



Department of Public Works

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Earth Month Brings Guaranteed Recycling Schedules for Milwaukee Households

Milwaukee residents have reason to celebrate this Earth Day. For the first time, the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works has begun collecting recyclables on guaranteed dates for all single family through four-unit households in the city. Previously, set schedules were mainly limited to the households serviced weekly with small recycling bins. The majority of households in Milwaukee are serviced with large recycling carts, and now all of them have guaranteed service dates, typically receiving collection at an improved frequency of once every three weeks.



Past years' monthly recycling cart setout pilot programs conducted by DPW led the way to citywide implementation of an improved service level. "Resident survey data showed an overwhelming preference for rolling one's own cart out in exchange for the benefits of knowing when we are coming to collect recyclables," said Rick Meyers, Recycling Specialist for DPW. "While a guaranteed schedule is a service improvement on its own, we also were able to increase collection to every three weeks." The top concern of those participating in the past monthly program was that 45% of the households reported their recycling carts filling up within two to three weeks. The recycling program's increased frequency and guaranteed dates are part of DPW's overall strategy of decreasing material sent to area landfills and recovering more resources from the waste stream.

The guaranteed schedule season for recycling runs through Thanksgiving, the same as for garbage. Residents with collection at the front of the property must roll their cart out to the curb by 7 AM on their collection days, while residents with alley collection must set the cart at the alley line.

Recycling schedules were tagged to residents' recycling carts this spring and are also available for viewing and downloading on the DPW website, www.milwaukee.gov/mpw. A look up function allows retrieval of the collection schedule specific to a particular address.

New guaranteed recycling schedule program:

- Cart must be rolled to collection point on designated pickup dates
- Cart picked up more frequently than past once per month program
- More frequent pickups mean capacity to collect more recyclables
- Set extra cardboard or other overflow recyclables beside the cart on collection day
- Recycle more—send less to landfills—save money! Your recycling participation helps to limit fees and taxes for everyone
- Visit www.mpw.net/services/garbage_day to view your collection schedule or visit www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com and click on "Guaranteed Recycling Collection – New in 2010!"