



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EXPANDED RECYCLING IN THE DOWNTOWN RECYCLING AND TRASH SERVICE DISTRICT

### **Why is the City of Austin switching to Single Stream Recycling in the Downtown Recycling and Trash Service District?**

In 2009, City Council passed Texas' first Zero Waste Plan and set a goal to reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills by 90 percent by 2040. To reach Zero Waste, we need to maximize recycling throughout Austin.

Single Stream Recycling also helps businesses in the City's Downtown Recycling and Trash Service District meet the requirements of the Universal Recycling Ordinance, which goes into effect Oct. 1, 2012.

### **What downtown businesses will have this new expanded recycling service?**

This expanded recycling service is available to all properties and businesses in the [Downtown Service District service area](#), which includes service in these alleys:

- Alleys north and south of E. 6th Street from West Frontage Road to Congress Avenue
- Alleys east and west of Congress Avenue from 2nd to 11th streets
- Warehouse District alleys from 3rd to 6th streets, Colorado to Guadalupe streets
- Marriott Courtyard and Residence Inn/Eddie V's alley
- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH)/Salvation Army alley

### **What materials can we recycle?**

The new Single Stream Recycling service allows your business to place these materials in any of the recycling dumpsters, with **no sorting required**:

- Flattened cardboard
- Mixed paper, including mail
- Newspapers, magazines and phone books
- Aluminum, tin and steel cans
- Hard plastic containers #1-7
- Glass containers

### **How do we prepare materials for recycling?**

- Flatten boxes
- Drain bottles, jars, cans and other containers
- Rinse off food residue
- Do **NOT** put recyclables in plastic bags

### **What should we keep out of the Single Stream Recycling dumpsters?**

The following items are considered trash and should **NOT** be placed in new recycling dumpsters:

- Food and food-soiled paper
- Plastic bags
- Plastic film and wrap
- Paper cups, plates and napkins
- Styrofoam
- Waxed produce boxes
- Paper towels or tissues
- Shredded paper
- Straws

### **My business generates lots of food scraps. Does this effort address keeping compostable materials out of the trash?**

No. This Single Stream Recycling service recovers only recyclables and not compostable materials. If you'd like to start composting, call us at 974-1964 for more information.

### **Can we use any alley dumpsters labeled for recycling?**

Yes. All the recycling dumpsters in the alley will accept all the recyclable materials. That means more convenient access to dumpsters and shorter walks with loads of recyclables. Similarly, businesses in this service district can place trash in any of the alley trash dumpsters.

### **Will my bill go up because of this additional service?**

No. The City of Austin is able to make recycling easier and add more recyclables to this service without raising fees. Additional costs will be offset with revenue from the sale of recyclable materials.

### **When can businesses start taking advantage of Single Stream Recycling?**

Starting **April 2**, businesses can put all the Single Stream recyclables in any of the recycling dumpsters, including the existing dumpsters that are labeled for recycling glass or paper. Replacing the existing dumpsters will take six weeks to eight weeks.

### **Can the City help me educate my employees?**

During the transition to Single Stream Recycling, Austin Resource Recovery will provide posters and brochures for businesses to share with employees or post in prominent locations, as well as a few recycling bins for inside your workplace.

Austin Resource Recovery is available to meet with you and your employees to provide more information about Single Stream Recycling and how to implement it in your business. To schedule a briefing or to request materials, please call 974-1964.

**What if the trash or recycling dumpsters in the alley are overflowing?**

The City of Austin and Waste Management will monitor both trash and recycling dumpsters to minimize overflow. If the dumpsters are overflowing, please call 974-1964 so we can adjust the number, size or service frequency of dumpsters. Waste Management will continue to empty the trash dumpsters daily and will empty the new Single Stream Recycling dumpsters twice per week.

**When will our alley get the new expanded recycling dumpsters?**

Waste Management will start replacing the existing recycling dumpsters with expanded recycling dumpsters one block at a time beginning on **April 2**. The transition for the entire service area will take about six to eight weeks.

**What will the new recycling dumpsters look like?**

The new recycling dumpsters are tan with yellow lids and have labels that list all the recyclable materials they accept.

**Who will provide the new expanded recycling service?**

The City of Austin contracts with Waste Management to provide both trash and recycling services in the Downtown Recycling and Trash Service District.

**How is expanded recycling more convenient?**

Expanding the list of recyclable materials and adding more recycling dumpsters translates to more convenience both inside and outside of your business. Inside, you can place all of the accepted recyclable materials in any recycling bin. Outside in the alleys, there will be more recycling dumpsters that can handle all the materials, which means shorter distances to carry recyclables.

**How often will the trash and recycling dumpsters be emptied?**

Waste Management will continue emptying the trash dumpsters daily and recycling dumpsters twice per week. Recycling collection will be scheduled during the week to match the incoming flow of materials.

**Where do the recyclable materials go?**

The service provider, Waste Management, will take the recyclables to one of the material processing centers in the region.

**Why can't we place shredded paper in the recycling dumpsters? Isn't it recyclable?**

Shredded paper is recyclable, but it's not compatible with this recycling service. This service requires materials to be loose, which would be a litter issue with shredded paper. We encourage businesses to find an alternative recycling option for shredded paper.

**Where can I get more information?**

Visit [www.austinrecycles.com](http://www.austinrecycles.com) or call 974-1964 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.