



City of Ann Arbor Single-Stream Recycling Begins July 5, 2010



Single-Stream Recycling

What is single-stream recycling?

Single-stream recycling allows all recyclables to be placed into one recycling bin, without separating papers and containers. (Single-stream recycling does not mean placing trash and recyclables into the same cart—recyclables still have to be separated from trash.)

What new materials will be accepted?

All plastic bottles and tubs (except #3/PVC and biodegradable plastics/PLA) will be added. Large bulky plastic items, such as laundry baskets and buckets, will be accepted.

What materials will not be accepted?

Biodegradable/PLA plastics, #3 (PVC) plastics, Pyrex and ceramics will not be accepted because they contaminate the regional plastic and glass markets. These materials melt at different temperatures and cause unacceptable “Swiss cheese-like” holes in new plastic products or create lumps in new glass items. Ann Arbor’s single-stream program will also not accept **plastic bags** or **polystyrene foam** (Styrofoam™) because these items clog and break the sorting machinery. Lastly, **household batteries, used motor oil, and oil filters** will no longer be accepted since these toxic materials cannot be placed inside the recycling carts. Drop-off locations for these items will be listed in future municipal newsletters and online. Rechargeable batteries can be dropped off for recycling at most stores that sell rechargeables (e.g., Best Buy, Target, Radio Shack, Batteries Plus, etc.). As of the last ten years, U.S.-made alkaline batteries do not contain added mercury, so the original rationale for collecting non-rechargeables has become obsolete.

When will single-stream recycling begin in Ann Arbor?

Single-stream recycling will start in Ann Arbor Monday, July 5, 2010. On that date, you will be able to recycle all the additional plastics and other materials mentioned above. You will no longer be able to recycle batteries, motor oil, or oil filters. The new recycle carts will not arrive immediately for everyone. Please continue to use your existing recycling containers until you have received your new cart or your existing carts have been refurbished. You will be able to blend all the recyclable materials in your existing containers.

Why is Ann Arbor going to single stream recycling?

It’s good for the environment: It is expected that single stream recycling, combined with the RecycleBank incentive program, will more than double recycling in Ann Arbor. It will save energy, create jobs, reduce pollution, and help shrink our carbon footprint. It will increase our community’s waste diversion and decrease our use of landfills. Ann Arbor will get a state-of-the-art single-stream sorting facility to produce materials that meet the quality of the current two-stream facility.

It saves money: Even with the infrastructure upgrades, trucks, and carts, the financial analysis for Ann Arbor converting to single-stream recycling shows a six-year payback on investment. Collection efficiencies with the single stream recycling program will increase substantially, saving the city money. In addition, the city will save money on reduced solid waste collection and disposal costs, as well as earning more money on recyclable materials that are collected.

The timing is right: The city's current recycling carts used at many apartment locations (comprising over half of Ann Arbor's residential population) are reaching the end of their 20-year usefulness and need to be replaced. The recycling trucks are likewise reaching retirement age and the timing is on-target for phasing-in automated arm recycling trucks. In addition, the city has a commitment to provide recycling collection services to all businesses within the city limits, and supporting a single recycling bin system provides a more cost-effective management strategy for commercial locations.

Recycling Carts

When will I get a new recycling container?

One, free 96-gallon rolling recycling cart will be delivered to each multi-unit residence over a 6-8 week period in July-August 2010. Property managers interested in ordering additional free 96-gallon carts must notify Recycle Ann Arbor by Friday, May 7, 2010. Please return the enclosed postcard or call 369.9BIN (734.369.9246).

Will all of my recyclables have to fit inside the cart?

Yes. All materials to be recycled must fit inside the cart with the lid closed, or they will not be picked up.

Is there any fee to me associated with selecting any size of recycling carts?

No. All new recycling carts delivered this summer are provided at no additional cost or fees to Ann Arbor properties as part of the solid waste millage.

Why is there a May 7, 2010 deadline for ordering additional carts?

The manufacturer's deadline for ordering carts is early May. This bulk price also includes efficient, street-by-street delivery for preordered carts. The citywide cart distribution in July and August will take 6-8 weeks, at approximately 1000 carts/day. The cart delivery coincides with the completion of the recycling plant upgrades.

What if I want to order additional carts after May 7?

After receiving your cart, if you decide you want additional cart(s), you may pick up the cart(s) at no charge from Recycle Ann Arbor, at 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A \$25 delivery fee will apply to requests to deliver additional cart(s) to your address.

What should I do with my old recycling bins?

You may keep your old bins at no charge. **Reuse of the old bins is the best option**—for continuing to store recyclables or other items. Old recycling bins may be returned to Recycle Ann Arbor, at 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., or to the Drop-Off Station, at 2950 E. Ellsworth for reuse. Anyone returning two or more bins to the Drop-Off Station will have the \$3.00 DOS entry fee waived for one-time. Residents may also place old bins into the new recycling carts for recycling (not reuse).

Recycling Collection Service

How will my recycling be picked up?

As part of a single-stream system, recyclables are placed into one recycling collection cart that is emptied by trucks with automated collection arms. Residential recycling will be collected once per week on the same day as trash collection. Residents are required to separate recyclables from trash. All multi-family locations must provide tenants with an opportunity to recycle.

Will the city use new trucks for single-stream collection?

The City of Ann Arbor has purchased four bio-diesel hybrid vehicles with automated arms to lift and empty the new single-stream recycling carts. These vehicles use 25% less fuel.

For more information, please contact:

- Recycle Ann Arbor, 734.369.9246 (369.9BIN) www.recycleannarbor.org, info@recycleannarbor.org.
- City of Ann Arbor Customer Service Center, 734.99-GREEN, www.a2gov.org/recycle, recycle@a2gov.org.