March 2011

Frequently Asked Questions about the Residential Recycling Program

What is the residential recycling program?

In the fall of 2010, the City implemented an improved curbside residential recycling system that was designed to make recycling more convenient for residents by providing them with larger recycling carts. Complete information about this new system is available on the City web site by following the link to "Recycling at Home".

How does the recycling program help the City meet its Eco-City Alexandria goals?

The goal of this new recycling system was to improve the residential recycling capacity and participation rate so that the City could meet its stated Eco-City goals of a 35% recycling rate by the year 2011.

Where can I find more information about the recycling program and the new recycling collection container system?

Complete information about the City's new residential recycling program is available on the City web site at the link above or by reading our FAQ page.

How can I exchange my container for a smaller or larger size?

Residents may call the Solid Waste Division at (703) 746-4410 to request a recycling container exchange or submit an online request Online Web Portal. For more information on recycling container sizes see: New Curbside Recycling Container System.

Will the Circuit Court decision affect recycling service?

No changes to your existing recycling services are expected.

Will my service be interrupted?

No, recycling collection service will continue as normal without interruption.

Will my recycling collection day change?

No, your service day will remain the same as your refuse collection day.

Will the time of day my recycling is collected change?

Depending upon how the contractor structures the collection route, the time of your recycling collection may change. Residents are reminded that both refuse and recycling containers should be set out for collection by 6:00am to ensure service and that containers may be set out for collection after 5:00pm on the day prior to their scheduled collection day if necessary.

Will the types of acceptable recyclable material change?

No changes to the current Acceptable Materials List are expected. However, residents should be aware that the types of material that are now accepted in our "single stream" recycling system have expanded greatly since its introduction. We encourage residents to review "Yes/No List" list on the City web page.

Will this new contract change my refuse fee?

No, the refuse fee will remain the same. The only time the refuse fee may change is through approval by city council whereupon the fee changes would take place at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Are we going to have another "cart roll-out" and "exchange period" or will we continue to use the carts that we have already received?

Residents will continue to use their current recycling containers.

Will the new recycling collection service provide for alley collection of containers?

It is the City's intention to provide for collection of recycling containers from the same location as refuse containers whenever possible, but this provision has not yet been guaranteed.

Will my "Backdoor (Walk-out) Service" continue?

Yes, Backdoor Collection Service will continue without the need to resubmit an application.