

MEMO

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
FROM: Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator *ja*
RE: Curbside Recycling Program Update
DATE: July 24, 1991

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
617-349-4800

Attached are statistics for Week One of the curbside recycling program. City wide, we recycled 22% of the trash stream. It is unlikely that subsequent weeks will reflect a similarly high rate because residents have probably been stockpiling material for several weeks in anticipation of the curbside start date. It is, however, a very promising sign that we will meet or exceed our goals of a 10% recycling rate in year 1 and a 15% recycling rate in year 2.

We are currently fielding a number of common questions from residents as the curbside recycling program moves forward. The following information has been provided to the Tab, the Chronicle and cable television and may prove useful to you as a reference.

Recycling Bins

Blue recycling bins were delivered to all households in buildings with 12 or fewer units that receive city trash collection. Households that were missed during delivery week are welcome to pick up a bin at the DPW between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. We ask people to bring proof of residency. If someone is unable to come to DPW during those hours, please have them call 349-4800 or 349-4860. We will make other arrangements for them.

The City has a reserve of about 2,000 recycling bins. This reserve should allow us to replace lost or stolen bins at least through January 1992. Because of the high tenant turnover in the City, we felt that it would be too costly to replace bins on a long term basis. We are working with area stores to make the bins available to Cambridge residents once the City's reserves are depleted.

Missed Recycling Pickups

We have received some reports of recyclables being set out, but not picked up. We try to remind people that the Laidlaw recycling trucks do not come at the same time of day as the Public Works trucks, so it is important to have recyclables out by 7:00 a.m. regardless of when their trash is picked up. One



Laidlaw truck will collect glass, plastics and metals. A second Laidlaw truck will collect newspaper bundles. Therefore, newspaper may not be picked up at the same time as the blue bin is emptied. If a resident's bin or newspaper has truly been missed, they should call 349-4860. If we receive the call before 11:00 a.m., we will complete the pick up the same day. If we receive it after 11:00 a.m., we will complete the pick up the next day.

Materials Preparation

Laidlaw will leave a rejection sticker on the bin if the bin contains unacceptable or improperly prepared material. Residents have the greatest number of question about preparing wine and liquor bottles for recycling. There are often metal or plastic collars and rings around bottle necks that are easy to overlook.

Returnable bottles and cans

Returnable bottles and cans that are put in curbside recycling bins are not redeemed for the deposits, but are recycled along with the other materials. This has caused some confusion because it means that caps, tops, collars and rings have to be removed from deposit bottles, unlike people's past experience of bringing them back to the store, or leaving them at the drop-off center, where the caps, collars and rings could be left on.

Scavenging

We have received numerous reports of individuals, with or without vehicles, going down streets and removing returnable bottles and cans from the blue bins. The Recycling Ordinance contains an anti-scavenging provision which calls for a warning and then a fine upon the second offense of \$25 for each bin from which materials are removed. The majority of calls that we have received regarding scavenging are from people who have been disturbed at the removal of materials from their bins by unauthorized collectors, either because they were awakened by the noise, or because they had carefully prepared their materials according to instructions for participation in the City program and didn't want them removed by others. A few people have called to express concern that penalties for scavenging could hurt homeless and low income people trying to supplement their income.

Residents who would like to leave returnables to be picked up by someone other than Laidlaw are free to do so, as long as the returnables are not left in the blue bin. Residents who find it inconvenient to redeem their bottles and cans at stores that only take some brands can use redemption centers such as ABC Redemption Center Inc. at 630 Somerville Ave. in Somerville (776-5670) or Highland Redemption Center at 151 Highland Ave. in Somerville (623-0366).

While we want to discourage scavenging, it is unclear how

practical or desirable an aggressive enforcement effort would be.

Hotline

While recycling bins and missed pick up questions should be referred to 349-4860 or 349-4800, other questions can be referred to our Recycling Hotline, 349-4005.

Recycling in Apartment Buildings

A "Guide to Recycling in Apartment Buildings" will be distributed to owners/managers/Board of Trustees in the fall. The guide will include planning worksheets that must be filled out for each building and submitted to the City for approval.

Owner/managers/Boards of Trustees have 6 months from the time they receive the Guide to submit the plan. A six month extension will be granted if requested. Any building that is interested in serving as a pilot program should contact me at 349-4866.

Businesses will be asked to recycle on the same schedule as apartment buildings.

In the meantime, our drop-off center at 147 Hampshire Street is available to apartment dwellers. Hours are:

Saturday 8:30 - 3:30

Sunday 10:30 - 1:30

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 6:30

DATE	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TOTAL
RECYCL	9.65	8.60	7.82	9.72	7.90	43.69
NEWS	30.99	30.39	22.75	22.33	22.31	128.77
TOTAL	40.64	38.99	30.57	32.05	30.21	172.46
RECYCL						
TRASH	118.97	106.33	118.81	123.96	114.90	582.97
TOTAL	159.61	145.32	149.38	156.01	145.11	755.43
TRASH &						
RECYCL						
%	25.46	26.83	20.46	20.54	20.82	22.24
RECYCLE						



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

August 7, 1991
~~XXXXXX~~
~~July 29, 1991~~

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Attached for your information, please find an update to the Cambridge Curbside Recycling Program, received from Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachments

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM # 38

Update on the Curbside Recycling
Program.

5-928

In City Council,

August 7, 1991

Placed on file