Some Interesting Recycling Facts:

- Recyclables are a commodity in which values increase and decrease according to market forces.
- In recent years almost 30% of all recyclables, including over 50% of the world’s recyclable mixed paper and plastics were shipped to China.
- On January 1, 2018 all mixed paper and mixed plastics were banned as an import into China. On March 1, China began enforcing a new 0.5% contamination limit on imported recyclables.
- Because all loads shipped to China must be certified, recyclables are currently not shipped from the U.S. to China.
- The suspension of U.S. imports into China adds additional pressure on global markets, which ultimately impacts recycling programs in communities across the U.S. A 50% reduction in recyclables as a commodity value is not uncommon.
- Recycling markets have settled somewhat, as reflected in our current Contract with Waste Management.
- The Lincoln DPW Department will continuously monitor recycling conditions.
Some Interesting Facility Facts:

**Lincoln**
- WM has a contaminant level of 5% for Lincoln, vs. 15% average plant wide – saving money on cost formulas
- Glass separation also saves Lincoln money on cost formulas

**Other**
- WM Performs regular Audits of incoming recycling
- When one machine gets broken, the whole plant has to shut down.
- 10-20% of the time plant is down to clean machinery from contaminants. Adds to the cost of running the plant.
- Plant processes approximately 400 tons per day
- Plant has significant problems with contaminants from the recycling stream, including:
  - Plastic bags (including bagging of recyclables)
  - Plastic wraps
  - Food waste
  - Textiles
  - Tanglers (hoses, ropes, cords, etc.)
  - Liquids in bottles
- DEP is going to picture description of recycling. Moving away from recycling #’s on plastic. Also, “Recycle the correct way”
- Average community has a Contaminant threshold of 10%
  - Audit can bring additional recycling costs.
  - Some Towns get charged back if WM finds excessive contaminants
  - Some towns have received bills of $4,000-$5,000 for actual contaminant cost
Recycling Tipping Area

Materials are dumped into tipping area and then are transported to the plant for processing & sorting.
Plant Process

Employees and machines sort recycled materials
Plastic Sorter
Metal Robot

Robot picks out unacceptable items from metal area
Finished Product: Bales of Recycled Product

Material is baled into separate bales according to material. Audits are done regularly on bales. Bales are shipped to recycling plants.
Contaminants

Items that are not recyclable and jam machines causing the entire plant to shut down to be removed.