What is single-stream recycling?
Single-stream recycling allows all recyclables to be placed into one recycling bin without separating papers from containers. (Single-stream recycling does not mean placing trash and recyclables into the same cart—customers still have to separate recyclables from trash.)

What new materials will be accepted?
All plastic bottles and tubs (except #3/PVC and biodegradable plastics/PLA) will be added. New types of materials that will be accepted include clean yogurt and margarine tubs, berry boxes, most microwave freezer trays and most carryout containers (not Styrofoam™). Large bulky plastic #2/HDPE items, such as laundry baskets and buckets, will be accepted.

What materials will not be accepted?
Biodegradable/PLA plastics, #3 (PVC) plastics, Pyrex and ceramics will not be accepted because they contaminate the regional plastic and glass markets. These materials melt at different temperatures and cause unacceptable “Swiss cheese-like” holes in new plastic products, or create lumps in new glass items. Ann Arbor’s single-stream program will also not accept plastic bags or polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™) because these items clog and break the sorting machinery. Lastly, household batteries, used motor oil, and oil filters will no longer be accepted since these toxic materials cannot be placed inside the recycling carts. Drop-off locations for these items are available. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at most stores that sell rechargeables (e.g., Best Buy, Target, Radio Shack, Batteries Plus, etc.). As of the last ten years, U.S.-made alkaline batteries have not contained added mercury, so the original rationale for collecting non-rechargeables has become obsolete.

When will single-stream recycling begin in Ann Arbor?
Single-stream recycling will start for everyone in Ann Arbor on Monday, July 5, 2010. On that date, you will be able to recycle all the additional plastics and other materials mentioned above. You will no longer be able to recycle batteries, motor oil, or oil filters for curbside collection.

The new recycling carts will not arrive immediately for everyone. Please continue to use your existing recycling stacking bins until you have received your new cart. You will be able to blend all the recyclable materials in your existing stacking bins effective July 5, 2010.
ANN ARBOR IS PARTNERING WITH RECYCLEBANK®

What is RecycleBank?
RecycleBank is a company that helps communities make the most of their recycling programs by offering rewards to residents who recycle. The RecycleBank program is offered in conjunction with single-stream recycling collection.

How does RecycleBank work?
The new recycling carts have a tag that uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to track how much is being recycled. Residents on each recycling route earn points based on how much material is recycled on the entire route. Points can be redeemed for rewards – such as discounts and offers – from local and national businesses.

Will everyone participate in RecycleBank?
The RecycleBank program initially will be available starting September 1, 2010 for residents in single-family and duplex homes. The city is working with RecycleBank to develop a new, innovative approach to allow businesses and apartment complexes to participate at a later date.

How do I collect my RecycleBank rewards?
Eligible residents will be mailed information in August on how to set up a free RecycleBank account. Once set up, participants will be able to access their RecycleBank account online or by phone to check points and shop for rewards. More than 1,500 businesses participate in the RecycleBank rewards program, and many of Ann Arbor’s RecycleBank rewards will be from locally-owned businesses.

RECYCLING CARTS

When will I get a new recycling container?
Free rolling recycling carts will be delivered to all residences and apartment complexes over a 6-8 week period in July-August 2010.

Will all of my recyclables have to fit inside the cart?
Yes. All materials to be recycled must fit inside the cart with the lid closed, or they will not be picked up for recycling.

What if I want to change my cart after May 7?
After receiving your cart, if you decide you want a different size, you may exchange the cart at no charge by bringing it to Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A $25 delivery fee will apply to requests to pickup and deliver a replacement cart to your address.

How about businesses and multi-family locations?
Businesses will be able to place all recyclable materials in current “papers only” recycling dumpsters or use new or refurbished carts, depending on the age of the current containers. Most apartment complexes will receive new recycling carts to replace the containers that have been in-use for nearly 20 years.

What should I do with my old recycling bins?
You may keep your old bins at no charge. Reuse of the old bins is the best option—for continuing to store recyclables or other items. Old recycling bins may be returned to Recycle Ann Arbor, at 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., or to the Drop-Off Station, at 2950 E. Ellsworth for reuse. Anyone returning two or more bins to the Drop-Off Station will have the $3.00 DOS entry fee waived for one time. Residents may also place old bins into the new recycling carts for recycling (not reuse).

RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE

How will my recycling be picked up?
As part of a single-stream system, recyclables are placed into one recycling collection cart that is emptied by trucks with automated collection arms. Residential recycling will be collected once per week on the same day as trash collection. Residents are required to separate recyclables from trash. All multi-family locations must provide tenants with an opportunity to recycle. Business recycling will be collected once per week, or more often as established by need.

Will the city use new trucks for single-stream collection?
The City of Ann Arbor has purchased four bio-diesel hybrid vehicles with automated arms to lift and empty the new single-stream recycling carts. These vehicles use 25% less fuel.