



Tray Theft Case Study

STOP Theft of Returnable Plastic Containers

Chicago, IL 2015

Losses Leading to Investigation

Over 6,000 Plastic Trays, Totes, and Crates Stolen

Losses Valued at nearly \$50,000



Evidence Gathered & Given to Police

Consistent
Police Reports
Filed for
Missing
Plastics

Video footage
collected from
retailers of
plastics
loading

Hidden GPS
device tracking
of stolen trays

Visual
surveillance
recorded
following
thieves by
private
investigators



Police Action

Gathered evidence led to identifying two primary theft suspects and two nearby recycling facilities

Police conduct traffic stop to confirm suspects and cargo

Raid of recycling facilities discovers tens of thousands of dollars in stolen commercial plastics



Top 3 Lessons from the Investigators

“Building a network between law enforcement, other impacted companies, and you can elevate the issue”

“Categorize and monitor your losses regularly”

“Have a member of your organization become the point person for interaction with investigators”

