

Residential Recycling Program Update

City Council Workshop

Monday, 1/26/2009

Current Recycling Program

- Current program began in 1994
- Voluntary Program
- Weekly collection
- 8 types of material collected in 2 bins
- About 40% of the homes & small businesses participate



Concerns with 2 Bin Recycling

- Current recycling trucks are aging and need to be replaced over next 2 years
- Bins are loaded in truck by hand; can result in injuries
- Bins have relatively small capacity (13 gallons each)



Concerns with 2 Bin Recycling

- Weight of recycling collected has declined since 1999
- Recycling decline is due to:
 - Plastic replacing glass
 - Containers are thinner
 - Decline in size of paper publications
 - Elimination of recycling marketing position in '97



Single Cart Recycling Pilot

- Single cart pilot started in 2005
- Issued single carts to about 1,600 homes
- All Recycling is collected every other week in a single large cart
- 15 types of material collected in a single cart



Single Cart Recycling



Garbage carts are black

Recycle carts are either teal or burgundy

Single Cart Results

- Participation increased to about 50% vs. 40% with 2 bins
- Amount collected increased 25.6% over previous year while recycling dropped 16.7 % in the 2 bin part of the City over the same period
- 65 gallon carts are often over filled in SE area; began to issue 96 gallon carts for balance of pilot

Benefits of Single Cart Recycling

- Increase in weight recycled
 - Savings in disposal fee (County tipping fee recently increased to \$32.65/ton)
 - Environmental benefits
- Collection savings over current method
 - Less Fuel used
 - Same truck as garbage route
 - Fewer routes

Challenges of Single Cart Recycling

- Carts are more expensive (\$53.50 each vs. \$4.63 each for bins)
- Cost to provide bins for remaining service area will be \$ 2,340,625
- Large cart can be hard to store
- Loss of recycling revenue (\$ 82,000/yr)



Fiscal Impact of Single Cart Recycling

- With 40% participation, switching to recycle carts will save \$141,719/yr
- With 55% participation, switching to recycle carts will be revenue neutral
- Anything greater than 55% will cost more than the current operation
- Increased participation costs more because:
 - the price of carts (\$53.50 vs. \$9.26/ home)
 - More trucks and drivers are required
- After 5 yrs the savings will increase by \$300,000/yr

Implementation Steps

- Secure funding for lease purchase of carts
- Order & equip trucks
- Design cart recycling routes
- Everyone has a day change
- Customer Outreach
- Implement from west to east
- When product market improves issue RFP for recycling materials

Customer Outreach

- Coordinate with Offices of Neighborhood Services & Communications
- Letter mailed to each customer
- Community meetings
- Info on each cart when delivered
- Briefings with each Commissioner



Implementation Timetable

- Identify funding for carts & trucks - 1 month
- Cart selection process - 2 months
- Cart award & production - 2 months
- Delivery to customer (50-60% participate)
 - 3 to 4 months
- Total time to implement cart based recycling is 9 months

What does this change do?

- Breathe life back into a faltering recycling program
- Dramatically expands the types of materials a customer can recycle
- Big step forward in our effort to help our customers live a more sustainable life
- Better Positions the SW fund for long term health