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Curbside Recycling – Proper Preparation of Recyclables That Do Not Fit In the Cart

The standard for residents with extra recyclables that do not fit in their recycling cart is to place extra recycling in clear, plastic bags (up to 32 gallon and no more than 50 pounds) and place the bags next to their recycling cart. This includes cutting down cardboard boxes to fit in those bags (not bundled, not placed in a bigger box). Our service professionals have been accepting extra recycling that does not conform to the standard but will no longer do so, effective 4/1/2019. Going forward, we are asking for everyone's cooperation in preparing extra recyclables for collection properly. Enforcement of the proper preparation has become necessary due to the following industry changes:

- There has been a large increase in the amount of cardboard and paper that residents produce due to online shopping. Meanwhile, the markets for cardboard and paper recycling have been struggling as mentioned in my memo from April 2018. Placing extra recyclables in clear plastic bags ensures the material stays dry and recyclable. When cardboard gets saturated it causes it to not sort properly at the Material Recovery Facility, possibly leading it to end up in the trash. Wet material also downgrades the quality of the cardboard, which reduces the value of the cardboard and increases the cost of recycling.
- The spike in recycling has resulted in a large increase of manual pickup of additional recycling which results in additional service time for the routes. Proper preparation allows our service professionals to be efficient so that we can conform to the federal requirements for hours of service for drivers.
- A good portion of our residential truck fleet has been updated with side-loading systems. This system greatly reduces the issue of wind-blown materials. With the side-loading trucks, we must reload the recycling cart with the additional materials in order to dump the cart again. Therefore if the material is too big to be reloaded into the cart, it cannot be picked up.

Moving forward, improperly prepared additional recyclables will not be picked up. The driver will leave a notification sticker on the resident's cart.

As we work to serve your community, please support our initiative by communicating with your residents the above information. We will also be communicating via email to all residents that have signed up with us to receive notifications.

Sincerely,

Danielle Pellitteri
V.P. of Sales

