

Single-Stream Recycling FAQ's

What is single-stream recycling?

- Single-stream isn't anything fancy. It simply refers to a new system that takes two recycling "streams" collected— mixed paper and commingled bins — and puts them together in one 96 gallon roll-out cart. Voila. Single-stream.

Why should we have single-stream recycling?

- Using just one larger collection mobile container for all your recyclable items increases the ease and convenience of recycling so that more people participate and more resources are saved. We're making recycling easier for you — at home, at work and on the go.
- Single-stream offers more efficient collections for the haulers who normally have to run two recycling routes to collect the two streams. This decreases the most costly part of recycling programs as well as the pollution from collection vehicles. More than 60% of what we currently place in our trash and eventually fill up our landfills with can be recycled. Single-stream offers a more efficient way to do that.
- State and city officials enacted laws mandating recycling and setting arbitrary goals for many states even higher than the E.P.A.'s—this includes NC. They estimate 75% of what Americans throw in the trash can be recycled. Currently NC has 33 major categories of items banned from landfills and more on the way in 2012. Recycling is no longer a suggestion—it's the law.

What are the potential advantages to single-stream?

- Reduced sorting effort by residents may mean more recyclables are placed at the curb and more residents may participate in recycling – more volume and participation per household;
- Reduced collection costs because single-compartment trucks are cheaper to purchase and operate, collection can be automated, and collection routes can be

serviced more efficiently;

- Use of single compartment vehicles provides greater fleet flexibility and reduces the number of reserve vehicles needed.
- Worker injuries may be decreased when switching from bins to carts
- Changing to single-stream often adds new materials to the list of recyclables accepted, such as more paper grades may be collected (including junk mail, telephone books, and mixed residential paper), cardboard may be collected, etc.

What materials can I recycle under single-stream?

Aluminum food and beverage containers

Glass food and beverage containers – brown, clear, or green

Ferrous (Iron) cans

PET plastic containers with the symbol #1 – with screw tops only, without caps

HDPE natural plastic containers with the symbol #2 – narrow neck containers only (milk and water bottles)

HDPE pigmented plastic containers with the symbol #2 – narrow neck containers only, without caps (detergent, shampoo bottles, etc.)

Plastics with symbols #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 – narrow and screw top containers

Newsprint

Old corrugated cardboard

Magazines

Catalogs

Cereal boxes and paperboard

Telephone books

Printer paper

Copier paper

Mail and all other office paper WITHOUT wax liners

What materials can NOT be recycled under single-stream?

Microwave trays

Mirrors

Window or auto glass

Light Bulbs

Ceramics

Porcelain

Plastic bags

Coat hangers

Glass cookware/bake ware

Household items such as cooking pots, toasters, etc.

Is there anything else I need to know about single-stream recycling?

- All glass containers must be empty and free of metal caps and rings and contain less than 5% food debris.
- All tin cans, bi-metal cans, and aluminum cans must be empty and contain less than 5% food debris.
- All aerosol cans must be empty with less than 5% content
- All plastic containers must be empty, caps removed; less than 5% food debris.
- All fiber must be dry and free of food debris and other contaminating material.
- Tissues, paper towels or other paper that has been in contact with food is NOT acceptable.
- *****This is an automated process where the driver does not get out of the vehicle. Recyclables outside of the carts will not be collected!**

Do I have to separate my recyclable materials?

- No, under this program all accepted materials can be comingled together in the cart and no separation is necessary.

What is my recycling collection day?

- Your day of service is Tuesday, however your service is Every other Week (EOW) or every other Tuesday.

Am I responsible for this new roll-out cart?

- Yes, you are responsible for maintaining the cart in good condition. Our contractor will only repair or replace carts that are damaged as a result of their collection process or due to wear and tear over time. Residents should report any collection process damage immediately and directly to the Town of Rural Hall.

Where do I place my recycle cart? (Proper Placement)

- The cart should be placed within three feet (3') of the edge of road. The front of the cart (side with bar) must be facing the road so that the mechanical arm of the truck can pick up your cart.

Where should I NOT place my recycle cart? (Proper Placement)

- It is important that the carts be placed curbside properly. The cart **MUST** be five feet (5') away from mail boxes, poles, your garbage cart, etc. in order for your cart to be serviced safely and properly by the automated arm. The driver will not exit the collection truck to make carts accessible for collection. If they are NOT placed correctly, they will NOT be collected.

Are other communities using single-stream recycling?

- Yes. Other communities are diverting 50%, 60%, even 70% of their waste from the landfill and have achieved recycling goals in part by switching to single-stream. Some of the communities throughout North Carolina who are currently using single-stream include City of Winston Salem, Forsyth County, Rockingham County, City of Greensboro, City of Concord, City of Kannapolis, Town of Elkin, Town of Jonesville, Town of Red Cross, Village of Misenheimer, Town of New London, Town of Richfield, City of Albemarle, Town of Dobson, and Town of Boonville.