was used to estimate the number of households that can be  
 262 served for recyclables collection at different  $PR_R$ , while using DS or SS collection, with or  
 263 without compaction.

$$264 \quad N_{R^*} = \frac{V \times SW}{\frac{7 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times GR_R \times PR_R} \quad (6)$$

### 265 **2.3.3. Collection Speed as a Function of $PR_R$**

266 For a single daily trip, it was assumed that a waste collection vehicle will not exceed the default  
 267 driver daily hours ( $T_{\max} = 10.5$  h) or the driving range ( $R_{\max} = 240$  km). In the case of low waste  
 268 generation or participation rate, the waste collection vehicle will have to stop collecting and head  
 269 back to the post-collection facility due to either driver or driving range constraint and the truck  
 270 will reach the post-collection facility less than full. An increase in  $PR_R$  will result in greater  
 271 amount of recycled material; however, this will be accompanied by increased collection time for  
 272 the same total collection distance and subsequently a reduced average speed. The average speed  
 273 associated with waste collection was calculated by dividing the total distance travelled (distance  
 274 between consecutive houses multiplied with number of houses served), by total time (estimated  
 275 as sum of time traveling between consecutive houses and collection time at stops). The average  
 276 collection speed of recyclables ( $S_R$ , km/h) and garbage ( $S_G$ , km/h) were calculated using  
 277 Equations 7 and 8. The time to collect recyclables per participating household ( $T_1$ ) depends on  
 278 the type of collection system, i.e., DS ( $T_{1(DS)}$ ) or SS ( $T_{1(SS)}$ ).

$$279 \quad S_R = \frac{D_{HH} \times (N_{R^*} - 1)}{(N_{R^*} - 1) \times \left[ \frac{D_{HH}}{1,000 \times S_{HH}} \right] + \frac{PR_R \times (N_{R^*}) \times [T_{1(DS)} \text{ or } T_{1(SS)}]}{3,600}} \quad (7)$$

$$280 \quad S_G = \frac{D_{HH} \times (N_{G^*} - 1)}{(N_{G^*} - 1) \times \left[ \frac{D_{HH}}{1,000 \times S_{HH}} \right] + \frac{(N_{G^*}) \times [T_{1(G)}]}{3,600}} \quad (8)$$

281 where:

282  $D_{HH}$ : Distance between households (m)

283  $S_{HH}$ : Travel speed between households (km/h)

#### 284 **2.3.4. Collection GHG Emissions**

285 Garbage collection GHG emissions (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of garbage) consist of the summation of  
286 collection, garage-to-collection site, collection site-to-post-collection facility, and post-collection  
287 facility-to-garage emissions, divided by the collected garbage tonnage. The emission factor (kg  
288 CO<sub>2eq</sub> per km travel) associated with each driving mode was estimated using the average speed  
289 calculated based on default driving distance and time listed in Table 1. In this study, the fuel  
290 mileage of garbage, recyclables, and yard waste collection vehicles was obtained from  
291 commercial haulers for different travel speeds. According to the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated  
292 Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model by Argonne National Laboratory,  
293 the lower heating value of one liter of diesel is 36,000 kilojoules (kJ), and the well-to-wheel  
294 GHG emissions (summation of well-to-pump and pump-to-wheel emissions) associated with  
295 each kJ is equal to 0.095 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2Eq</sub>) (U.S. DOE, 2012).  
296 Therefore, 3,400 grams of CO<sub>2eq</sub> are emitted per liter of diesel burned. The average garbage  
297 collection speed was estimated using Equation 8 and the variable values given in Table 1. The  
298 same approach was used to calculate the GHG emissions associated with recyclables collection  
299 (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables). However, for recyclables, the collection emissions were offset  
300 by -2.2 MTCO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables collected using DS or SS collection system. Emission  
301 offsets were calculated using WARM version 13 and the recyclables composition leaving SS and  
302 DS MRFs provided in Tables S2 and S3. This estimate accounted for each material loses during  
303 remanufacturing as specified by WARM. For this study, additional emissions credits associated  
304 with diverting recyclables from landfills or other traditional MSW management facilities were  
305 not added to the benefits of recycling. The GHG emissions of the total collected household waste

306 were the summation of the GHG emissions of garbage collection and the net GHG emissions of  
307 recyclables collection as shown in Equation 9.

$$308 \quad CE_T = (1 - RP) \times CE_G + RP \times (CE_R - O_R) \quad (9)$$

309 where:

310  $CE_T$ : Net collection GHG emissions (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of total household waste generated)

311  $CE_G$ : Garbage collection emissions (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of garbage collected per trip)

312  $CE_R$ : Recyclables collection emissions (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables collected per trip)

313  $O_R$ : Recyclables emissions offset (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclable collected per trip)

### 314 **2.3.5. Collection Cost**

315 Collection cost is a function of the initial (capital) costs of vehicle acquirement, fuel mileage of  
316 waste collection vehicles, driving routes, truck maintenance costs, driver hourly rates, and

317 overhead management costs. In this study, the overhead management and vehicle initial costs

318 were excluded because they are independent of the driving hours and distances related to RCC

319 system design. The collection cost per trip was measured as a function of driving hours and

320 driving distances, fuel cost, and maintenance and labor cost. In Florida, the avoided costs from

321 recyclables diversion were \$60-80 per ton for waste-to-energy, and \$40 per ton for landfilling.

322 The processing cost of recyclables at a MRF can also be significant. Dubanowitz (2000)

323 estimated that the processing cost of recyclable at \$127 per ton of material diverted. The average

324 selling price of recyclables varies significantly, and during the last and the first quarters of 2012

325 and 2013 it averaged \$100 per one MT of recyclables collected. . For this study, net revenues

326 (generated by selling recyclables and avoided disposal cost, and adding MRF cost) were

327 subtracted from the collection cost. Three net revenues scenarios were considered: \$50, \$100,

328 \$150 per MT of recyclables. The net collection cost of recyclables was calculated for the RCC

329 programs, varying PRR, fuel cost, and recyclables revenues at constant maintenance cost and  
330 labor wages, because maintenance cost and labor wages are more stable than fuel cost and  
331 recyclables revenues. Collection vehicle maintenance cost was reported by commercial haulers at  
332 \$8.5 per hour of truck operation, while hourly labor wage for haulers was assumed to be \$20 per  
333 hour.

### 334 3. Results

335 The online survey found that 58% of Florida RCC programs utilize SS recycling system and  
336 38% utilize DS recycling system, whereas 4% do not provide any curbside recycling program.  
337 Weekly collection schedules were found to vary considerably, with 49% of RCC programs  
338 providing two days of garbage (G), one day of recyclables (R), and one day of yard waste  
339 collection (YS) [represented by (2G, 1R, 1YW)] and 29% providing one day of garbage, one day  
340 of recyclables and one day of yard waste collection (1G, 1R, 1YW). The remaining programs  
341 used a variety of collection system designs, but for the most part provided one or two days of  
342 garbage collection, no or every-other week recyclables collection, and every-other week yard  
343 waste collection. The selected 25 central Florida RCC systems reflected the survey findings and  
344 were placed into four categories, representing Florida's most common RCC programs, based on  
345 their collection schedule and recyclables collection system as follows:

346 **Group A:** 2G, 1R, 1YW-DS Collection (16 communities)

347 **Group B:** 1G, 1R, 1YW-DS Collection (3 communities)

348 **Group C:** 2G, 1R, 1YW-SS Collection (4 communities)

349 **Group D:** 1G, 1R, 1YW-SS Collection (2 communities).

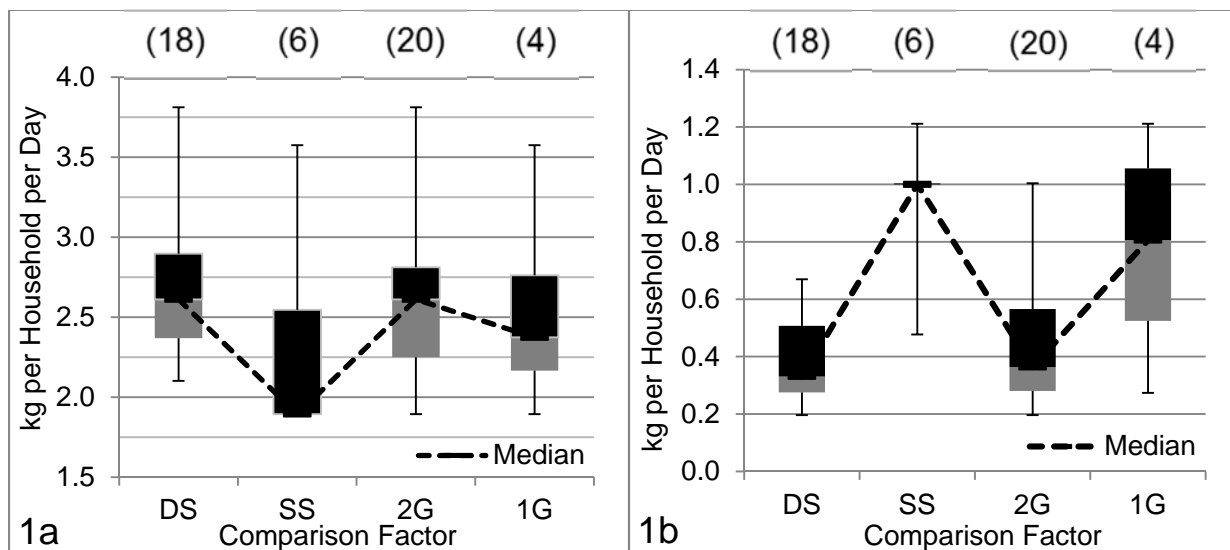
350 Garbage containers ranged in size from 79 to 360 liters (21 to 96 gallons), while  
351 recycling containers were either 61-liter (16-gallon) bins or 240 to 340-liter (64 to 90-gallon)



352 toters. In general, toters were only used with the SS recyclables collection system, while bins  
 353 were used mainly with the DS system, but in few cases, they were used with the SS recyclables  
 354 collection system.

### 355 3.1 Waste Generation Characteristics of RCC programs

356 The program design, household count, and the reported tonnage of the 25 studied central Florida  
 357 communities are provided in Table S1. The data collected from one collection zone represented  
 358 less than one full year period, therefore it was only used to evaluate recycling percentage. The  
 359 median garbage generation rate of SS programs was slightly less than DS programs (Figure 1a)..  
 360 Overall, the mean garbage generation rates for SS and DS recycling programs were 2.32 ( $\pm 0.71$ )  
 361 and 2.69 ( $\pm 0.47$ ) kg per household per day, respectively.



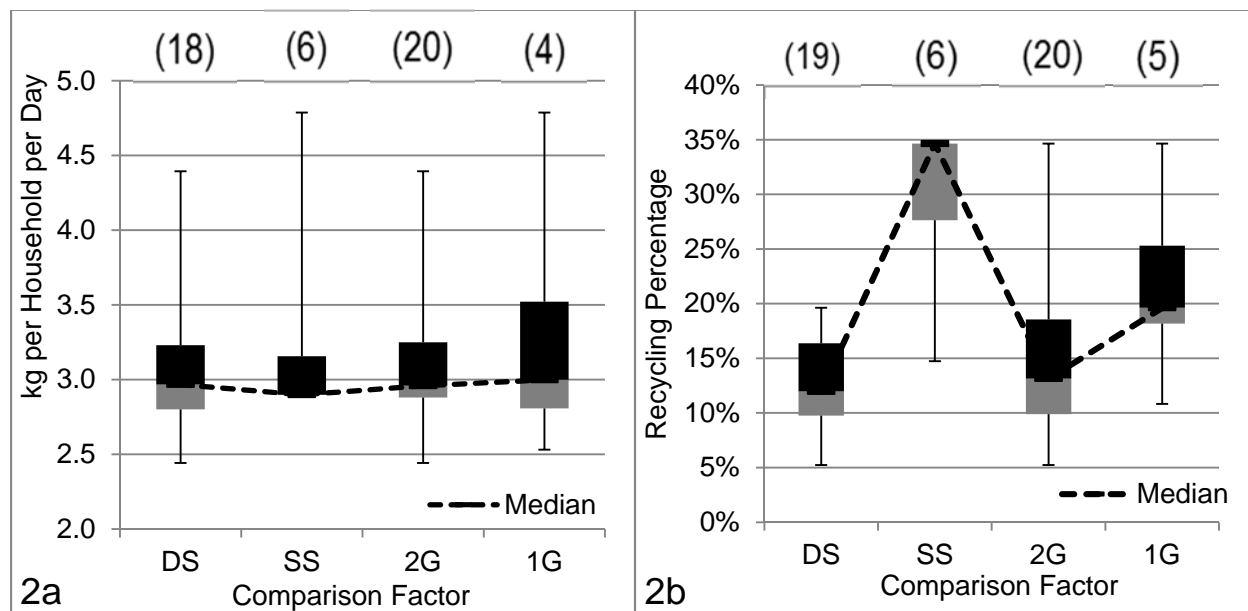
362 Figure 1: Garbage and recyclables generation rates of dual-stream (DS), single-stream (SS), two-  
 363 day garbage collection (2G), and 1-day garbage collection (1G) RCC programs. (Box-whisker  
 364 plots of (a) garbage and (b) recyclables generation rates as calculated for program designs, where  
 365 median values are indicated by the gray-black color interface, box borders denoted 50%  
 366 interquartile range and whiskers denote data set range. The sample size of each group is given in  
 367 parentheses.)

369 In comparing recyclables generation rates, programs implementing SS collection had a  
 370 higher recyclables generation rate compared to DS programs (Figure 1b). The mean recyclables  
 371 generation rates for 2G, 1R, 1YW-DS; 1G, 1R, 1YW-DS; 2G, 1R, 1YW-SS; and 1G, 1R, 1YW-SS

372 programs were 0.37 ( $\pm 0.14$ ); 0.44 ( $\pm 0.24$ ); 0.87 ( $\pm 0.26$ ); and 1.11 ( $\pm 0.15$ ) kg per household per  
 373 day, respectively. Overall, the mean recyclables generation rates were 0.38 ( $\pm 0.15$ ) and 0.95  
 374 ( $\pm 0.25$ ) kg per household per day for DS and SS, respectively.

375 The total household waste generation rates are shown in Figure 2a. For the 25 studied  
 376 communities, the overall mean total household waste was 3.11 ( $\pm 0.56$ ) kg per household per day,  
 377 while the mean recycling percentages, by weight, were 30% ( $\pm 8\%$ ) and 13% ( $\pm 4\%$ ) for SS and  
 378 DS recycling programs, respectively. These results support the research hypothesis that, on  
 379 average, central Florida households generate similar quantities of waste (garbage plus  
 380 recyclables), and the more efficient the recycling system, the less garbage collected.

381



382  
 383 Figure 2: Total household waste and recycling percentage of dual-stream (DS), single-stream  
 384 (SS), 2-day garbage collection (2G), and 1-day of garbage collection (1G) RCC programs. (Box-  
 385 whisker plots of (a) household total waste and (b) recycling percentage as calculated for program  
 386 designs, where median values are indicated by the gray-black color interface, box borders  
 387 denoted 50% interquartile range and whiskers denote data set range. The sample size of each  
 388 group is given in parentheses.)

389

390 The mean recycling percentages, by weight, for programs 2G,1R,1YW-DS;  
391 1G,1R,1YW-DS; 2G,1R,1YW-SS; and 1G,1R,1YW-SS were 12% ( $\pm 4\%$ ); 16% ( $\pm 5\%$ ), 30%  
392 ( $\pm 10\%$ ), and 30% ( $\pm 10\%$ ), respectively. Recycling percentage ranged 5-20% for DS, and 15-  
393 35% for SS. The recycling percentage reported by SS (which serve more than 50% of Florida  
394 RCC programs) is close to Florida overall recycling average (35%) in 2012. In comparing DS  
395 and SS, the number of bins (DS system) provided for residents varies based on the collection  
396 system used and the hauling contract. In general, residents are not willing to use more than two  
397 bins due to space limitation (Personal Communication with Major hauler Manager, 2012). It was  
398 observed that any recyclables placed outside bins was usually discarded as garbage. Moreover,  
399 SS recycling collection programs provide residents with bigger recycling containers. As a result,  
400 residents are not required to cut cardboard boxes (in most cases), thus provides more convenient  
401 recycling.

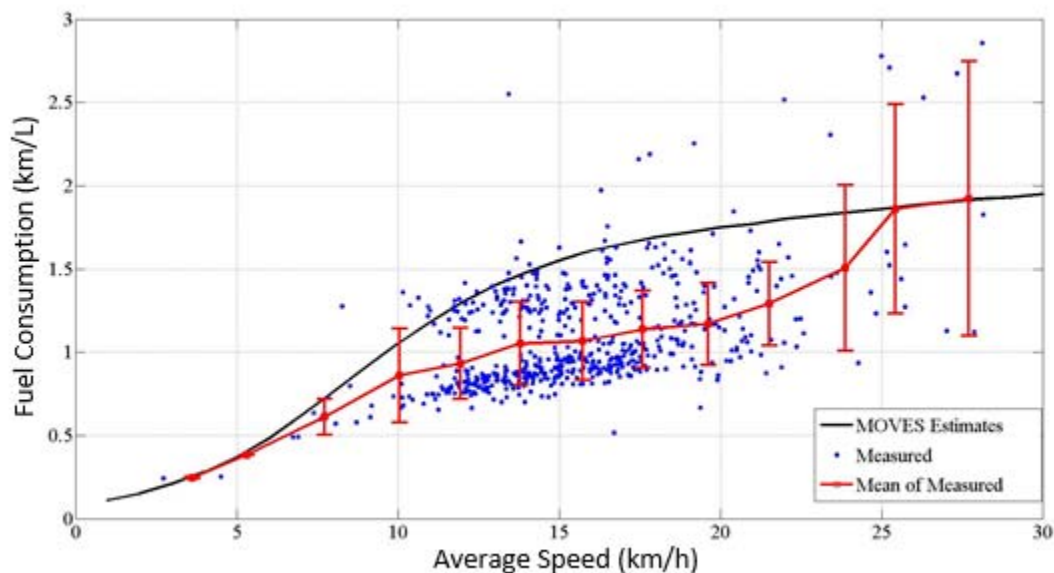
### 402 **3.2 Fuel Consumption of Diesel-fueled Waste Collection Vehicles**

403 The fuel consumption and the associated average speed for typical garbage, recyclable and yard  
404 waste collection vehicles, which is linked to approximately 600 waste collection routes in  
405 Central Florida, was obtained from commercial haulers. In another study, Farzaneh et al. (2009)  
406 reported the fuel consumption of waste collection vehicles for 12 different average speeds. The  
407 fuel consumption of waste collection obtained from commercial haulers and Farzaneh et al.  
408 (2009) was plotted as a function of the average collection speed as shown in Figure 3.

409 Maimoun et al. (2013) modeled the fuel consumption as a function of the average speed  
410 using the U.S. EPA Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) 2010a software (U.S. EPA,  
411 2011b). As shown in Figure 3, MOVES underestimates the fuel consumption for the average  
412 collection speed of 7 to 25 km/h; this is a result of the numerous driving cycles that can be

413 characterized by the same average speed, as well as vehicle age, engine size, and weight.  
414 Overall, the fuel mileage of waste collection vehicles increased from 0.2 and 1.9 km per liter of  
415 diesel consumed as the average collection speed increased from 2 to 25 km per hour.

416 After 25 km/h, the fuel mileage of waste collection vehicles increased more consistently  
417 with MOVES. The fuel mileage increased slightly from 1.9 to 2.0 km per liter of diesel as the  
418 average speed increased 25 to 30 km/h. After 30 km/h according to MOVES (not illustrated by  
419 the figure due to the limited field data), the fuel mileage continued to increase slightly to reach  
420 2.6 km per liter of diesel at 60 km/h, reflecting highway driving. Next, field measurements  
421 (under 25 km/h) and MOVES estimates (above 25 km/h) of fuel consumption were used to  
422 estimate the Florida RCC programs' GHG emissions as illustrated in Section 2.3.4.



423  
424 Figure 3: Fuel mileage of diesel-fueled waste collection vehicles as a function of average vehicle  
425 speed. (The “mean of measured” represents the mean fuel mileage, for diesel-fueled waste  
426 collection, measured by commercial haulers (600 data points) and Farzaneh et al. (2009) (12 data  
427 points). Whiskers denote one standard deviation. The average fuel mileage reported by Maimoun  
428 et al. (2013) using the U.S. EPA MOVES 2010a software is represented by the black curve.)

429

430 **3.3 Florida RCC Programs' GHG Emissions**

431 **3.3.1 Garbage Collection GHG Emissions**

432 As implied by Equation 5, customers' participation in recycling diverts recyclables from the total  
433 household waste, generating less garbage. On the other hand, non-participating customers  
434 dispose recyclables in the garbage collection line and generate more garbage. Thus, as  $PR_R$   
435 increases, the number of households that can be served for garbage collection by one vehicle per  
436 trip increases.

437 Figure 4 illustrates the maximum number of households ( $N_G^*$ ) that can be served for  
438 garbage collection by one vehicle per trip as a function of  $PR_R$ ; the daily limit represents the  
439 hypothetical maximum number of household that can be served in 10.5 hours, including breaks.  
440 The number of households served per trip and the associated  $PR_R$  were used to calculate the  
441 average garbage collection speed ( $S_G$ ) using Equation 8.

442 The fuel mileage was obtained from Figure 3 and was used to estimate the GHG  
443 emissions associated with garbage collection (kg  $CO_{2eq}$  per MT of garbage) as described in  
444 Section 2.3.4. As  $PR_R$  increases, the number of households served per trip increases; thus the  
445 GHG emissions associated with garbage collection (kg  $CO_{2eq}$  per MT garbage) increases, as a  
446 truck travels and stops more.

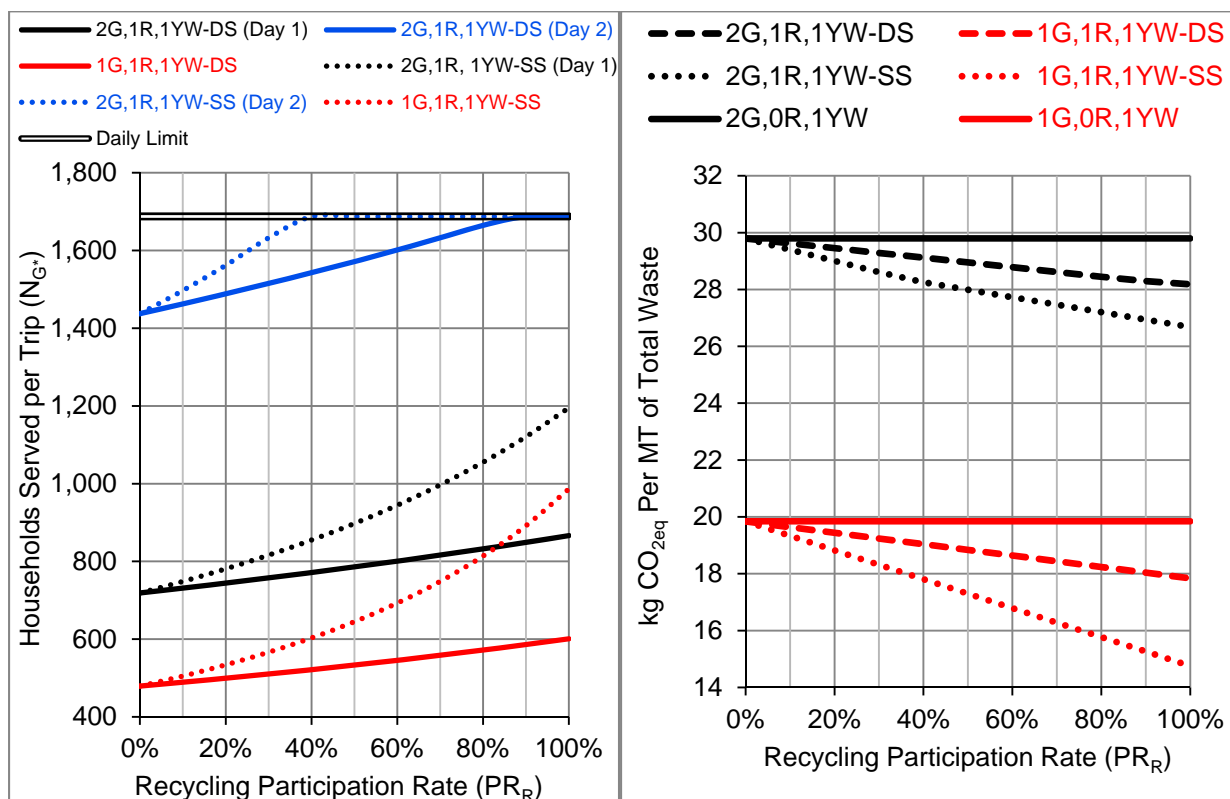
447 The garbage collection's GHG emissions was found to increase from 20 to 30 kg  $CO_{2eq}$   
448 per MT of garbage, for programs with one day of garbage collection as  $PR_R$  increased from 0 to  
449 100%. For programs providing two days of garbage collection, the GHG emissions increased  
450 from 30 to 45 kg  $CO_{2eq}$  per MT of garbage as  $PR_R$  increased from 0 to 100%.

451 In comparison, using the collection model, developed by Curtis and Dumas (2000) and  
452 has been incorporated into the US municipal solid waste decision support tool (MSW-DST), the

453 GHG emissions associated with curbside collection of garbage were estimated to be 28.6 CO<sub>2eq</sub>  
454 per MT of garbage. The range observed in this study was the result of accounting for different  
455 collection frequencies, recycling generation rates, and PR<sub>R</sub>. In another study in Denmark that  
456 supports this study findings, Larsen et al. (2009) observed a considerable variation in fuel  
457 consumption, and thus the GHG emissions associated with different collection schemes, ranging  
458 from 4.8 and 35 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of waste. The GHG emissions associated with single-family  
459 waste collection in urban areas, was estimated to be between 11.4 and 12.4 Kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of  
460 waste, while the GHG emissions associated with rural waste collection was between 22 and 35  
461 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of waste as trucks travel more to collect waste (Larsen et al., 2009). The  
462 variances could be linked to the difference in collection schemes, routes, vehicle, and generation  
463 rates between the U.S. and Denmark.

464 Garbage collection emissions were calculated as kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of garbage; however,  
465 this analysis cannot be used to compare RCC programs at different PR<sub>R</sub>. Emissions should be  
466 adjusted to account for the reduction in garbage collection as PR<sub>R</sub> increases (Equation 9). As PR<sub>R</sub>  
467 increases, collected garbage decreases, and garbage collection emissions decline by the change in  
468 garbage fraction in the total waste stream. Figure 5 illustrates garbage collection emissions as kg  
469 CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of total waste. The emission gap between programs 2G, 1R, 1YW and 1G, 1R,  
470 1YW represents the emissions associated with the second day of garbage collection service,  
471 resulting in a 50% increase in GHG emissions at PR<sub>R</sub>=0%, compared to a 60% and 80% increase  
472 in GHG emissions at PR<sub>R</sub>=100% for the DS and SS programs, respectively. Collection of less  
473 garbage by SS programs allows garbage trucks to serve more households per trip. However for  
474 two day per week garbage collection, the second day of garbage collection provided by SS  
475 programs was constrained by daily hours at a PR<sub>R</sub> of 40% or higher (Figure 4). Additionally, the

476 RE of programs using 1G, 1R, 1YW-SS is slightly higher than programs using 2G, 1R, 1YW-SS;  
 477 therefore, at 100%  $PR_R$ , an extra day of garbage collection resulted in an 80% increase in GHG  
 478 emissions when using SS compared to one day garbage collection (Figure 5). As  $PR_R$  increased,  
 479 the emissions associated with programs serviced with SS decreased more than DS programs, due  
 480 to the effectiveness of the SS system in diverting more waste to recycling.



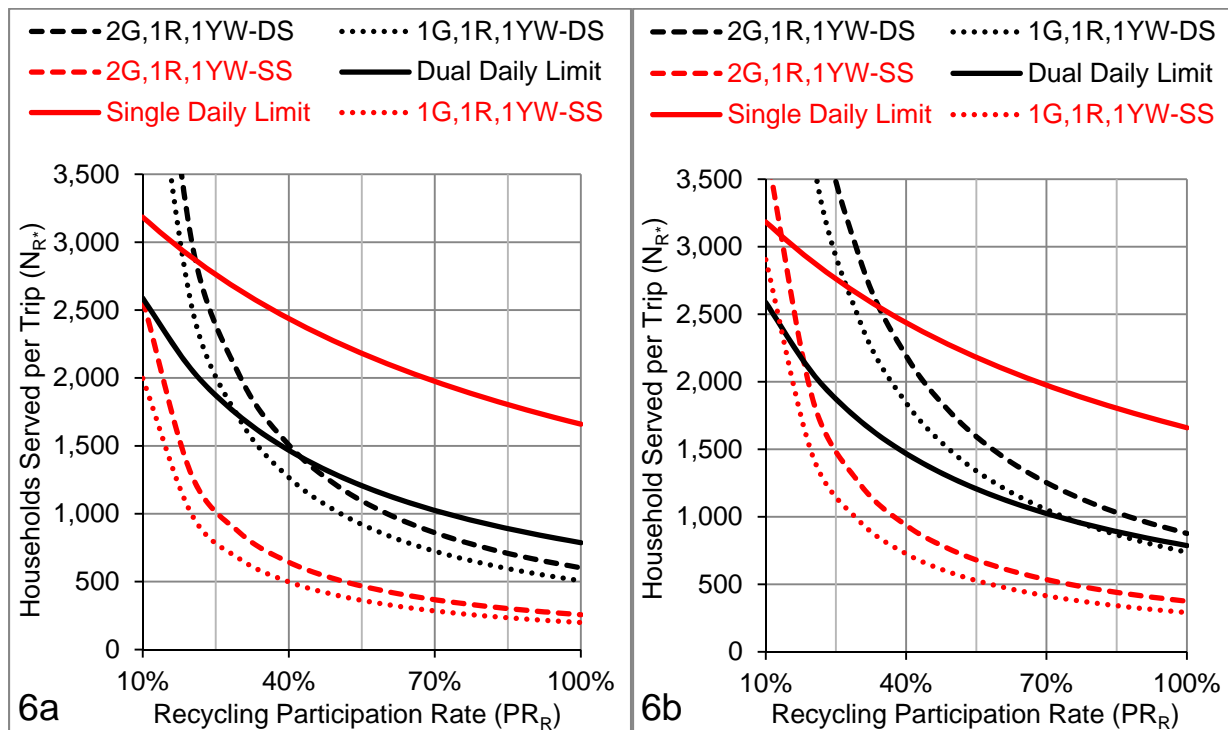
481  
 482 Figure 4: The number of households ( $N_{G^*}$ )  
 483 that can be served for garbage collection per  
 484 vehicle per trip.

485 Figure 5: GHG emissions during garbage  
 486 collection as a function of  $PR_R$  (kg  $CO_{2eq}$   
 487 per MT total waste).

### 488 3.3.2 Recyclable Collection GHG Emissions

489 Figures 6a and 6b illustrate the number of households that can be served for recyclable collection  
 490 by each vehicle per trip based on Equation 6. As  $PR_R$  increases, the number of dwellings served  
 491 per trip decreases due to more recyclables pickups. Compaction of recyclables enables serving  
 492 more households per vehicle per trip, although the quality of recyclables may be reduced. The

493 daily limit represents the hypothetical maximum number of households that can be served within  
 494 10.5 hours, including time devoted to non-collection activities. SS programs generate more  
 495 recyclables per dwelling than DS; thus less households can be served per trip compared to DS.  
 496 The collection of recyclables without compaction limits the number of households that can be  
 497 served per trip, while a longer collection time ( $T_{1(DS)}$ ) per stop associated with DS collection can  
 498 also limit the number of dwellings that can be served per trip, i.e. the number of households  
 499 served per trip using DS recyclables collection system was limited by the drivers daily hours for  
 500 any  $PR_R$  below 30% and 80% for collection without and with compaction, respectively.



501  
 502 Figure 6: The number of households that can be served for recyclables per vehicle per trip, (a)  
 503 without compaction, (b) with compaction for each program design. The daily limit represents the  
 504 hypothetical maximum number of households that can be served in one day (10.5 hours  
 505 including breaks).

506  
 507 The number of household served per trip ( $N_{R^*}$ ) and the associated  $PR_R$  were used to  
 508 calculate the average collection speed ( $S_R$ ) using Equation 7. The fuel mileage was obtained

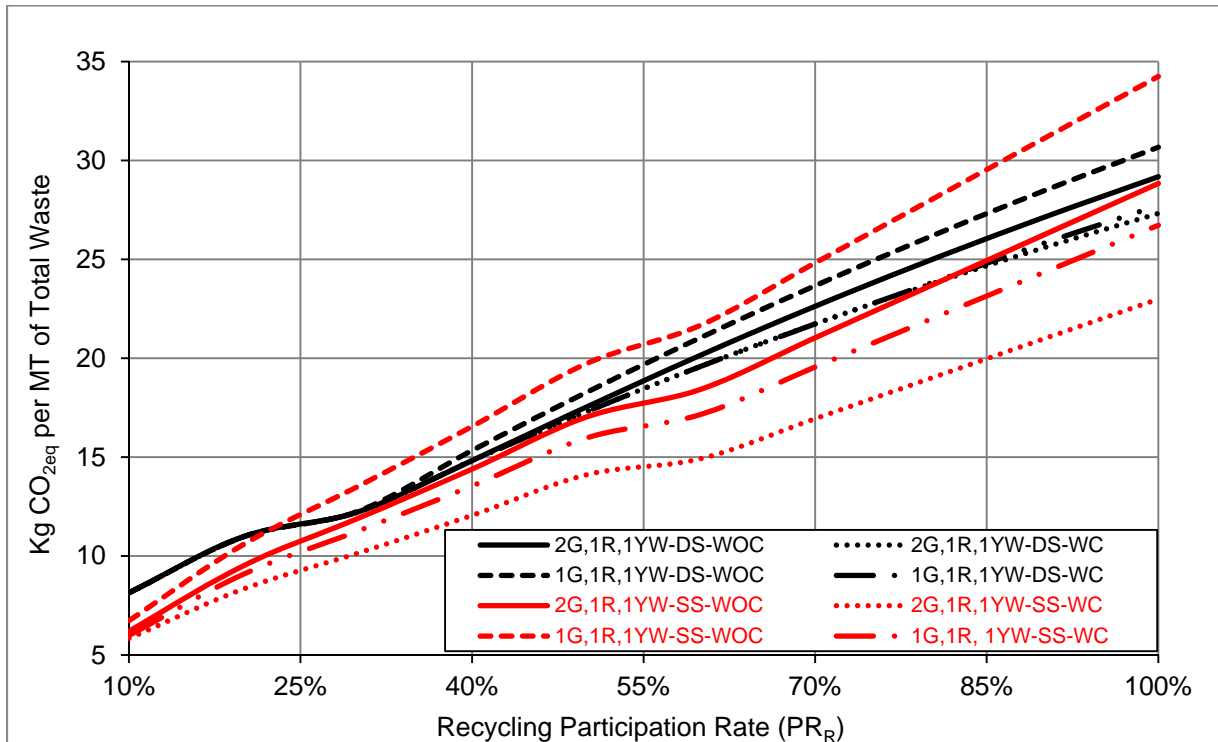


509 from Figure 3 and was used to estimate the GHG emissions associated with recyclables  
510 collection (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT recyclables) as described in Section 2.3. Although, the average  
511 speed of the recyclables collection truck decreases as PR<sub>R</sub> increases; it was observed that the  
512 GHG emissions associated with recyclables collection (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT recyclables) decreases.  
513 This was due to shorter distance travelled by collection truck to collect the same amount of  
514 recyclables. In this study, SS recyclables collection GHG emissions decreases from 155 to 52  
515 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables as PR<sub>R</sub> increases from 10% to 100%, whereas a decline from 480  
516 to 125 Kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT recyclables was observed for DS collection as PR<sub>R</sub> increases from 10%  
517 to 100%. SS collection systems provides faster time to collect recyclables (9 seconds per stop)  
518 than DS (27 seconds). Therefore, more households can be served and the fuel consumption drops  
519 as the average speed of collection is higher. The average collection speed of SS programs was  
520 between 4-9 km/h, compared to 2-7 km/h for DS programs. The GHG emissions associated with  
521 SS and DS recyclables collection were 101 and 144 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT recyclables, respectively  
522 (Curtis and Dumas, 2000). In another study, Fitzgerald et al. (2012) reported the GHG emissions  
523 associated with recyclables collection at 55 and 77 kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables using of SS  
524 and DS, respectively. The results presented here are consistent with literature ranges; this study  
525 also found relatively higher GHG collection emissions associated with SS collection compared to  
526 DS. The wide range for collection emissions observed in this study demonstrates the significance  
527 of considering PR<sub>R</sub> in evaluating the environmental impact of recyclables collection.

528         Recyclables collection emissions were calculated as kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of recyclables;  
529 however, this analysis cannot be used to compare RCC programs at different PR<sub>R</sub>. Emissions  
530 have to be adjusted to account for the increase in recyclables collection as PR<sub>R</sub> increases  
531 (Equation 9). As a result of increase in PR<sub>R</sub>, collected recyclables increases, and recyclables

532 collection emissions increase by the fraction of recyclables in the total waste stream. Figure 7  
 533 illustrates recyclables collection as kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per MT of total waste. As PR<sub>R</sub> increases, GHG  
 534 emissions per MT total waste associated with recyclables collection increases.

535 At any PR<sub>R</sub>, GHG emissions from SS recyclables collection systems with compaction are  
 536 less than DS collection systems, even though SS programs are associated with higher  
 537 recyclables' generation rate and RE. On the other hand, collection without compaction has  
 538 higher emissions as less recyclables are collected per trip. The collection emissions of  
 539 recyclables without compaction for 1G, 1R, 1YW-SS exceed emissions of all DS programs'  
 540 recyclables' emissions for any PR<sub>R</sub> higher than 25%. In case of 2G, 1R, 1YW-SS without  
 541 compaction, recyclables collection emissions exceed emissions of all DS recyclables collection  
 542 with compaction for any PR<sub>R</sub> above 85%.



543 Figure 7: Recyclables collection line's GHG emissions. (For each program, emissions were  
 544 calculated for recyclables collection using SS or DS collection system with compaction (WC) or  
 545 without compaction (WOC).)  
 546  
 547

548        **3.3.3        Total Waste Collection GHG Emissions**

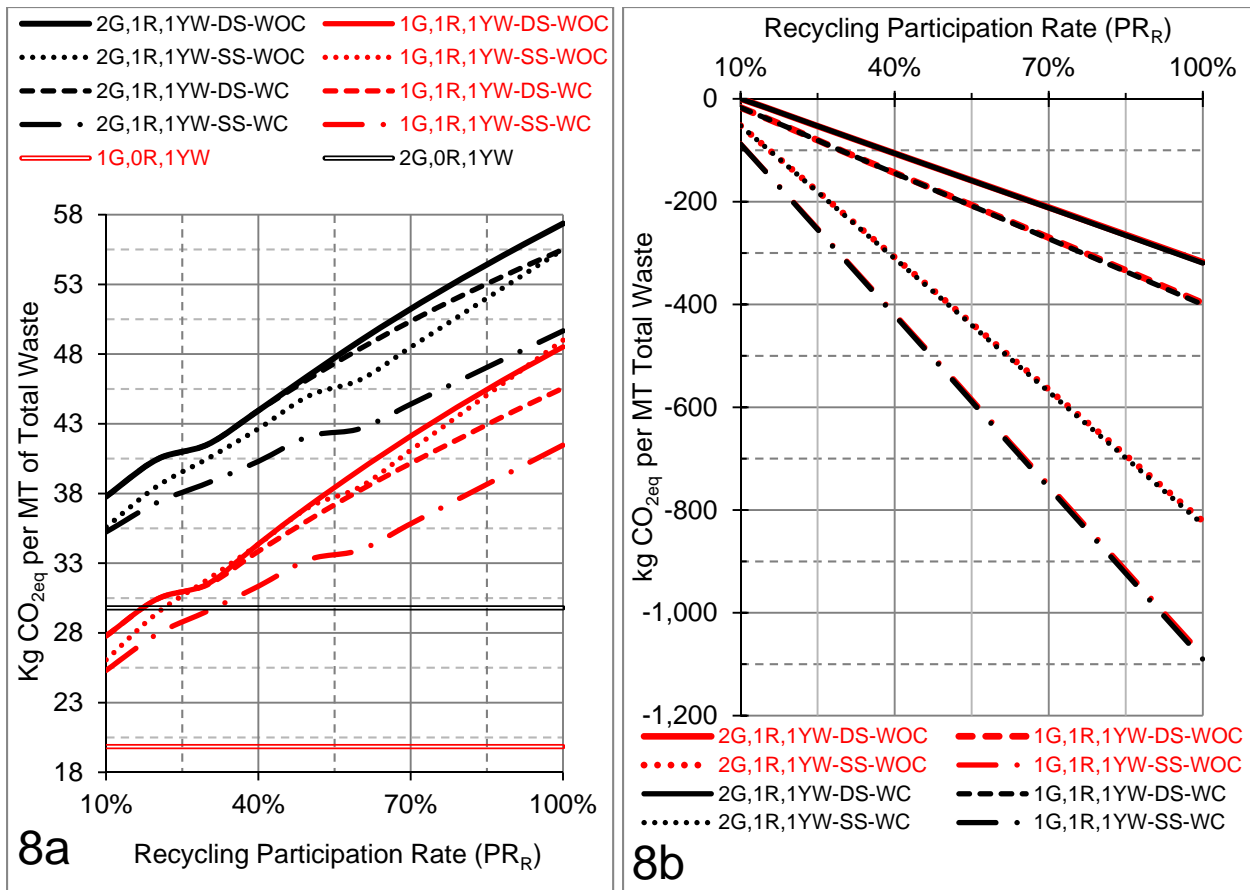
549        The GHG emissions of the garbage collection line were added to the recyclables collection line  
550        to estimate the total collection emissions associated with each program (Figure 8a). When  $PR_R$   
551        was low, the effect of having a second day of garbage collection was accompanied by a 1.4-fold  
552        increase in emissions over programs with one day of garbage collection. An increase in  $PR_R$   
553        increased waste diversion, reducing garbage collection emissions while increasing recyclables'  
554        collection emissions. The collection of household waste without curbside recycling (2G, 0R,  
555        1YW and 1G, 0R, 1YW), as shown in Figure 8a, had relatively low emissions (30 and 19 kg  
556         $CO_{2eq}$  per MT of total waste, respectively); however, the quality and cost of recovering  
557        recyclables from the mixed waste stream is a concern.

558        At  $PR_R=70\%$ , the GHG emissions associated with the four collection programs are estimated to  
559        be between 36 and 51 kg  $CO_{2eq}$  per MT of total household waste, depending on the garbage  
560        collection frequency, recyclables collection system (DS or SS), and recyclables compaction.  
561        RCC programs implementing SS recyclables collection with compaction have lower emissions  
562        than DS programs. When recyclables offsets were considered (Figure 8b), the GHG emissions  
563        associated with programs using SS were -760 to -570, compared to -270 to -210 kg  $CO_{2eq}$  per  
564        MT of total waste for DS programs. In any case, collection emissions were negligible when  
565        compared to the benefits of recycling offsets. However, the significance given to collection  
566        emissions is urban pollution as the bulk of the emissions are considered tail-pipe emissions.

567

568

569



570  
 571 Figure 8: Florida RCC programs' total waste collection's GHG emissions, (a) Total waste  
 572 collection's GHG emissions, (b) Net GHG emissions. GHG emissions were estimated for  
 573 different RCC system designs as kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> per metric ton of total waste (garbage and recyclables)  
 574 collected. For each program, emissions were evaluated for recyclables collection using SS or DS  
 575 collection system with compaction (WC) or without compaction (WOC).  
 576

### 577 3.4 Collection Cost of RCC programs

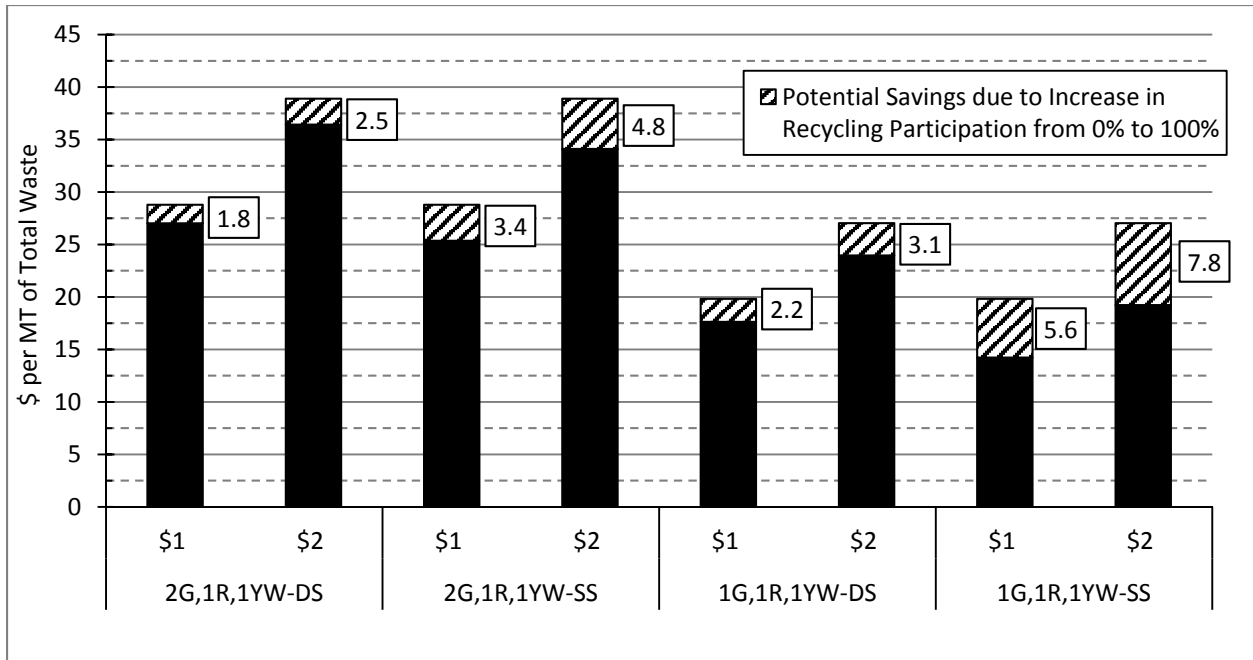
578 As PRR increases, the number of households served for garbage collection per trip increases, as a  
 579 result the fuel consumption (liters of diesel per MT of garbage) and collection time (hours per  
 580 MT of garbage) increases. The fuel consumption associated with one day of garbage collection  
 581 increases from 7.2 to 10 L per MT of garbage as PRR increases from 0 to 100%. On the other  
 582 hand, programs providing two days of garbage collection had fuel consumption increases from  
 583 10 to 15 L per MT of garbage as PRR increases from 0 to 100%. Larsen et al. (2009) also  
 584 observed a considerable variation in the fuel consumed for different collection schemes in

585 Denmark, ranging from 1.4–10.1 L diesel per ton of waste, where rural areas' waste collection  
586 exhibited a fuel consumption of 6-10 L per ton of waste. The estimated fuel consumption was  
587 comparable to rural areas fuel consumption; however differences in garbage generation  
588 characteristics between the U.S. and Denmark, collection frequency, household setup, non-  
589 collection driving activities, and  $PP_R$  are responsible for the fuel consumption variability.

590 Fuel consumption was calculated as L per MT of garbage; however, this analysis cannot  
591 be used to compare RCC programs at different  $PR_R$ . Fuel consumption should be adjusted to  
592 account for the reduction in garbage collection as  $PR_R$  increases. As  $PR_R$  increases, collected  
593 garbage decreases, and the fuel consumed and collection time decrease by the garbage fraction in  
594 the total waste stream. Garbage collection costs were estimated for RCC programs at two  
595 different fuel prices (\$1 and \$2 per liter of diesel) and are shown in Figure 9. The figure also  
596 shows the potential savings in garbage collection as  $PR_R$  increases from 0% to 100%. An  
597 increase in garbage collection services from one to two days is associated with increased fuel,  
598 labor, and maintenance cost resulting in 50% increase in collection costs. Doubling fuel price  
599 results in a 35% increase in garbage collection costs. Potential savings in garbage collection are  
600 considerably higher for programs implementing SS recycling programs for all  $PR_R$  because SS  
601 programs are more efficient in diverting recyclables from the waste stream, generating less  
602 garbage.

603

604



605

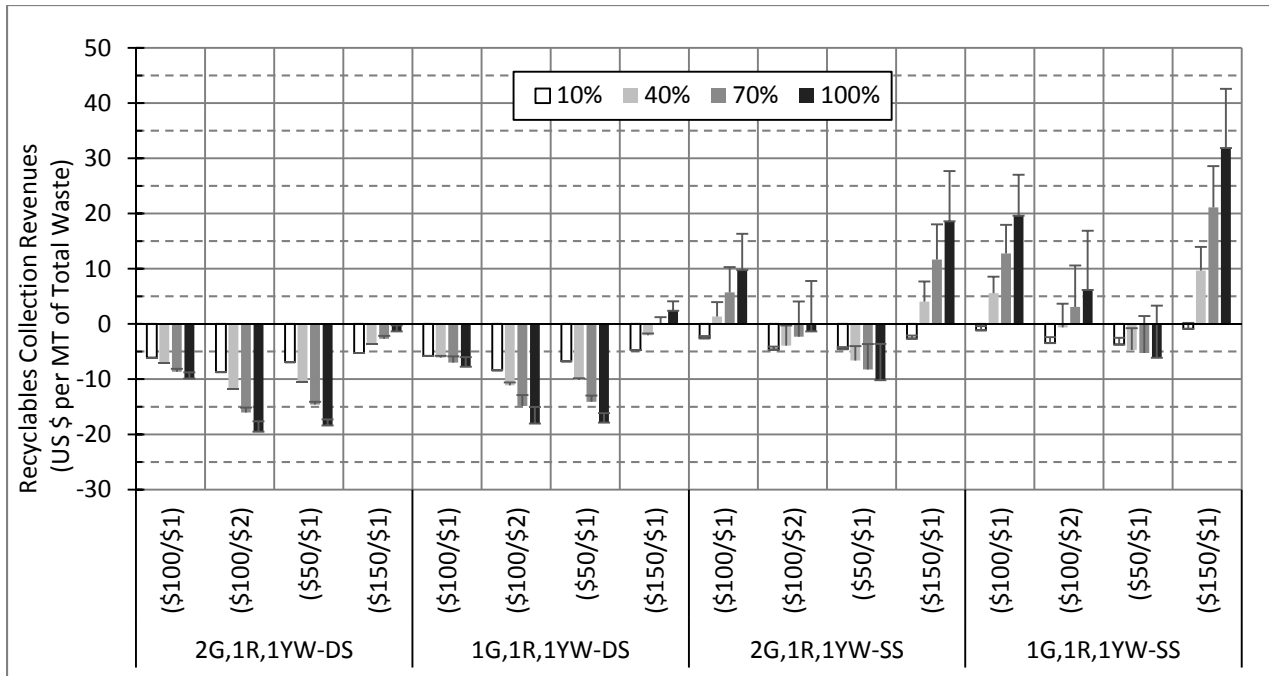
606 Figure 9: Garbage line collection cost. (The collection cost of garbage was estimated for  
 607 programs with one or two days of garbage collection at two different fuel prices: \$1 per liter and  
 608 \$2 per liter. Potential garbage collection cost savings show the reduction in collection cost as  
 609 recycling participation rate increases from 0% to 100%).

610 For recyclables collection, the number of households served per trip decreases as  $PR_R$   
 611 increases. Although the average recyclables collection speed decreases, the fuel consumed (liters  
 612 diesel per MT of garbage) and collection time (hours per MT of garbage) decreases as  $PR_R$   
 613 increases. The fuel consumption associated with SS recyclables collection decreases from 48.2 to  
 614 19.8 L per MT of recyclables, while total collection time decreases from 3.8 to 1.3 hours per MT  
 615 of recyclables as  $PR_R$  increases from 10 to 100%. For DS recyclables collection system, the fuel  
 616 consumption decreases from 155 to 45 liters per MT of recyclables, while the total collection  
 617 time decreases from 10.8 to 3 hours per MT of recyclables. The fuel consumption associated  
 618 with DS was also reported to be considerably higher than SS collection (42 liters of diesel per  
 619 MT of recyclables for DS compared to 29 for SS) (Curtis and Dumas, 2000). Moreover, the fuel  
 620 consumption reported by Curtis and Dumas (2000) was consistent with this study estimates of

621 fuel consumption at higher  $PR_R$  values; however a significant increase in fuel consumption was  
622 observed at lower  $PR_R$  in this study.

623 Fuel consumption was calculated as L per MT of recyclables; however, this analysis  
624 cannot be used to compare RCC programs at different  $PR_R$ . Fuel consumption should be adjusted  
625 to account for the increases in recyclables collection as  $PR_R$  increases. As  $PR_R$  increases, the  
626 collected recyclables increases, and the consumed fuel and collection time increases by the  
627 fraction of the recyclables in the total waste stream. Figure 10 shows the net revenues of  
628 recyclables collection for RCC programs at three scenarios (\$50, \$100 and \$150 per ton of  
629 recyclables) and two fuel prices (\$1 and \$2 per liter). Revenues were estimated as a function of  
630  $PR_R$  for programs using DS or SS recyclables collection systems. As shown in Figure 10, the SS  
631 recyclables collection systems outperform DS systems for all scenarios. This is due to the high  
632 collection time of the DS system which can lead to fuel, labor, and maintenance costs that cannot  
633 be compensated by the sale of the collected recyclables. Additionally, SS systems collect more  
634 recyclables per stop than DS systems, generating more revenue. An increase in  $PR_R$  for DS at  
635 moderate recyclables revenues (\$100 per ton) will result in further costs associated with  
636 collection time that cannot be compensated by selling recyclables. On the other hand, sales of  
637 additional recyclables collected by SS systems can compensate for the additional collection time  
638 as  $PR_R$  increases, except at the lowest recyclables value (\$50 per ton) and highest fuel price (\$2  
639 per liter).

640



641 Figure 10: Recyclables line collection revenues. Revenues of recyclables collection were  
 642 estimated for RCC programs at three recyclables net revenues scenarios (\$50, \$100 and \$150 per  
 643 MT of recyclables) and two fuel prices (\$1 and \$2 per liter). Whiskers denote potential increase  
 644 in revenues as a result of recyclables compaction during collection.)  
 645

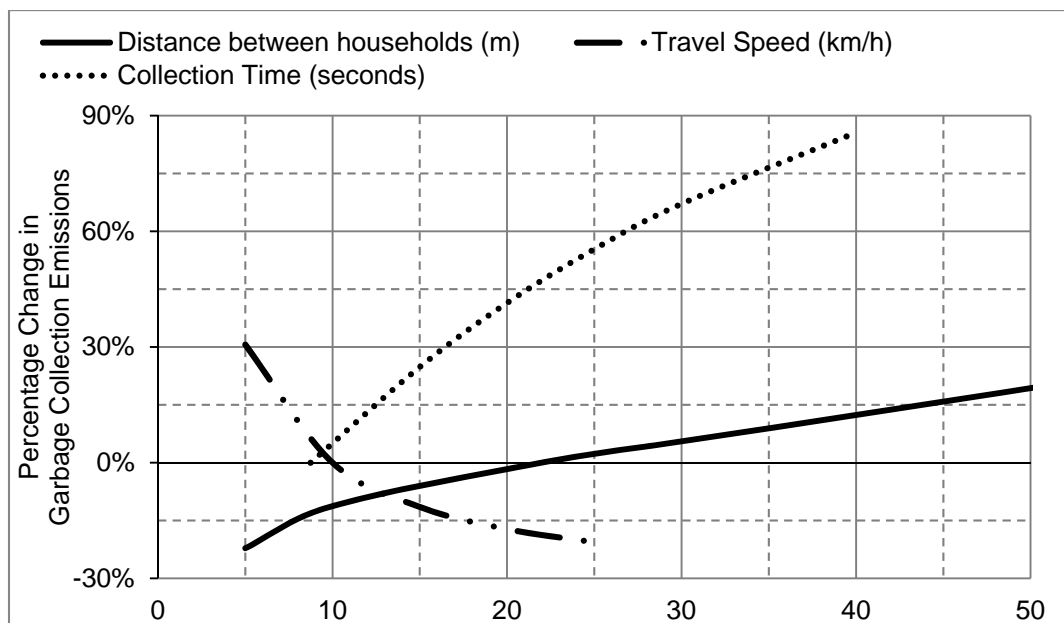
### 646 3.5 Sensitivity Analysis of Model Parameters and Model Limitations

647 An analysis was conducted to determine the sensitivity of the results to changing model  
 648 variables, including the distance between households ( $D_{HH}$ ), travel speed between households  
 649 ( $S_{HH}$ ), and collection time per stop ( $T_1$ ) (Figure 11). The collection time per stop has the greatest  
 650 effect on collection emissions. For example, a two-fold increase in the collection time increases  
 651 the collection emissions by 40%. Collection time per stop was based on literature values;  
 652 however, it can vary based on the number of bins to be collected, collection container, and the  
 653 collection system technology, e.g., manual, semi, or fully-automated collection.

654 Travel speed between households was assumed to be independent of the distance between  
 655 households, which is not necessary true in practice. An increase in the distance between  
 656 households is usually accompanied by an increase in travel speed. The sensitivity analysis



657 indicated that the effect of collection distance and travel speed on collection emissions are  
658 opposite and minimal.



659  
660 Figure 11: Sensitivity analysis of model variables. (Percentage of change in  
661 collection emissions due to changing the distance between household (22 to  
662 40m), collection time per stop (9 to 40 seconds) and travel speed between  
663 households (5 to 25 km/h).)

#### 664 4. Conclusions

665 The study explored the trade-offs between environmental and economic factors of RCC systems  
666 in Florida by evaluating the RCC system design of 25 different Floridian communities. An  
667 environmental-economic assessment model was developed and used to estimate the greenhouse  
668 gas (GHG) emissions and cost of RCC programs. The study results showed that RCC scheduling  
669 can significantly impact garbage and recyclables generation rates, recycling efficiency, and  
670 consequently determine environmental and economic impact of collection systems.

671 Overall, the mean total household waste (recyclables and garbage) was 3.11 ( $\pm 0.56$ ) kg  
672 per household per day, while the mean recycling efficiencies were 0.3 ( $\pm 0.08$ ) and 0.13 ( $\pm 0.04$ )  
673 for single-stream (SS) and dual-stream (DS) recycling programs, respectively. At the current

674 recycling participating rate ( $PR_R = 70\%$ ), the use of SS recyclable collection system diverted 30%  
675 compared to 13% of the waste stream by DS. These results indicated that implementing SS  
676 collection system can have a positive impact toward achieving Florida's recycling goal of 75%  
677 waste diversion. On the other hand, reducing garbage collection frequency had positive  
678 environmental and economic effects. The study findings supported the current trends in  
679 switching to SS recycling system combined with larger recycling totes, and reduced garbage  
680 collection frequency. In comparison with the other European studies (Williams and Cole, 2013),  
681 Florida and other U.S. studies (Fitzgerald et al., 2012) showed a significant increase in  
682 recyclables generation rate as a result of switching to SS collection. In this study, the same  
683 remanufacturing losses per material were applied for SS and DD as specified by WARM;  
684 however, the use of SS might result in more contamination and more losses during  
685 remanufacturing. This is beyond non-recyclables "waste residue" in the stream and further  
686 research is needed. Moreover, this study did not account for emissions associated with overseas  
687 shipping of recyclables.

688 This study explored RCC programs observed in Central Florida. The study did not  
689 explore the possibility of any additional reduction in collection services, e.g. every other week  
690 recyclables collection instead of weekly. As municipalities across the U.S. reduces collection  
691 frequency of different service lines, future studies are needed to assess the environmental,  
692 economic and social acceptance of such changes.

693  $PR_R$  was found to have a significant impact on the environmental and financial  
694 performance of RCC programs. An increase in  $PR_R$  reduces garbage collection over a single trip,  
695 allowing for serving more households. As a result, emissions associated with the collection of  
696 each MT of garbage increases. On the other hand, the fraction of garbage in the total waste

697 decreases, and the emissions associated with garbage collection per MT of total waste decline.  
698 For recyclables, the number of households served for recyclables per trip decreases as  $PR_R$   
699 increases. Although recyclables collection speed decreases as  $PR_R$  increases, it was observed that  
700 GHG emissions associated with the collection of each MT of recyclables decreases. Overall, the  
701 fraction of recyclables in the total waste increases, and the emissions associated with recyclables  
702 collection per MT of total waste increase. Overall, recycling benefits increased substantially at  
703 higher recycling participation rate, while collection emissions were insignificant compared to the  
704 benefits of recycling. An increase in  $PR_R$  will have a positive impact on waste diversion,  
705 however more research is needed to address the social aspects of recycling behavior in Florida.  
706 Moreover, further research is needed to address the relationship between recycling participation  
707 and set-out rates in Florida, and their potential impact on recycling.

708         The fuel mileage of waste collection vehicles increased from 0.2 and 2.6 km per liter of  
709 diesel consumed as the average collection speed increased from 2 to 60 km per hour. SS  
710 collection offers faster collection time per stop than DS collection, reducing collection emissions  
711 and cost. Collection time per stop showed a significant impact on collection emissions and cost;  
712 therefore, implementing collection methods that minimize collection time per stop can  
713 significantly reduce the collection cost and emissions. Possible examples of other approaches are  
714 the automation of the collection system, compliance with bin requirement, and grouping waste  
715 containers on shared property lines which cut down the number of stops per route by half.

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722 **Conflict of interest**

723 The authors declares no conflict of interest.

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## Supplementary

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Table S1: Reported tonnage of waste collected by Floridian RCC programs.

No	Program	Household Count (N <sub>T</sub> )	Recycling System	Recycling Container	Group	Year	Garbage Collected W <sub>G</sub> (Metric Tons per year)	Recyclables Collected W <sub>R</sub> (Metric ton per year)	Yard Waste Collected (Metric ton per year)
1	1G,1R,1YW	8,155	DS	Bins†	B	2012	5,101*	1,133*	1,880*
2	2G,1R,1YW	17,000	DS	Bins†	A	2012	20,016	1,407	5,822
3	2G,1R,1YW	22,500	DS	Bins†	A	2012	18,694	4,490	7,259
4	2G,1R,1YW	4,200	DS	Bins†	A	2012	4,534	1,026	1,241
5	2G,1R,1YW	38,293	DS	Bins†	A	2012	29,394	4,746	6,513
6	1G,1R,1YW	69,812	SS	240 Liter (64 gallon) toter	D	2012	91,133	30,870	36,668
7	2G,1R,1YW	3,258	DS	Bins†	A	2012	4,226	233	909
8	2G,1R,1YW	4,700	DS	Bins†	A	2012	5,085	533	1,210
9	2G,1R,1YW	1,040	DS	Bins†	A	2012	1,447	221	64
10	2G,1R,1YW	11,434	DS	Bins†	A	2012	10,963	1,490	2,555
11	2G,1R,1YW	8,900	SS	340 Liter (90 gallon) toter	C	2012	8,980	1,551	2,875
12	2G,1R,1YW	12,900	DS	Bins†	A	2012	12,798	1,143	2,643
13	1G,1R,1YW	33,865	DS	Bins†	B	2012	27,901	3,386	5,770
14	2G,1R,1YW	7,400	DS	Bins†	A	2012	6,789	756	1,592
15	2G,1R,1YW	40,087	DS	Bins†	A	2012	39,115	3,418	9,545
16	2G,1R,1YW	35,924	DS	Bins†	A	2012	34,056	5,117	10,023
17	2G,1R,1YW	40,640	DS	Bins†	A	2012	34,940	4,166	8,595
18	2G,1R,1YW	40,402	DS	Bins†	A	2012	38,882	4,746	7,944
19	2G,1R,1YW	42,478	DS	Bins†	A	2012	33,693	5,742	7,550
20	2G,1R,1YW	10,589	DS	Bins†	A	Oct 09 - Sep10	9,330	2,166	3,347
21	1G,1R,1YW	10,784	DS	Bins†	B	Oct 10 - Sep11	9,806	2,393	3,504
22	1G,1R,1YW	4,500	SS	240-liter (64-gallon) toter	D	2011	3,112	1,650	667
23	2G,1R,1YW	1,400	SS	240-liter (64-gallon) toter	C	2011	968	513	207
24	2G,1R,1YW	2,100	SS	240-liter (64-gallon) toter	C	2011	1452	770	311
25	2G,1R,1YW	1,100	SS	240-liter (64-gallon) toter	C	2011	761	403	163

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\*Less than one year tonnage, therefore it was used only to evaluate recycling efficiency

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†60-liter (16-gallon) bins

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A: 2G, 1R, 1YW-DS; B: 1G, 1R, 1YW-DS; C: 2G, 1R, 1YW-SS; D: 1G, 1R, 1YW-SS

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747 Table S2: Composition of the recovered material from Single-stream (SS) collection trucks and  
 748 MRF output.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Collection Truck Composition* (% of total weight)</b>	<b>MRF Output* (% of total weight)</b>
Amber Glass	6.86	0.02
Clear Glass	8.63	0.03
Green Glass	4.11	0.02
HDPE Colored Containers (Baled)	2.25	0.89
HDPE Natural Containers (Baled)	1.53	0.73
LDPE Film (Baled)	N/A	0.33
Mixed Papers (Baled)	22.40	2.14
Mixed Rigid Plastic (Baled)	N/A	0.39
OCC (Baled)		0.24
OCC-BL_Baled	10.70	14.50
OCC (Baled)		13.50
PET Containers Comingled (Baled)	6.34	2.23
Plastic 1 Thru 7 (Baled)		0.35
Plastic 3 Thru 7 (Baled)	2.12	0.19
Polycarbonate	N/A	0.01
Polycarbonate (Del)	N/A	0.00
Polystyrene	N/A	0.03
Scrap Aluminum (loose)	1.14	0.00
Sorted Office Waste (Baled)	N/A	0.21
Special De Ink New #8 (Baled)		21.70
Special De Ink New #8 (Baled)	19.50	15.80
Steel Cans (Baled)	N/A	1.50
Three Mix Glass	N/A	15.50
Titanium	N/A	0.00
Used Beverage Cans (Baled)	N/A	0.70
Tin Cans	2.50	N/A
Residue	12.10	9.07

749 N/A: Not applicable

750 \*Based on MRF operators input. Due to rounding, percentages may not appear to add up to 100%.

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767 Table S3: Composition of the recovered material from dual-stream (DS) collection trucks and  
 768 MRF output.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Collection Truck Composition* (% of total weight)</b>	<b>MRF Output* (% of total weight)</b>
Aluminum	48.0	0.8
PET/HDPE		0.4
Mixed Plastic		12.3
Mixed Glass		21.3
Ferrous		2.2
Newspaper	52.0	10.2
Cardboard		9.7
Mixed Paper		32
Single Stream	N/A	0.5
Residue	N/A	10.4

769 N/A: Not Applicable,

770 \*Based on MRF operators input. Due to rounding, percentages may not appear to add up to 100%.

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890 **List of abbreviations**

891	DS	Dual-Stream
892	FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
893	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
894	REET	Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation
895	GR <sub>T</sub>	Generation Rate of Total Waste
896	MOVES	U.S. EPA Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator
897	MRF	Material Recovery Facility
898	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
899	MSW-DST	U.S. Municipal Solid Waste Decision Support Tool
900	MT	Metric Ton
901	N <sub>T</sub>	Maximum Number of Households Served by Collection Contract
902	PR	Percentage Recycling
903	PR <sub>G</sub>	Garbage Participation Rate
904	PR <sub>R</sub>	Recycling Participation Rate
905	RCC	Residential Curbside Collection
906	SS	Single-Stream
907	U.S. DOE	United States Department of Energy
908	U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

909	WARM	Waste Reduction Model (WARM)
910	WC	With Compaction
911	WOC	Without Compaction
912	$W_G$	Annual Weight of Garbage Collected
913	$W_R$	Annual Weight of Recyclables Collected