

# Fact Sheet: City of Ann Arbor's Single-Stream Recycling Program 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 from 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 for curbside collection.

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 Monday, July 5, 2010.

## 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 and natural resources, reduce pollution, and help shrink our carbon footprint. It will increase our community's waste diversion and decrease our dependence on 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 realize savings on reduced solid waste collection and disposal costs, as well as earning more money on the sale of increased recyclable materials.

**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 providing 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?***

A **free**, 64-gallon rolling recycling cart will be delivered to each residence over a 6-8 week period in July-August 2010. Residents interested in substituting a free larger 96-gallon cart or a mini 32-gallon cart must notify Recycle Ann Arbor of this selection by Friday, May 7, 2010. Please visit [www.RecycleAnnArbor.org](http://www.RecycleAnnArbor.org) 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 for recycling.

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

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

(continued on  
other side) 

(continued from  
other side)

### **Why is there a May 7, 2010 deadline for changing my recycling cart size?**

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 change my cart after May 7?**

After receiving your cart, if you decide you want a different size, you may exchange the cart at no charge by bringing it to Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 South Industrial Hwy., open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A \$25 delivery fee will apply to requests to pickup and deliver a replacement cart to your address.

### **How about businesses and multi-family locations?**

Businesses will be able to place all materials to be recycled in their current "papers only" recycling dumpsters or use new or refurbished carts, depending on the age of the current containers. Most apartment complexes will receive new recycling carts to replace the containers that have been in-use for nearly 20 years.

### **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).

## **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 weekly 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. Multi-family and business recycling will be collected weekly, or as established by need.

### **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.

## **ANN ARBOR IS PARTNERING WITH RECYCLE BANK®**

### **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. After the recycling carts are delivered and before September 1, 2010, you will be mailed instructions on setting up your RecycleBank account. 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 1,500 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:**



**Recycle Ann Arbor**  
369.9BIN (734.369.9246)  
[www.recycleannarbor.org](http://www.recycleannarbor.org)  
[info@recycleannarbor.org](mailto:info@recycleannarbor.org)



**City of Ann Arbor**  
734.99-GREEN  
[www.a2gov.org/recycle](http://www.a2gov.org/recycle)  
[recycle@a2gov.org](mailto:recycle@a2gov.org)