

Ann Arbor's Single-Stream Recycling

All Together Now: A new way to recycle more!

New recycling program starts Monday, July 5, 2010

What is single-stream recycling?

Single-stream recycling allows all recyclables to be placed into one recycling bin, without separating papers and containers.

Why is single-stream recycling better?

Ann Arbor's single-stream recycling is more convenient for customers, and will allow more plastics to be recycled. It diverts more waste from landfills, and is more cost-efficient to collect and process.

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?

Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™), #3 (PVC) plastics, biodegradable/PLA plastics, and plastic bags will not be accepted. Ceramics, porcelain, batteries, used motor oil and oil filters will no longer be accepted.

When will single-stream recycling begin in Ann Arbor?

Single-stream recycling will begin on Monday, July 5, 2010 for residents and businesses. On that date you will be able to recycle all the additional plastics and other materials mentioned above. The new recycle carts will not arrive immediately for everyone. Please continue to use your existing recycling stacking bins until you have received your new cart. You will be able to blend all the recyclable materials in your existing stacking bins effective July 5, 2010.

Will I get a new recycling container?

New, free recycling carts will be delivered to each residence over a 6-8 week period in July-August 2010 with approximately 1000 carts/day delivered along neighborhood routes. Businesses will be able to place all materials to be recycled in their current recycling carts and "papers only" recycling dumpsters. Apartment complexes will receive new or refurbished carts, depending on the age of the current containers.

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

All materials to be recycled must be placed inside the cart, even materials that previously had to be placed outside the bins, such as cardboard. All materials to be recycled must fit inside the cart, or they will not be picked up for recycling.

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 South 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).

When will my recycling be picked up?

Residential recycling will still be collected once per week, on the same day as trash collection. Business recycling will be collected once per week, or more as established by need.

Will the city be purchasing 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.

Ann Arbor is partnering with RecycleBank. What is RecycleBank®?

RecycleBank is a company that helps communities make the most of their recycling programs by offering rewards to residents who recycle. The RecycleBank program is offered in conjunction with single-stream recycling collection.

How does RecycleBank work?

The new recycling carts have a tag that uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to track how much is being recycled. Residents on each recycling route earn points based on how much material is recycled on the entire route. Points can be redeemed for rewards, such as discounts and offers from local and national businesses.

How do I collect my RecycleBank rewards?

First you will have to set up your account. You will be mailed instructions on setting up your RecycleBank account after the recycling carts are delivered and before September 1, 2010. Once set up, you will be able to access your RecycleBank account online or via phone to check your points and shop for rewards. More than 1500 businesses participate in the RecycleBank rewards program, and many of Ann Arbor's RecycleBank rewards will be from locally-owned businesses. Typical RecycleBank rewards include discount coupons, 2-for-1 purchase options, cash value certificates, and gift cards. Participants may also choose to donate their points to RecycleBank's Green Schools initiative, which helps provide educational grants to local schools.

Will everyone participate in RecycleBank?

The RecycleBank program initially will be available for single-family residences and duplexes. The city is working with RecycleBank to develop a new, innovative approach to allow businesses and apartment complexes to participate at a later date.

For more information please contact:

City of Ann Arbor, 734.99.GREEN, www.a2gov.org/recycle, recycle@a2gov.org.

Recycle Ann Arbor, 734.662.6288, www.recycleannarbor.org, info@recycleannarbor.org.