

Maintaining its commitment to keeping the city clean, reducing waste, and providing quality service for our residents, the City of Cleveland commissioned GT Environmental to develop a report to evaluate the solid waste, recycling, and bulk collection programs operated by the Division of Waste Collection and Disposal. The main focus of this study was to fully understand how the City currently operates these programs, and develop specific recommendations which improve efficiency and support our waste reduction goals, while still maintaining high levels of service for our residents. [Click here to view the full report.](#)

When is waste collected in Cleveland? How do I find my waste collection day?

Residential waste is collected Monday through Friday. Residents can find out which day their neighborhood is serviced using the [Waste Collection Pickup Map](#).

How do I obtain additional city-issued waste disposal or recycling carts, or replace damaged carts?

You may request a cart by calling the Division of Waste at **216.664.3717**. Extra carts for waste or recycling are available to lease for \$50 per cart.

What do I pay for waste and recycling? What does this cover?

Residents serviced by the Division of Waste are currently charged \$8.75 per month for waste collection, recycling, and monthly bulk pickup. **It is important to note, this \$8.75 only covers a portion of the costs for waste collection services.** The remainder of these costs are covered by tax revenue through the City's general fund.

Why was recycling suspended in Cleveland?

We are committed to recycling, but it has to be recycling that works. Our recycling program had a 68% contamination rate, which was not sustainable to continue. Under our previous contract, we made a small amount of money for every ton we recycled. As a result of changing markets and contaminated recycling streams, many Material Recovery Facilities have had to increase their costs to process residential recycling.

After multiple attempts to bid out a contract for recycling, we received only one bid which would have cost the City more than \$6 million annually to maintain the status quo. While it was a very tough decision to make, we could not justify this cost to support a system that was already experiencing challenges, so we made the difficult choice to temporarily pause our recycling

program while we completed a comprehensive waste study to review and update our entire waste management operation.

Since I am already paying the \$8.75 monthly fee for my waste and recycling service, will I pay more if I opt-in to the new recycling program? Will I pay less if I choose to opt-out?

This fee will remain the same regardless whether you opt-in or opt-out of the recycling program as this fee offsets the operating costs for our entire waste collection operation.

Will the City issue refunds to residents who are paying their waste and recycling fees while the recycling program is paused?

No, as this fee offsets the operating costs for our entire waste collection operation.

Will the City issue refunds to residents who were fined for not recycling while the recycling program is paused?

The City of Cleveland has not issued fines for improper recycling since March of 2020. However, the City has issued fines for improper curbside set out.

If I opt-out of the new recycling program, my black waste cart will not be enough to hold all of my waste and recyclables. What are my options?

Residents may lease additional waste carts for \$50 per cart by calling the Division of Waste at **216.664.3717**.

What do I do if I see illegal dumping?

Environmental crimes, particularly open dumping, is a felony in Ohio. Residents are encouraged to report illegal dumping activity by calling **216.664.DUMP (216.664.3867)** or **9-1-1** to report a dump in-progress.

What about yard waste?

The City collects yard waste with regular waste. Branches and brush must be cut into lengths of three feet or less and tied into bundles that do not exceed 24 inches in diameter. All leaves and grass clippings must be contained in bags and there is a limit of no more than 20 bags per week.

My apartment does not recycle. Where can I take my recyclables?

Information on starting a recycling program for your building can be found on the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District website - [Apartments & Condominiums: A Guide to Recycling and Composting for Multi-Family Housing](#) or at bit.ly/3u4uF1m Once Cleveland's recycling program resumes, more information will be available on drop off locations for residential recycling.

What is the proper way to dispose of building/construction materials?

The Division of Waste does not collect masonry bricks, dirt, and building or construction materials. You may call **216.664.2162** for large roll-off rental and service.

Why was the waste collection and recycling study completed?

The main focus of this study was to understand how the City currently operates these programs and develop specific recommendations to improve efficiency and support waste reduction goals, while still maintaining high levels of service for residents.

What's changing for overall recycling?

The new recycling program is going to be an opt-in program. Residents interested in receiving curbside recycling services must opt-in to the program through the [online form](#) or by calling 216-664-3030. Residents who do not participate will have blue bins removed.

When will recycling services resume?

Registration for the opt-in curbside recycling program is open through October 22nd, 2021. The City anticipates resuming recycling services by the end of the year and will notify residents who have opted into the recycling program when services will resume. If you are interested in signing up for curbside recycling services, complete the [online form](#) or call 216-664-3030 to enroll.

What's changing for bulk pickup?

There will be a shift to bi-weekly, appointment-based bulk collection. Residents can call to schedule bulk pickup through the Division of Waste at **216.664.3717**. There will not be an additional charge for your appointment-based collections, it will be covered by the \$8.75 monthly charge. The Division of Waste will continue issuing warnings and/or citations for improper bulk set out.

What are some of the common reasons citations are issued for waste collection?

- Excess waste/recycling outside black/gray/blue cart
- Setting out waste or recycling earlier than 12 p.m. the day before scheduled pick-up
- Failure to retrieve carts by 12 p.m. the day after collection

What is the appropriate recycling container?

Recycling containers are the 64-gallon blue roll cart that was supplied to you by the City of Cleveland. If you opt-out of the new recycling program, these blue carts will be removed.

What should I place in my city-issued blue recycling cart?

All recycling items must be placed in the blue cart- emptied, rinsed, and dried. The final list of accepted recycling materials will be issued when the program resumes and it is expected these items will be consistent with other curbside recycling programs throughout Cuyahoga County (metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs, paper, cardboard, and potentially glass).

What are recycling alternatives for items that don't go in my recycling bin?

You can find alternative recycling sources on Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's website: www.cuyahogarecycles.com

How does the new recycling program fit into the City's larger vision for the future?

While we are excited about an updated recycling program, it is important for our residents to remember that recycling is only one small piece of the waste reduction puzzle. There is currently a limited market for many of the items that can be recycled curbside, leaving a lot of opportunity to put more emphasis on 'reducing and reusing'.

To tap into this opportunity, the City of Cleveland is partnering with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress to launch [Circular Cleveland](#), a two-year initiative to develop and implement circular economy strategies and programs in Cleveland. Circular Cleveland is a comprehensive approach which will provide community-wide benefits by designing out waste and pollution from our economic system, keeping products and materials in use as long as possible, protecting and regenerating natural systems, and creating new jobs.

Thanks to a \$476,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we will develop a roadmap for what circular economy solutions can be successful in Cleveland. Some of these solutions include launching a composting program at the Westside Market, as well as \$100,000 for small business support, and \$75,000 for small community grants to support neighborhood projects.

For more information on the City of Cleveland's waste collection and the updated recycling program, visit www.clevelandohio.gov/waste