Compare and Contrast:

Informal Recycling in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America and the United States

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Springloop Coöperatie UA: USA, Netherlands and Serbia
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A Brief Informal Recycling Primer

DEFINITION
Informal Recycling is the extraction of recyclable and reusable materials from the waste stream by individuals or families whose recycling activity is neither registered, permitted, acknowledged, paid for, organised, sponsored by the formal solid waste authorities or their agents.

BENEFITS
- Helps the Environment
- Reduced Waste Stream
- Reduced Collection and Disposal Costs and Requirements
- Honest Work
- Supplements Poor Employment Options
- Entrepreneurial and Flexible
## Informal Recycling and Re-Use
*From Collision To Collaboration, 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>EUROPE *</th>
<th>AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA *</th>
<th>UNITED STATES (Educated Assumptions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Large and Growing</td>
<td>Growing</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Identifiers</td>
<td>Disenfranchised</td>
<td>Disenfranchised</td>
<td>Disenfranchised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full or Part-Time</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Recognition</td>
<td>Extremely Rare</td>
<td>Growing</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informality In the Service Chain</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Service Chain Integration</td>
<td>Extremely Difficult</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriers to Legalisation</td>
<td>Taboos And Resistance</td>
<td>Moving Forward</td>
<td>Resistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Informal Recycling In The US

FINDINGS
• Few Formal Sources of Data Found to Date
• Deposit Law States More Likely Sources of IR Activity and Data
• Myths Common
• Social Integration Models Valuable for Data and Solutions

NEXT STEPS
• Further Research Review and Analysis
• Survey:
  • National Recycling Coalition Network
  • State Agencies
  • Large Municipal Agencies
  • ISRI, API, State and EPR Systems
• White Paper
US Beverage Container Deposit Laws

Oregon, 1972
Vermont, 1973
Maine, 1978
Michigan, 1978
Iowa, 1979
Connecticut, 1980
Massachusetts, 1983
New York, 1983
California, 1987
Hawai'i, 2005

Source: Bottlebill.org, Container Recycling Institute
Social Integration Models Exist
Sure We Can, Brooklyn NY

400 Canners Enrolled - 2016

- 45% Women/55% Men
- 15% Couples or Family
- 4% Homeless

- 40% Hispanic (Spanish Speaking)
- 30% Asian (Chinese Speaking)
- 25% African American (English Speaking)
- 5% Caucasian (mostly Polish Speaking)

Source  Sure We Can, Brooklyn, NY
Thank You

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