Recycling has been an issue at Skaalen. Skaalen used to try to recycle years back, but state survey had a problem with the recycling bins. The Life Safety Code does not allow more than 30 gallons of combustibles in a surrounding area. Due to the outcome of the survey, Skaalen eliminated recycling bins, except by the dumpster in the basement. Most staff and residents do not take the time to separate recycling from garbage. The problem is Skaalen has the desire to do their part in making the earth a better environment. Skaalen wants to improve on sustainability.

The desired outcome would be having a successful recycling program and to remain in compliance with Life Safety Code regulations. Skaalen’s goal is increasing the amount recycled by 50% or more. The objective would be to increase awareness of the new recycling program to staff, residents and visitors.

**Methods**

- **Step 1**: Contacted waste management to get updated acceptable material guidelines in order to recycle efficiently.
- **Step 2**: Reviewed the Life Safety Code to determine the size the recycling containers could be and where they could be located.
- **Step 3**: Purchased 12 seven gallons recycling bins and 20 fifteen gallon recycling bins and chose convenient and appropriate areas to place bins.
- **Step 4**: Posted signs to inform staff of recycling. Posted signs of what can and cannot be recycled.
- **Step 5**: Implemented recycling bins in December. Placed bins on units and offices.

**Results**

- **Surveyed 50 staff members before and after to see about how much recyclable items they were throwing in the garbage before the bins were implemented.**
- After recycling bins were implemented, the estimated number recycling items that were discarded in the trash decreased significantly.
- Staff learned what can and cannot be recycled through informative signs provided by Waste Management.
- Housekeepers reported they weren’t having to discard trash bags as often.
- The manager of housekeeper had to order more recycling bins than the original amount to help satisfy everyone’s need.

**Conclusions**

Skaalen has a successful recycling program.
- Skaalen remained in compliance with the Life Safety Code.
- Staff and residents are grateful to recycle.
- Reduced the amount of recyclables being thrown in the garbage.
- Decreased monthly trash cost.

**Recommendations**

- More efficient transfer to get recycling bins from the dirty linen room to outside dumpster.
- Find an efficient way to recycle batteries.
- Purchase new housekeeper carts with an extra bin to place recycle items.
- Purchase eco-friendly dining supplies.

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