

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2010

RECYCLING COLLECTION – NEW PROGRAM

Beginning in May, 2010, the Town of Vernon will begin expanding the existing single stream recycling program with an exciting new method of collection -- the automated system.

Phase 1 of the new recycling program will include approximately 4,000 residential homes. These homes are being selected to maintain the daily routes that are currently in place. As a result, your current recycling day will **not** change.

Automated collection is a technologically advanced system for curbside pickup, designed to improve the efficiency of recycling collection. The system is called “automated” because a special truck, equipped with a mechanical arm, automatically lifts and empties special containers without the driver leaving the cab of the truck.

Automated collection also works to improve the appearance of the Town. The special covered, wheeled carts eliminate blowing litter and give a uniform look to our streets on collection day. Another benefit to the Town is that automation greatly reduces the injury potential for employees.

There are financial benefits, as well. Increasing the size of recycling containers enable residents to recycle more materials with less effort. The more recyclables removed from the waste stream save the Town money on tipping fees which are required for trash disposal. Smaller tipping fees require fewer tax dollars that need to be allocated at budget time.

Because of the larger container size, this process is also designed to make the task of recycling easier and cleaner for residents, which will help with our “green” efforts by recycling more items rather than adding them to landfills.

Each residence that is selected in Phase 1 will receive, at no additional charge, a blue, wheeled recycling cart. The carts are available in two sizes, small (64 gallons) or large (96 gallons). DPW recycling personnel will evaluate the proper size for you; however, you can request one of those two sizes as well. Carts are available for viewing at the Department of Public Works located at 375 Hartford Turnpike (Route 30). Additional carts are available for purchase by residents.

Specific routes will be announced during April so that you may prepare for these changes.

When the cart is delivered, it will be placed in the suggested location for pick up. Please place your cart in this suggested location each week. Please place only **full** carts, whenever possible,

out for pick up. This will help with efficiency. Arrangements can be made for large quantities of recyclables by contacting DPW.

The goal of the new program is to ultimately provide automated recycling service to the entire Town, increase recycling rates, and make the process of recycling easier for residents through the most efficient, cost effective way currently available. This new system is the next step in improving recycling service to our residents. Residents may call 860-870-3500 with questions.

Visit our web site at vernon-ct.gov.

Jason L. McCoy, Mayor

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Questions and Answers about Automated Recycling Collection

Is my collection day changing?

NO - your collection day will remain the same. Please have your cart out at 7:00 am on your day of collection. 6:00 am during daylight savings.

Can I use another container?

NO - only the carts issued by the town can be used. Items left outside the carts will not be collected. Carts that are blocked or turned the wrong way cannot be emptied.

What can I put in the cart for recycling collection?

Items that went into your orange recycling bin (bottles, cans, small metal items, #1 and #2 plastics, newspapers, boxboard and cardboard.)

Does cardboard have to be bundled and tied?

Cardboard does NOT have to be bundled and tied. To prevent cardboard from being jammed too tightly, we ask that you cut or flatten the cardboard so that the container can be easily emptied.

How full should my recycling cart be when I set it out?

It is most efficient and economical for our trucks to make stops for full, or nearly full carts. Also, it improves air quality when trucks don't have to make unnecessary stops. If your cart is not full and you feel you can wait until the next collection cycle, please do not put your cart out.

What size is the recycling cart?

Initially most households will receive a **96**-gallon recycling cart. If a resident has a valid concern about size, department staff would be happy to discuss options.



An Incorrect Cart.

All waste must be placed inside the

Where should I put my cart?

Carts must be placed at least three feet from obstacles such as utility poles, mailboxes, trees, and parked cars. Carts must be within two feet of the curb edge. Make sure the container handle faces away from the street toward your home. When your carts are delivered, they will be placed in the most ideal location for service. Please place the containers in that same location each week for collection.

Why do the handles on my recycling container need to be facing my house?

The automated collection truck cannot turn the container around as it picks it up. Dumping the container “backwards” can break or damage the lid.

Why do I need to provide space between other carts or other items out for collection?

A different vehicle collects each item, so access is important. Also, the collection arm on the automated truck requires space to make the collection safely so that it will not tip over other containers or damage your property. Please keep the containers away from mail boxes, fire hydrants, telephone poles and other obstacles that may interfere with the collection. A minimum of 3’ will be needed from any obstacle to safely collect your container.

When should I put the cart out?

Your cart must be at the curb by 7:00 am on your trash day (6:00am during daylight savings time). After your cart is emptied, remove it from the curb that day.

Will a 64-gallon cart be sufficient for my recycling? What if I need more than one cart?

Experience has shown that the larger the better when choosing carts. More and more items are becoming recyclable so a 96-gallon cart may be a better choice for families. One cart will be issued per household. Additional carts can be purchased for a fee.

What if my cart gets damaged or stolen?

The carts are the property of the Town of Vernon and each one is assigned an address and a serial number. All reports of damage or theft will be investigated and should be reported to the Refuse and Recycling department office at 860-870-3500. If our collection truck caused the damage, we will replace the cart at no charge to you. If the damage is from any other cause, the resident is responsible for replacement. Wheels, lids, and axles are normally replaced at no cost to the resident. Please DO NOT write house numbers or put any other marking on the carts. The cart is the property of the Town of Vernon. If you move, please leave the cart at your home or the next owner will be charged for a new cart.

What should I do with my old recycling bin?

If you do not wish to keep your old recycling bin, please place a note, PLEASE TAKE, on the bin the week of your first automated collection and a separate truck will be by to collect it. Consider using the old bin for storage of recyclables, when full empty into your wheeled cart.

How can I have a question answered that is not listed? You may call Vernon Public Works at 860-870-3500.