



Tray Theft Case Study

STOP Theft of Returnable Plastic Containers

Columbus, OH 2014

Losses Leading to Investigation

Over 50,000 Crates, Trays, Beverage Shells, and Racks Stolen

Losses Valued over \$400,000



Evidence Gathered & Given to Police

Consistent Police
Reports Filed for
Missing Plastics

Trend recording of
regions/locations
frequently stolen
from with dates

Reports of value,
markings of stolen
trays



Police Action

Review of provided details regarding corporate markings on stolen plastics

Thieves carrying marked plastics to recycler surveilled by police

Sting operation authorized finding over one ton of reground plastics and thousands of unground commercial containers



Top 3 Lessons from the Investigators

“Biggest factor was details regarding markings and description of stolen plastics”

“Reports from impacted companies of specific loss figures made it easier to justify using department resources”

“Giving details regarding locations allowed us to coordinate with other relevant jurisdictions ahead of time”

