



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Recycle Carts – Town of Bedford



**This is a working document, and hence it represents information as of the posted date below. The information contained herein is subject to additional details.

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TOWN OF BEDFORD
314 Great Road, Bedford MA-01730

Table of Contents

TOWN OF BEDFORD- RECYCLE CARTS..... 2

 WHAT ARE THE AUTOMATED RECYCLING CARTS?..... 2

 WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THESE CARTS? 2

 HOW BIG IS THE CART WHEN COMPARED TO MY BIN? 3

 WHY ARE THE RECYCLING CARTS BIGGER THAN THE REFUSE CARTS? 4

 DO I NEED TO PAY FOR THE CART? 4

 WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE OLD RECYCLING BINS? 4

 WHEN ARE WE GETTING THE NEW CARTS? 4

 WHAT ARE THE DIRECTIONS FOR SERVICE RECIPIENTS TO PLACE THEM ON THE CURB?..... 5

 WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING PICKUP?..... 5

 WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A HOMEOWNER?..... 5

 WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF MY CART IS BROKEN OR NEEDS REPAIR? 6

 WHAT IF I NEED AN ADDITIONAL RECYCLING CART? 6

 WHY WAS THE 65 GALLON CART CHOSEN INSTEAD OF A 96 GALLON?..... 6

 CAN I USE MY OWN CARTS AND BINS FOR RECYCLING?..... 6

 WHAT CAN I RECYCLE AND WHAT CAN I NOT? 6

 WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT? 7

TOWN OF BEDFORD- RECYCLE CARTS

The Town of Bedford, Department of Public Works (DPW) is implementing an Automated Recycling cart program in order to:

- Encourage Recycling.
- Provide long term cost savings to the Town.
- Avoid the wind blowing away the bin contents.

WHAT ARE THE AUTOMATED RECYCLING CARTS?

Currently the Town residents and property owners utilize Recycling bins at the curb-side to set out any recyclables from their properties. The DPW has contracted out the refuse and recycling collection to Republic Services. As part of the contract all Town service recipients will receive a 65-gallon roll-out cart, similar to the current trash cart.

These carts are more convenient to store, and to roll out to the curb. The automated carts are designed in such a manner that the collection vehicles will be able to use mechanical arms attached to the trucks in order to pick up and empty the carts. This would also reduce the probability of spillage by manual means.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THESE CARTS?

-More Recycling – With the implementation of the cart collection system, we anticipate an increase in citizen participation in recycling program. A cart simply can hold more material than the current 18-gallon gray bin.

- Cleanliness – Use of a cart with a lid reduces the incidence of wind-blown litter resulting in cleaner streets and storm water drainage systems. It also avoids spills from manually picking up the bins.

- Ease of Use – Rolling a wheeled cart is easier than carrying a bin or, in many cases, multiple bins to the curb.

-Safer: Automated cart collection is safer for workers. Most serious accidents in the industry occur when workers are between the back of their collection vehicle and oncoming traffic.

- Less waste to the incinerator: More recycling means less trash going to the incinerator. Disposal cost is a fixed expense item in the solid waste collection service. The Town gains financially with proper recycling.

- Space for the cart: Carts are 65 gallons in capacity and even though they are slightly deeper than the bins in dimension, they take up much less space when compared to the multiple bins stored in your home.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

HOW BIG IS THE CART WHEN COMPARED TO MY BIN?

The cart takes up a similar foot print size as the bin. The 65-gallon capacity cart is 28 inches deep (front to back), 26.7 inches wide, and about 41 inches tall. The current 18-gallon capacity bin is 16 inches deep, 26 inches wide and only 15 inches tall.

See picture:



[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHY ARE THE RECYCLING CARTS BIGGER THAN THE REFUSE CARTS?

The rolling carts are larger than the trash container to facilitate collection and avoid the 50-pound per container weight limit. Here are some reasons, why recycling carts are typically bigger than refuse carts:

- Recycling is bulkier but lighter than trash: Refuse contents tend to be heavier but take up less volume when compared to recycling contents like cardboard, paper, cans etc.
- Encourage Recycling: When residents are provided with a larger recycling container, it is encouraging them to recycle consistently and to recycle more.
- State grants: Mass. DEP offers grants to municipalities to purchase carts for an automated collection program. One prerequisite is the recycling cart must be larger than the trash cart. The DPW is pursuing this grant.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

DO I NEED TO PAY FOR THE CART?

Every property currently included in the Town's Refuse & Recycling Program will receive one 65-gallon recycling cart. You do not need to pay for it separately.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE OLD RECYCLING BINS?

Some residents may want to reuse the bins for storage within their homes. However, on the day of the collection of old bins, any resident that wants to discard the gray bin may leave it at the curb and Republic Services will pick up and recycle it. Please ensure that the bins are clean and do not have any residue.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHEN ARE WE GETTING THE NEW CARTS?

We are anticipating that the new carts will be delivered in the month of July 2019.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT ARE THE DIRECTIONS FOR SERVICE RECIPIENTS TO PLACE THEM ON THE CURB?

One important change that the residents / service recipients must be aware of is that all recyclable materials must be in the cart. Any recyclable material left on the side (e.g. cut up cardboard boxes) will not be picked up.

All cart lids must be fully closed.

All recycling carts shall be placed in front of the property at which the contents were generated on the curbside adjacent to the paved or traveled roadways. They must be placed with handle and wheels facing away from the street.

All recycling carts must be placed by 7:00 AM on collection days.

All recycling carts must be placed at least 3 feet away from the refuse carts, mailboxes, parked vehicles and miscellaneous objects. They must not be behind any of the objects mentioned.

Do not place your carts on top of snow piles, as these are prone to falling and spilling materials on to the street / your property.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING PICKUP?

As of 2019, all refuse and recycling for the entire town of Bedford is on Mondays. For those weeks in which a Federal or state holiday is observed on a Monday, collection of refuse and recyclables will take place on Tuesday. In the event of a winter storm / a severe weather event the residents will be notified of any change in the collection day on the DPW's website, Facebook and other methods.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A HOMEOWNER?

- Please do not place unacceptable items in your recycling cart.
- After the carts are emptied, take the empty carts back into your property and do not leave them on the curbside.

- Follow the guidelines for acceptable items. For example, rinse and clean out recyclable containers that used to hold any liquids or food hence keeping your carts clean and the Town's recycling material clean.
- Maintain your recycling cart clean.
- If there is an issue with your cart (e.g. lid is broken), contact the DPW.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF MY CART IS BROKEN OR NEEDS REPAIR?

Please contact the DPW, if your cart is broken / needs replacement.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT IF I NEED AN ADDITIONAL RECYCLING CART?

The DPW is developing a program to accommodate residents requesting an additional recycling cart. When the details of the program are finalized, information will be posted on the DPW website. Please note that there will be a fee (to be determined) for the additional recycling cart.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHY WAS THE 65 GALLON CART CHOSEN INSTEAD OF A 96 GALLON?

Based on the DPW's research, it was determined that most service recipients would benefit from a 65-gallon cart. Typically, a 65-gallon cart is suitable for towns with weekly recycling collection. Towns using 96-gallon carts collect recycling every other week.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

CAN I USE MY OWN CARTS AND BINS FOR RECYCLING?

No. Per its contract with the Town, Republic Services will only empty recycling carts provided by the Town.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE AND WHAT CAN I NOT?

Acceptable recycling materials may change from time to time, please refer to the DPW website (www.bedfordma.gov/recycling) periodically to learn what materials are acceptable. As of 2019 the list of acceptable items is:

-All emptied and rinsed metal food and beverage cans.

-All plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs that are emptied and rinsed. You can keep the caps on the container.

-All emptied and rinsed glass bottles and jars. You can keep the lids on the container.

-All Paper (Magazines, mail, school/office papers, file folders, cereal boxes, etc.)

All Cardboard boxed that are folded / flattened to fit in the cart.

As of 2019, here is the list of non-acceptable items for recycling:

- Do not place plastic bags, packaging pillows, or wraps in the bin. Plastic bags can be returned to the store.
- No food, liquid or organic matter in the recycling cart. These belong in the refuse bags.
- No fabric / clothing / shoes in the cart. Use donation programs (https://www.bedfordma.gov/sites/bedfordma/files/uploads/b4d_textile_flyer_jan_2019.pdf).
- No hoses, wires, chains are acceptable as recyclables.
- No Styrofoam (packing, peanuts, food trays).

If you have a question if an item or material can be placed in your cart, go to <https://recyclesmartma.org/> and enter the item in the Recyclopedia.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

It is anticipated that the new carts will be rolled out by July 2019. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DPW.

[Click to go back to Table of Contents](#)