

# Which Is Better, Curbside Pickup or Collection Through Centers?

Lessons from the 2001  
Statewide Used Oil Survey  
(revised 5-1-05)

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# California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act of 1992

- “to reduce the illegal disposal of used oil and recycle and reclaim used oil to the greatest extent possible in order to recover valuable natural resources and to avoid damage to the environment and threats to public health.”

Section 48600

# 2001 Statewide Survey

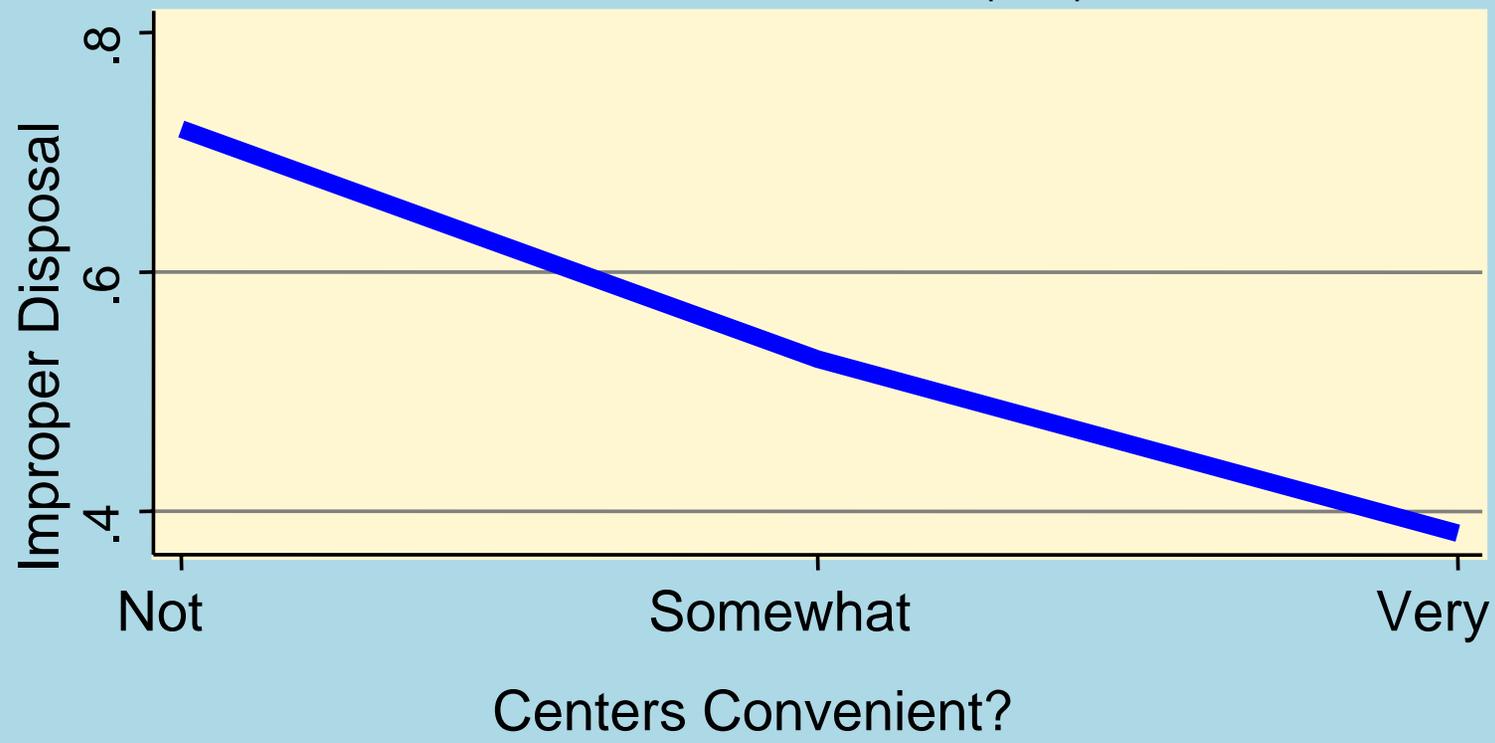
- 761 DIYers, including
- 114 Shade-tree mechanics (STMs)
- 418 non-DIYers (someone else changes oil in household vehicles)
- Interviewing in June-July 2001
- Reference period re oil consumption and changing: “over the last year” (2000-2001)

“Better” means “more effective”.

“Effective” means “reduces  
improper disposal more”.

# Predicted Probability of Improper Disposal by Convenience of Taking Oil to Centers

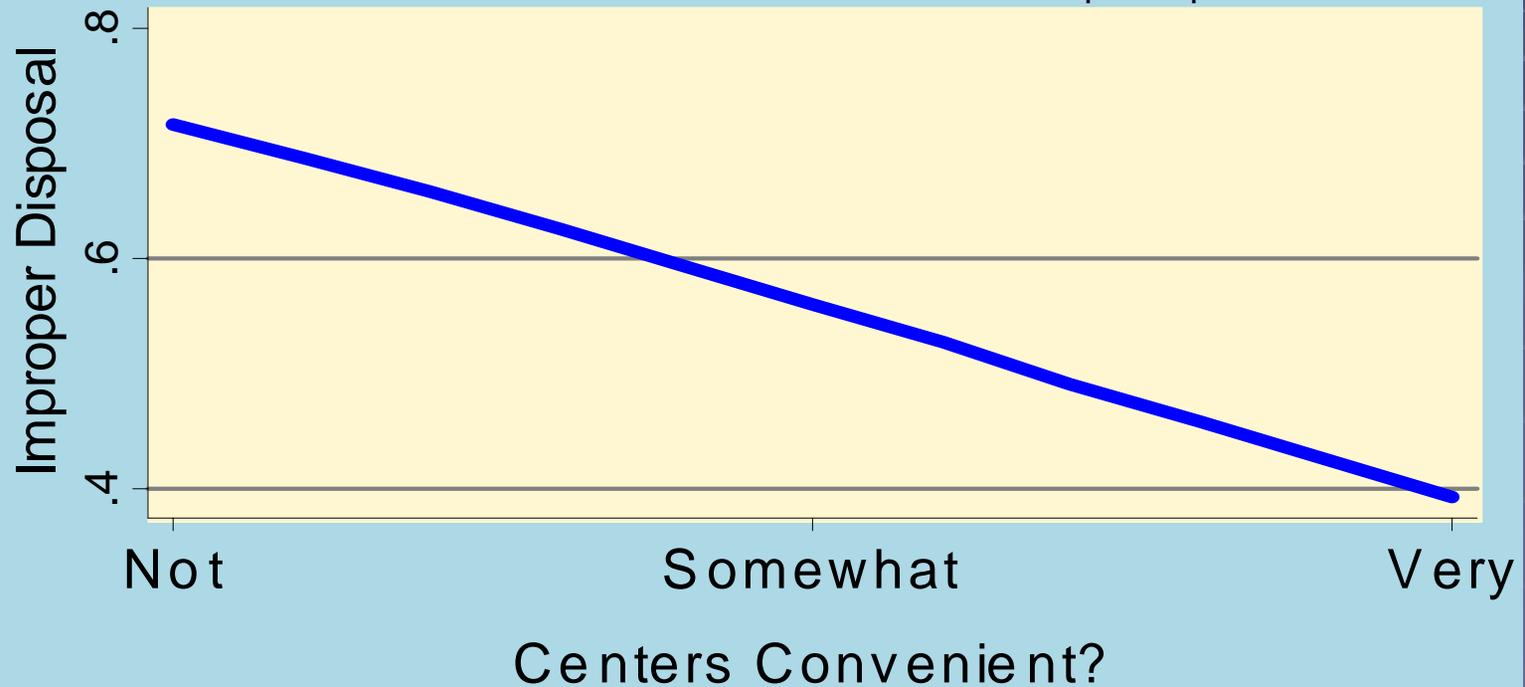
U.S.-born DIYers without curbside pickup



# More convenient centers reduce improper disposal a lot.

## Estimated Probability of Improper Disposal by Convenience of Taking Oil to Centers

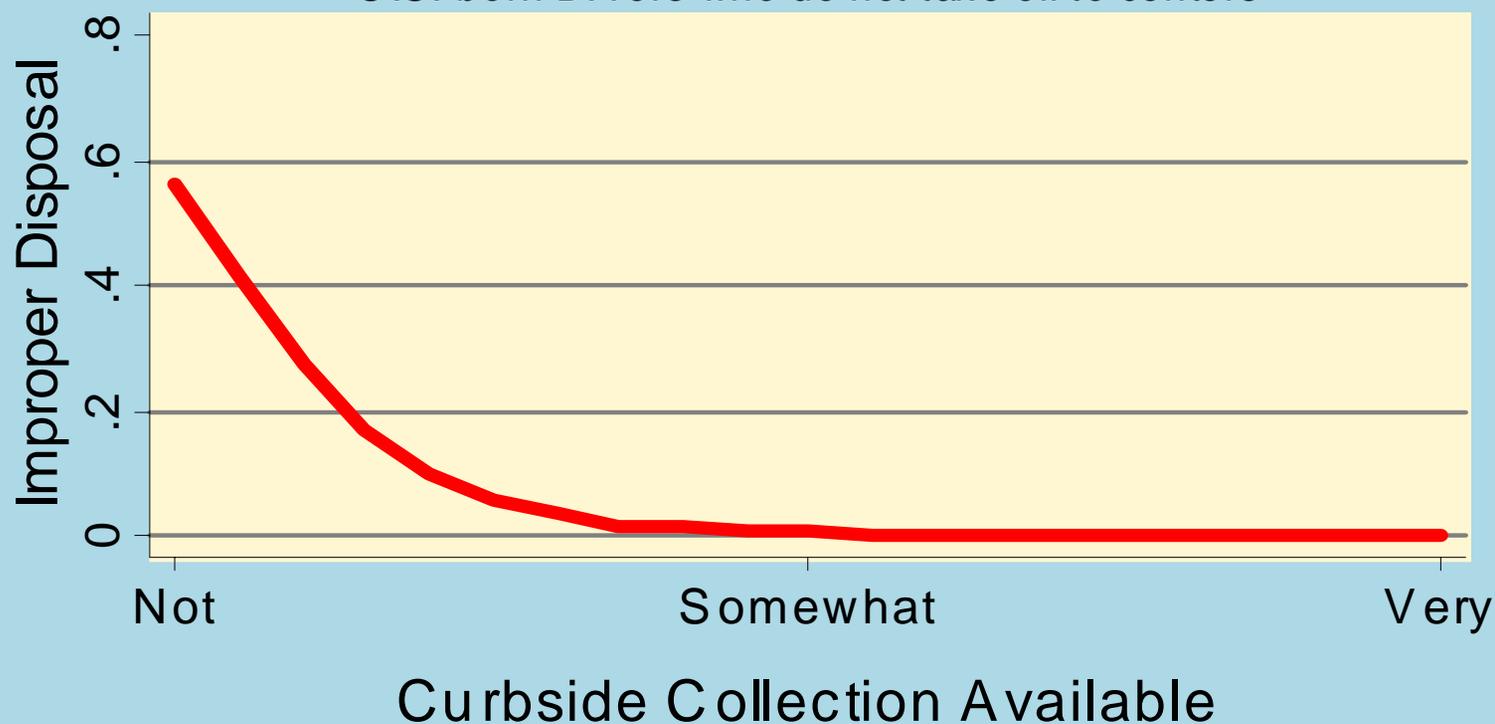
U.S.-born DIYers without curbside pickup



# More available curbside collection reduces improper disposal a lot.

## Predicted Probability of Improper Disposal by Availability of Curbside Collection

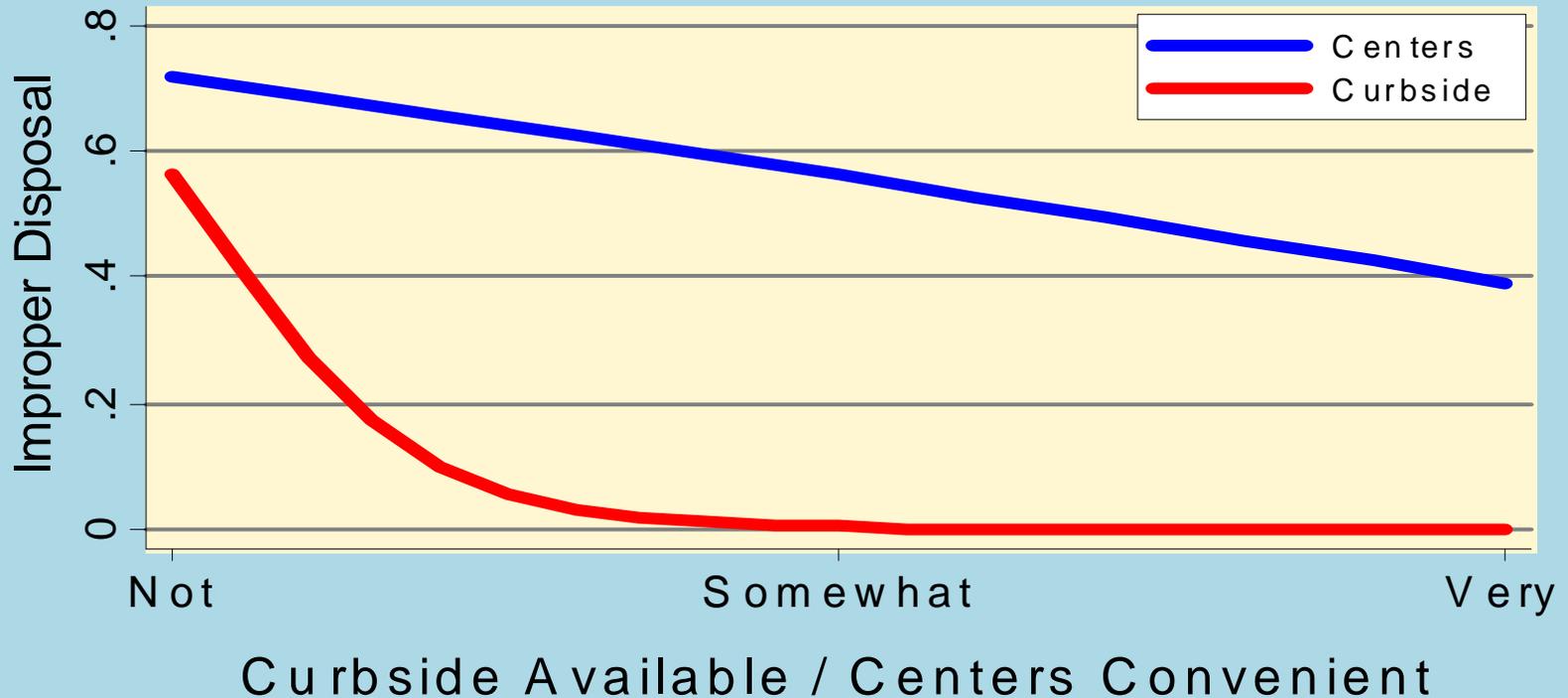
U.S.-born DIYers who do not take oil to centers



# Available curbside collection reduces improper disposal more than convenient centers.

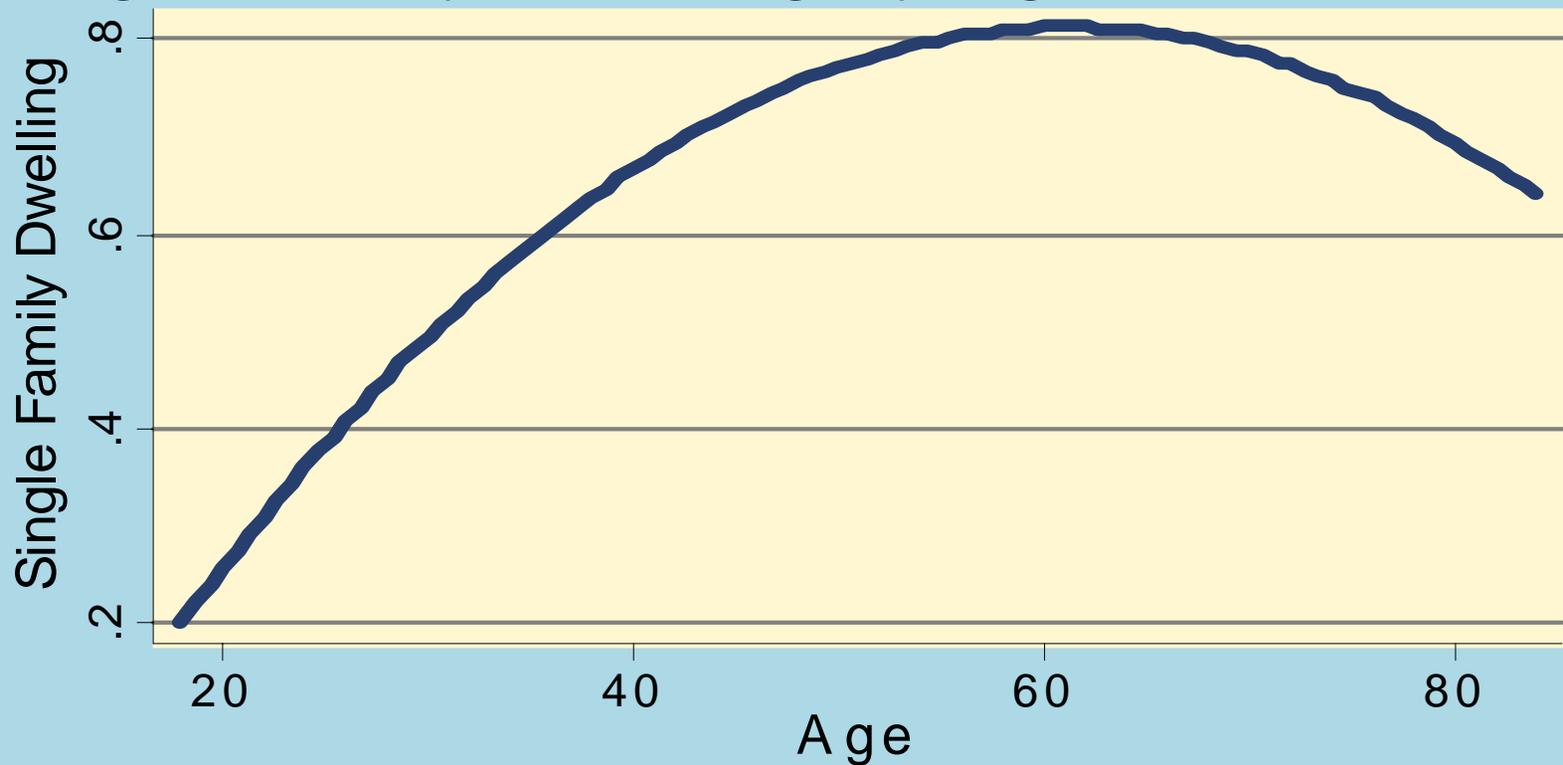
## Predicted Probability of Improper Disposal

U.S.-born DIYers



BUT—curbside pickup is available only for single-family dwellings, and living in single-family dwellings is much more likely for older DIYers:

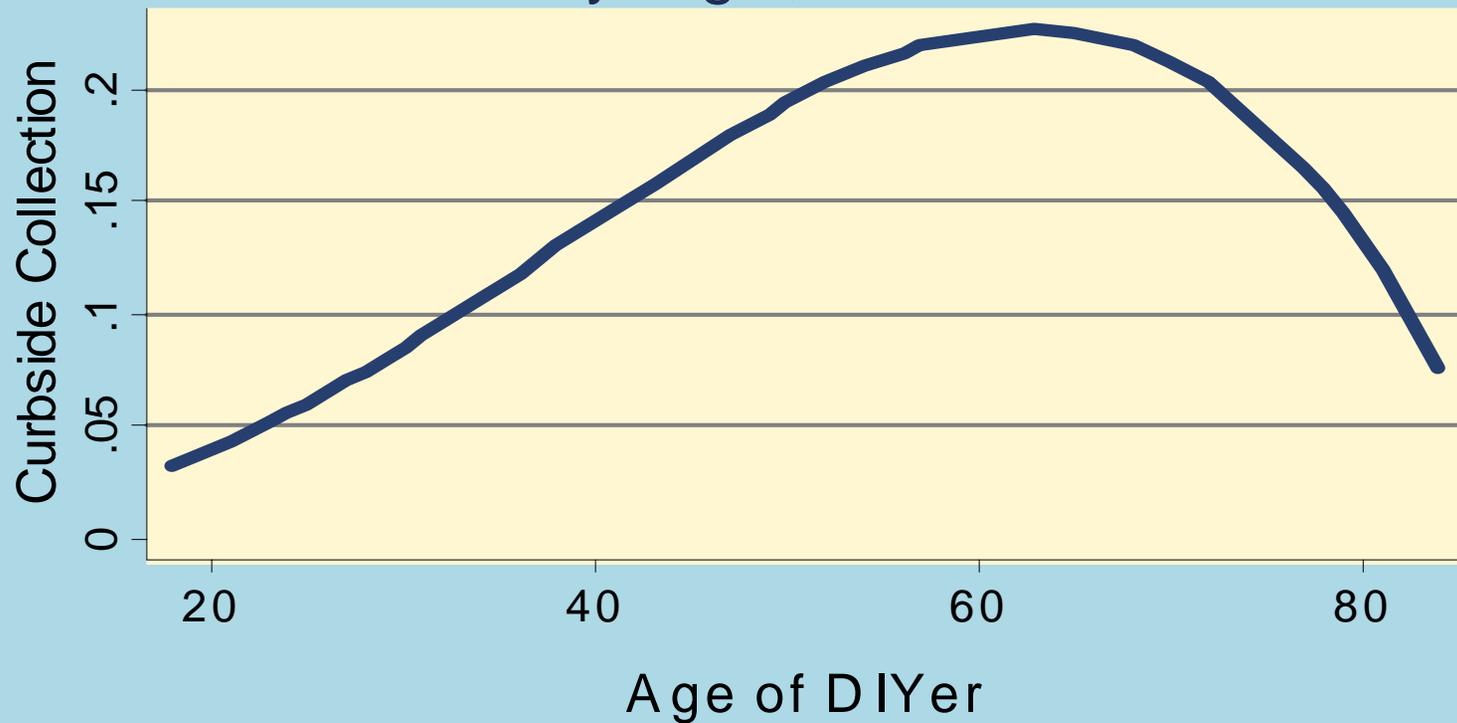
Single Family Dwelling by Age in California



Source : 20 00 Census 5 -percent P UMS file .

Use of curbside collection by DIYers follows the same shape by age and is available mainly to older DIYers—an important shortcoming.

Predicted Probability of Curbside Collection by Age, U.S.-Born DIYers



# Older DIYers are much more likely to use curbside collection

- Q: “How many times in the past year did you put oil out for curbside pickup?”  
1 or more times:
  - YOUNGER DIYERS (18-39) 6.7%
  - OLDER DIYERS (40+) 15.1%
- $p = .0036$
- So curbside favors older DIYers, but younger DIYers dispose of much more oil.

# What can we conclude?

- 1) Both methods of collection reduce improper disposal a lot—for those DIYers for whom they are convenient and available.
- 2) Curbside collection reduces improper disposal to ZERO—but only for DIYers in single-family dwellings, mostly older, a big limitation. It is superbly convenient but usually not available.

- 3) Convenient centers are superior in availability because they are more available to younger DIYers than curbside collection is.
- 4) BUT even where centers collection is well implemented and the centers are convenient, it leaves a large amount of oil uncollected because so many DIYers do not participate.

- 5) SO BOTH PROGRAMS MISS MUCH OF THE DIY/STM POPULATION AND THEIR USED OIL.
- 6) Curbside collection is wonderfully convenient but not available to many DIYers.
- 7) Centers collection is available to all, but it is not convenient enough to achieve high rates of participation—even when DIYers say centers are “very convenient”.

# THE CHALLENGE

- **FOR CURBSIDE:**  
Extend it to single-family dwellings in many more localities.  
Make it available to residents of multi-family dwellings.
- **FOR CENTERS:**  
Make them much more convenient and greatly increase DIYer commitment to recycling.

# SO WHICH IS BETTER?

- Curbside pickup is demonstrably better at reducing improper disposal “to the greatest extent possible.”
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- Extend curbside pickup to multi-family dwellings statewide but would reduce improper disposal even more.
- For the remaining households, improving the convenience of centers

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Extend curbside pickup quickly to single-family dwellings statewide wherever feasible.
- Extend curbside pickup to multi-family dwellings statewide as feasible.
- For the remaining households, improve the convenience of centers.
- Consider enforcement measures to further reduce improper disposal.