

New Recycling Carts Coming Your Way!

If you receive solid waste through a private contractor or through your home owners association, this new recycling program does not apply. If you receive solid waste service from the City of West Des Moines, this program applies to you. Your



new recycling cart is going to find its way to the end of your driveway in the month of June. While you will be very excited to start using the cart for the new recycling program, it is important to understand that you cannot place it at the curb until your regular pick up day on or after Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

The cart lid will have two stickers on it. One sticker will be similar to what is seen below, explaining what can be recycled in the cart. The second sticker is a three-year calendar, highlighting which week your recyclables will be collected. Since the program is switching to every other week collection, you will no longer place your cart at the curb every week. This will help reduce gasoline consumption and wear and tear on city roads.

In addition, the new program is fully automated. This means that the driver stays in the truck and will use a mechanical arm to pick up the cart and pour the recyclables into the back of the truck. It is extremely important that when you start to use your cart that you place it correctly on the curb. Here are some easy tips to follow:

- Place your cart within 18 inches of the curb
- Place the cart so the short metal bar is facing the street (see photo above)
- Do not place the cart under trees with low hanging branches
- Place the cart at least 6 feet away from permanent structures (walls, lamp posts, utility poles, vehicles, mailboxes, etc.)
- Make sure your cart is on a level surface
- Place your cart 3 to 6 feet away from your yard waste bags, premium yard waste cart, and garbage cart
- Make sure the lid is closed (if the lid is open when the items are dumped, items may litter the street)

Get excited, your new recycling cart, complimentary of Metro Waste Authority, will soon arrive!

What can be recycled in the new carts?



Plastic containers
"necked" bottles and
yogurt/margarine tubs



**Tin and
aluminum
cans**



**Glass jars
and bottles**
ALL colors



Newspaper
including inserts
Mixed paper
including junk mail,
phone books, magazines
Cardboard
break down and cut
to fit into container

For more information:
www.recycleandroll.com



Metro Waste Authority
Your Partner in Environmental Solutions

Frequently Asked Questions about the New Recycling Program

Who does the new recycling plan apply to?

This applies to everyone who receives solid waste service from the City of West Des Moines. If you receive solid waste through a private contractor or through your home owners association, this new recycling plan will not apply.

Can I continue using my recycle bin at the curb, after the program starts on July 1? Once the program starts, you will no longer be able to set out your green bin for recycling. However, we have a list on the web site offering many ideas for using the bin — from personal storage to donations to local schools.

Will I have to pay for the new cart?

Residents will not be billed for the carts. One will be provided to each single family residence, by Metro Waste Authority (MWA).

Will there be an increase in cost for me as a resident to use the new program? MWA is not going to charge the cities more than what is currently being charged for the curb side recycling program.

I don't think I have enough recyclables to fill up a new large cart – is there an option to get a smaller cart?

Residents are encouraged to try the new 96-gallon cart when the program begins. Cart trials throughout the Des Moines and Metro area have shown that most residents will need this size because:

- Recycling is easier so you end up recycling more.
- You will need storage for two weeks of recyclables since collection will be switched from weekly to every other week.
- All cardboard will need to be broken down and placed in the container for pick up.
- All recyclables have to fit inside of the cart (imagine holidays, celebrations and events in your home; your cart will fill up quickly with recyclables).

Why is the collection of recyclables being switched from weekly to every other week?

Fewer trips of collection trucks down city roads has cost-saving and environmental benefits:

- Reduces wear and tear on roads; your community will save money on road repair.
- Uses less fuel. Your community will be doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. Fuel costs will also be reduced, which is one reason this program can be provided as economically as the current curb side collection program.
- And, recyclables can be safely stored for several weeks. They do not break down, so they do not cause odor problems or present human health hazards like garbage.

I receive solid waste service from the City. Am I required to participate in the new recycling plan?

If you prefer to not recycle at all, call Metro Waste Authority at 323-6514 before April 6 and you will not receive a recycling cart.