

Curbside recycling startup signals lifestyle changes

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when curbside recycling begins. Refuse itself will change. And you will change how you dispose of it at your curbside with a special plastic bin for recyclables.

"Everyone will be doing this in the future. It's a change in lifestyle," said Tom Blasell, Farmington Hills public services director.

Owned and operated by Waste Management of Detroit, the recycling truck — complete with compartments along its side for recyclables — is only one of a caravan of four trucks that you'll see come down your street.

"It's important that everyone have everything out at their curbside at 7 a.m. on their collection day," said recycling coordinator Karen Birkholz. "These trucks don't want to run into each other. They'll come at separate times of the day."

The idea is to separate the types of refuse you have into recyclables, yard waste or compostables, regular refuse and bulk items. Each of the four trucks caters to a particular kind of refuse that you will put at the curb.

THE RECYCLING TRUCK will take the recyclables, like certain kinds of glass and plastics and newspaper.

Another truck will pick up your compostables or yard waste. A third truck will take your regular refuse. And a fourth truck will pickup your large household items, like an old refrigerator, for example.

If you have bulk items, there's no

need to call in advance when you plan to put them out on the curb for pickup. Waste Management of Detroit, which has a six-year joint contract with Farmington and Farmington Hills, will pick up bulk items each collection day.

Residents are asked to separate and recycle their refuse because the waste stream must be reduced and because certain types of garbage will be taken to different places.

Recyclables that will be picked up by the recycling truck will be taken to a materials recovery facility on Conner and Mack.

The MRF is owned and operated by Waste Management of Detroit, which has a six-year joint contract with the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. The recyclables picked up at your curbside "are baled and sent to market," Blasell said.

Beginning June 24, 18-gallon green recycling bins will be dropped off at each single-family house in both cities. Some condominiums, for which the city of Farmington now provides refuse collection, will also receive the bins.

CONDOMINIUMS in Farmington Hills with individual outside entrances will receive solid waste and recycling services but not beginning July 1. The city's public services department is expected to work out arrangements with condominium complexes.

Apartment complexes are not included in the program.

To ease residents into the recycling program, a hot line has been

set up to handle all questions and concerns. If, for example, you notice you're the only one on the block who didn't get a recycling bin, call the hot line, 473-7229, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The hot line will be available June 24 to Aug. 2.

When you get your recycling bin, for which there is no charge, you'll find a packet of detailed information inside. If you lose your bin or it is stolen, you must buy another one for \$10. If your bin is stolen, contact the police.

The first thing you must do when you receive that bin is to put your address on the bin's white bar with permanent ink. The address is the only way refuse collectors have of identifying the bins, Birkholz said. The recycling packet will provide residents "with detailed information on how the program works," Birkholz said.

The packet includes two yard waste stickers. Residents can place these stickers on containers they may use for compostables or yard waste. The stickers let refuse collectors know what's in the containers. Residents also may use clear plastic bags for compostables, Birkholz said.

If you're interested in a demonstration on how to use your recycling bin or want other information about the program, tune in to Metrovision's Channel 18 at 7 p.m. Mondays, beginning June 24 and running through Aug. 2.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

When the recycling truck comes to your house on your regular collection day, the driver will hook your recycling bin to the side of the truck and, one by one, put the various items in spe-

cial compartments in the truck. Here, Sam Caramagno of Waste Management of Detroit puts laundry soap containers in the appropriate "plastics" compartment.

clarification

Angela J. Socher of Farmington Hills was among the seniors graduating June 7. Her name was inad-

vertently omitted from a list of graduates published in the Observer June 13.

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