

New Recycling Cart Information

General Description of new recycling cart program:

- The City of Alexandria Solid Waste Division, as part of Eco-City Alexandria, is committed to protecting the environment, delivering sustainable services, and being responsible with public funds.
- After careful research, study and customer requests, City staff has selected a blue wheeled cart as the new standard for collecting recycling at most City households, replacing the 18 gallon yellow bin for single family homes.
- The new recycling system is designed to increase the amount of recyclables collected curbside. The list of materials able to be recycled curbside has been expanded significantly, including: Hardcover books, rigid plastics including buckets, pails, laundry baskets, and milk and juice cartons.
- The new wheeled cart will make recycling easier and more convenient. The cart is designed to hold bulky items that may be difficult to break-down such as cardboard boxes and larger plastic items like toys and plastic laundry hampers.
- Included in the new program is an educational component aimed at increasing the number of residents who participate in the curbside recycling program.
- The program is designed to save money by increasing participation and increasing material recovery for recycling. It is less expensive to process a ton of material through a recycling facility than to dispose of it as trash. By shifting items from your green trash cart to your new recycling cart, you will help save disposal costs.
- Carts will be assigned by housing type based on City housing classifications (i.e. Detached home, Semi-Detached, Row, etc). Recycling container sizes include 18, 35, and 64 gallon containers. The 18 gallon bin will not have a lid or wheels.
- Implementation of the program will begin in late October 2010. Residents will receive a postcard with additional delivery time frame in the fall.

Features of the new carts:

- Greater capacity - your new recycling cart will allow more room for you to accommodate the increased materials that can be recycled all together in the new recycling cart.
 - Materials include: mixed paper, newspaper, plastics #1-7, rigid plastics, coat hangers, aluminum bottles and cans, glass, aluminum foil and trays, plastic - bags in a bag, empty aerosol cans, books, cardboard, gable top juice and milk containers, and paperboard
- Easier to roll to the curb – the old bins were clumsy and difficult to carry.
- Safety of citizens and collection staff – the new cart has wheels and can be emptied semi-automatically which protects both citizens and collection staff.

- Able to target outreach efforts - All of the new recycling carts will have a RFID tag (radio frequency identification) tag (like a barcode) on them which will keep track recycling participation by block. This will allow for the Solid Waste Division to target educational mailings to neighborhoods who are not currently recycling, and focus education and outreach there is more of a fundamental need.
- Community Cleanliness- Lid on cart minimizes spillage, material blown by winds, and keeps the material dry.

General Information for cart use:

- Each recycling cart is assigned to a house and stays with the house if the resident moves.
- Use the carts- putting recyclables curbside in plastic bags jams the sorting machines and creates community cleanliness issues because bags are often torn open by animals.
- Maximize recycling- The extra-capacity in the cart is there so that the added materials can be recycled and for the addition of new materials in the future.
- There will be opportunity to request an adjustment to your recycling container size after the delivery of all carts.
- The carts are property of the City and are to remain with the property when residents move.

What about my yellow bin?

The City will offer options for reuse. For instance, the City is recommending residents reuse the old yellow bins for:

- In-home recycling container
- Local school classroom recycling container
- Storage container for gardening, firewood, sweaters or old toys

Residents will also be able to recycle the yellow bin through the curbside recycling program.

RFID Tag Information

The new carts will include a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Tag, comparable to a barcode that can be read by the collection truck once placed within about 12 inches of the truck.

The Solid Waste Division does not track customers by individual names, only by the addresses we serve. The RFID tag will be assigned to the customer based on block number and street name.

RFID tags can be potentially used in the following ways:

- To generate an accurate and comprehensive participation rate reports approximately twice a year. Participation will be looked at by the day and route level not at the individual level.
- To provided additional education and outreach to neighborhoods who do not participate as often as others. This may occur once or twice a year based on funding available. This education and outreach will provide information about the benefits of recycling and provide additional contact information if residents have questions. Recycling is not mandatory in the City and residents are encouraged to recycle based on the economic and environmental benefits. By targeting outreach the City can save money on postage and printing.
- To take advantage of recycling rewards programs, such as RecycleBank (www.recyclebank.com).

The RFID tags will **not**:

- Track how much you recycle
- Track what you recycle
- Track who you are

Cart and RFID tag Costs

On February 1, the City awarded the curbside recycling collection contract through a Request of Proposal process. The City awarded to the new contractor not only based on lowest price but also past performance. Even though the City did award to the lowest bidder, the cost of collection increased, which contributed to the Solid Waste User Fee increase.

The \$9 cost per year (a net increase of \$5 from the current fee) includes the following:

- Carts = \$6.93 or \$.77 per month
 - RFID tag (approximately \$1)
 - Assembly and Distribution of the carts by the contractor
 - Maintenance of the carts (i.e. the contractor is responsible for the costs of replacing lids, lift bars, wheels, etc.) over the next 10 years
- Collection Costs: \$2.07 or \$.17 per month

The Solid Waste User Fee went from \$331 to \$336 for 2010. The Solid Waste User Fee includes the cost of trash and recycling collection, trash disposal, leaf and Christmas tree collection, and Spring Clean Up.