



# Clackamas County Recycle Right Pilot Project

Presentation for DEQ Stakeholder Meeting

March, 13<sup>th</sup> 2019

# Project Overview

- Part of 2017 Annual Plan
- Worked with Tomolla Consulting
- Project purpose:
  1. Gain a baseline knowledge of recycling participation and contamination in commingled recycling at residential households.
  2. Explore how cart tagging impacted curbside recycling practices across multiple visits to individual households.



# Project Structure

- 6 week study-3 on, 1 off, 3 on
- 14 residential routes; 3,714 households/week
- 3 field teams of 2
- 4 collectors:
  - Clackamas Garbage
  - Hoodview Disposal
  - Sunset Garbage
  - Waste Management



# Project Costs

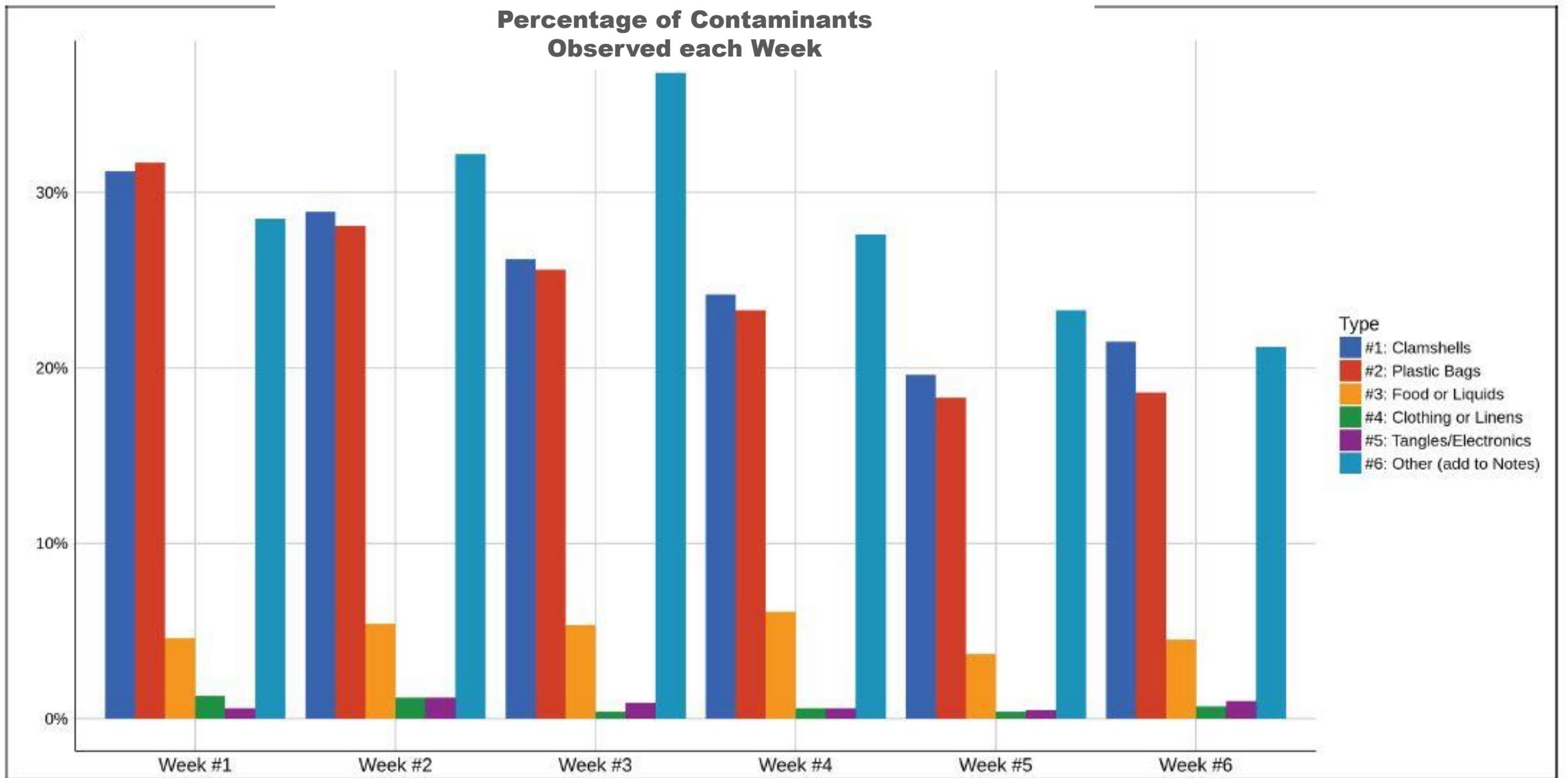
<b>Communications Tools</b>	\$	13,000
<b>Consultant/Labor</b>	\$	40,000
	\$	53,000

# Results

- 22,286 household observations
- Recycle set out rate: **53%**
- Glass set out rate: **9%**
- Of all recycling setouts:
  - Oops tags issued to **55%** of households
  - Nice Job tags issued to **47%** of households

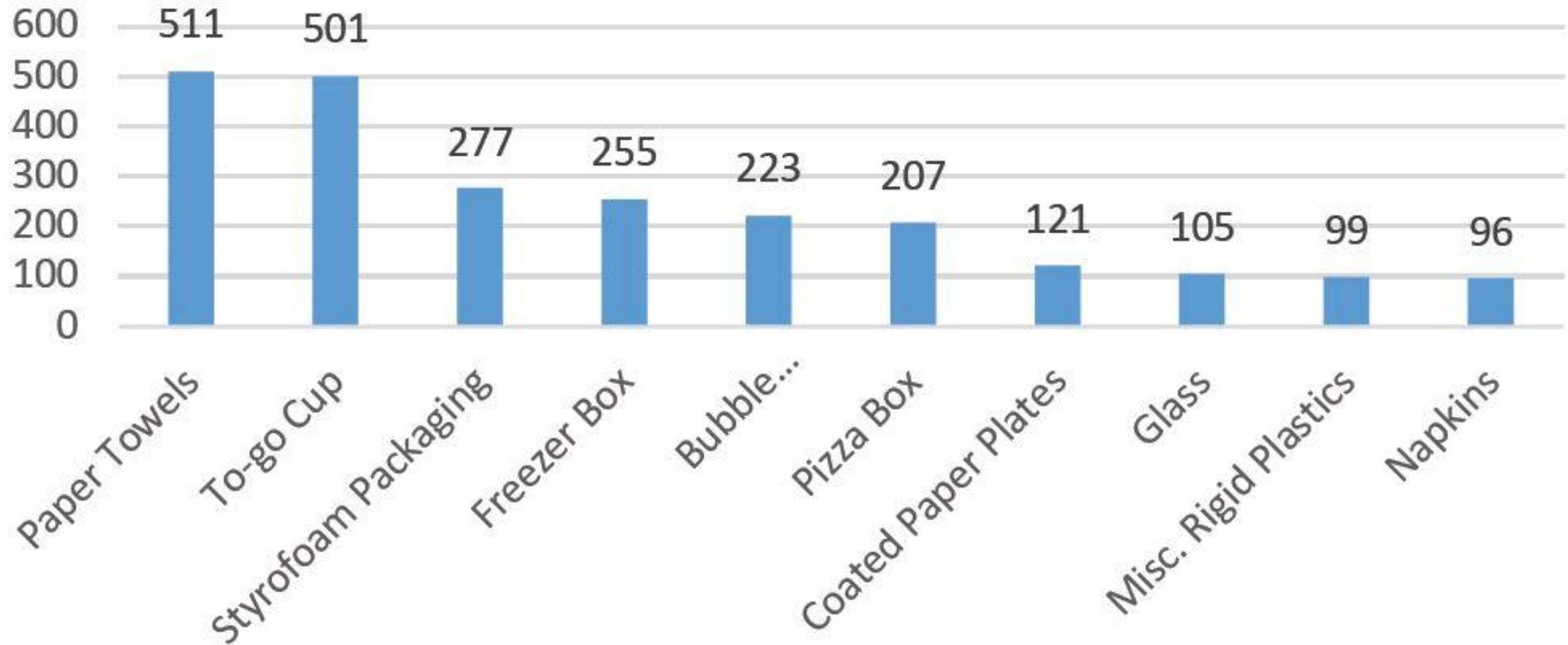


Image #3: Permanent" Gold Star Tag applied by resident



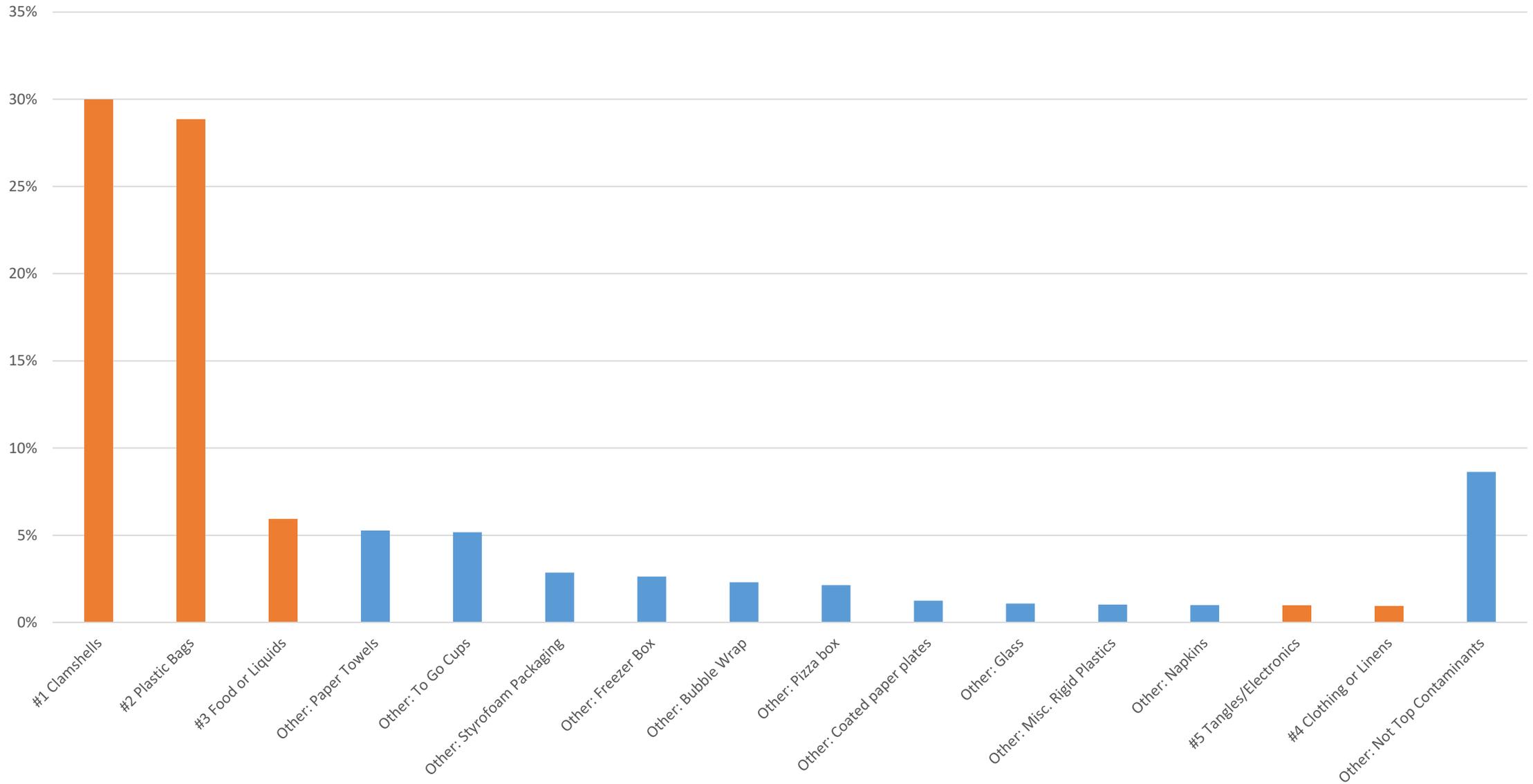
*Figure #3: Percentage of Contaminants Observed by Week*

### **“Other” Contaminants Most Frequently Observed**

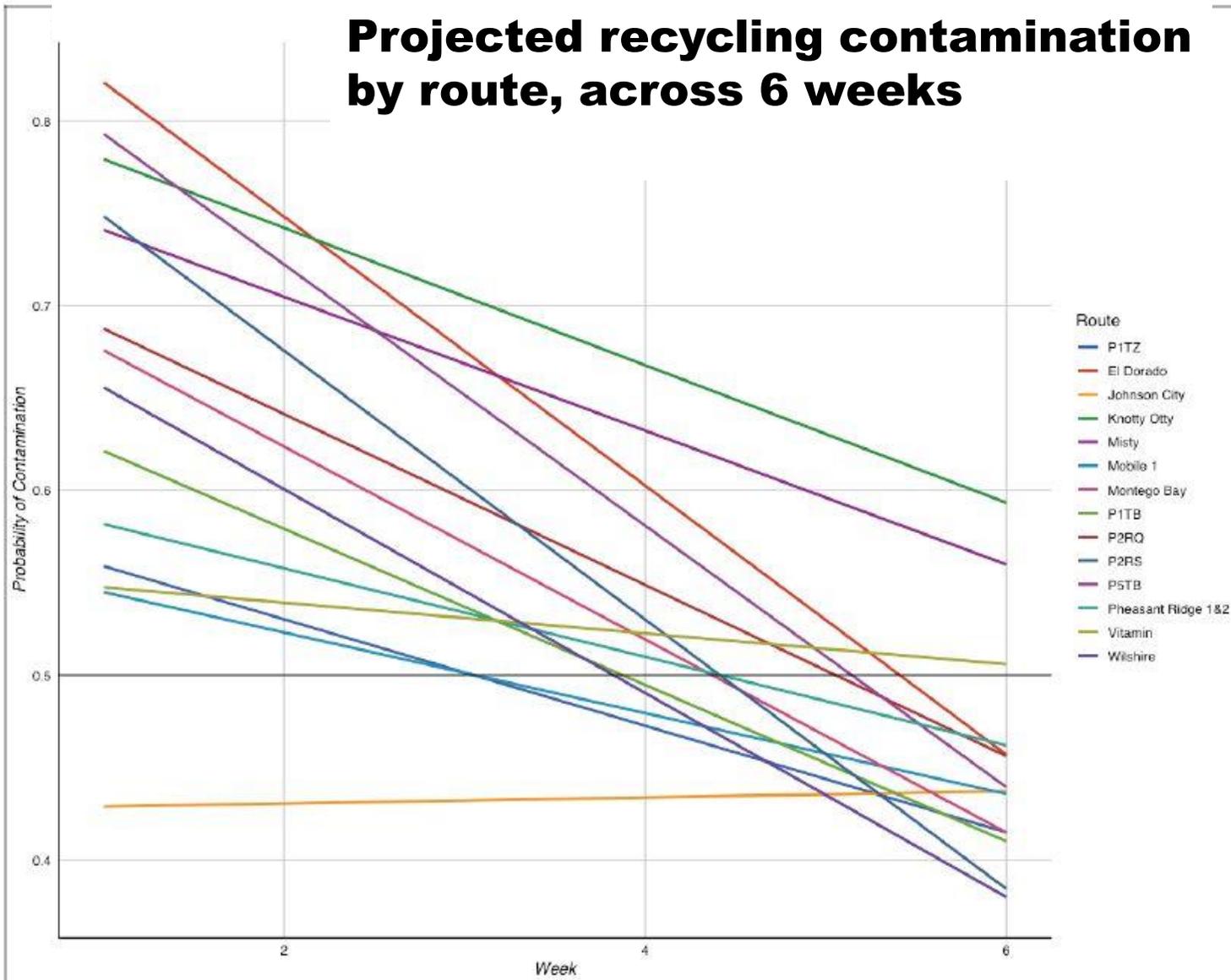


*Figure #4: Most Frequently Observed “Other” Contaminants*

# Percentage of Contaminants (including break-out of top "others")



## Projected recycling contamination by route, across 6 weeks



64% of routes showed statistically significant reductions in recycling contamination.

*\*Black line at 0.5 is chance, or no effect.*

Figure #5: Recycling Contamination Rates Across Six Weeks

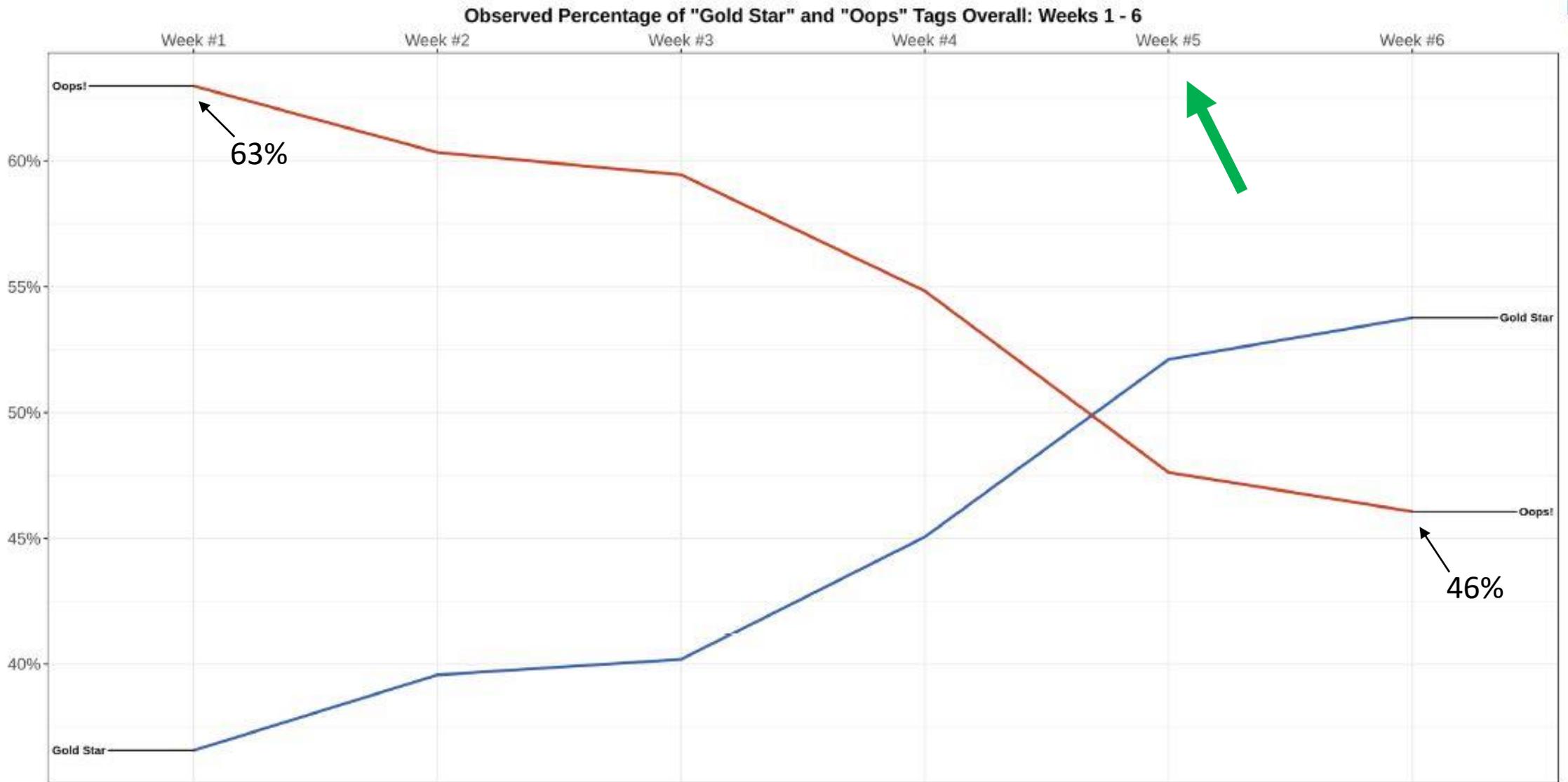


Figure #1: Observed Percentage of "Gold Star" and "Oops Tags Overall: Weeks 1-6



# Key Lessons

## Data collection:

- Simplify data entry:
  - Pre-set collection form
  - Limited data entry options



# Key Lessons

## Procedure:

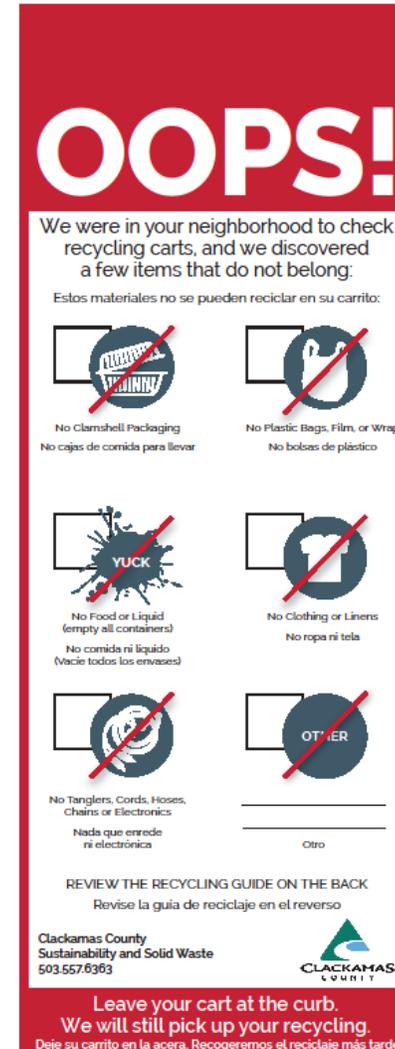
- If collector instructed to pick-up tagged carts:
  - Remind customer to leave cart at curb
- Harmonize the list amongst tagging staff
  - LG present at initial training
  - Clearly identify items to be tagged i.e. tub?  
Square or Round
  - Limit “Other” list



# Key Lessons

## Tags:

- Don't recommend water resistant paper
- Change items on Oops tag
  - Textiles
  - Tanglers
- Limit the options for "other"



**OOPS!**

We were in your neighborhood to check recycling carts, and we discovered a few items that do not belong:

Estos materiales no se pueden reciclar en su carrito:

 No Clamshell Packaging No cajas de comida para llevar	 No Plastic Bags, Film, or Wrap No bolsas de plástico
 No Food or Liquid (empty all containers) No comida ni líquido (Vacíe todos los envases)	 No Clothing or Linens No ropa ni tela
 No Tanglers, Cords, Hoses, Chains or Electronics Nada que enrede ni electrónica	 Otro

REVIEW THE RECYCLING GUIDE ON THE BACK  
Revise la guía de reciclaje en el reverso

Clackamas County  
Sustainability and Solid Waste  
503.557.6363



Leave your cart at the curb.  
We will still pick up your recycling.  
Deje su carrito en la acera. Recogeremos el reciclaje más tarde.



We were in your neighborhood to check recycling. Your recycling looks great!

**NICE JOB!**

Estuvimos revisando el reciclaje en su vecindario. ¡El suyo se ve magnífico!

## Phone Calls:

- 53 phone calls regarding project.
- ~ 5 min/phone call
- ~ 4.5 hours on phone over full 6 weeks.



# What's next?

- Develop a plan to implement residential cart tagging throughout the county on a regular schedule.
  - Creating job description
  - Securing vehicle
  - Researching recording tools
  - \$25,000 cost estimate



# Further Information:

Stacy Ludington 503.742.4463 Sludington@Clackamas.us

**Video:** <https://www.clackamas.us/recycling/recycleright.html>

## Full Report-Drop Box Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nqts6kyjlaot8qc/FINAL%20Clackamas%20Single%20Family%20Residential%20Recycling%20Cart%20Tagging%20Project%207.24.18.pdf?dl=0>

