

Nursery Containers Inspire Green Growth for Landscaping Firm

13 tons of plastic waste diverted from landfill

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Christy Webber Landscaping
Smurfit Stone Recycling

SUMMARY

Smurfit Stone Recycling created a recycling opportunity for previously un-recyclable nursery containers left over from landscaping projects conducted by one of Chicago's largest landscaping firms, Christy Webber Landscaping.



BACKGROUND

In general, it is not economically viable to separate and recycle mixed and contaminated plastics in the United States. As a result Christy Webber was tossing thousands of containers in the trash each season at significant cost to their business. Smurfit Stone Recycling however, recognized value in the black plastic nursery containers because of the high volume quantities involved.

THE WTPN CONNECTION

This synergy was able to substantially reduce the quantity of non-compostable waste Christy Webber Landscaping produces each season.

Chicago Waste to Profit Team Members introduced the organizations involved and facilitated the discussions on the materials by linking them together in network functions and working meetings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 13 tons of black plastic waste diverted from landfill to date; constitutes up to 10% of City of Chicago contracted landscaping projects
- 100% ROI on Chicago Waste to Profit membership fee in six months
- Furthered discussions on landscaping specifications
- Closed loop lifecycle for previously unrecyclable plastics
- CO2 reductions from landfill diversion