



STAMFORD MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA

Recycling: it's easy and it's a municipal and personal responsibility

The City of Stamford began a single-stream recycling program in July of 2009 as a means of encouraging more participation in our recycling program. Single-stream recycling, sometimes called “fully commingled” recycling, is a system in which different grades of paper, glass, metal and plastic containers are collected together instead of being sorted and handled separately throughout the recycling process. In a single-stream recycling system, the collection and processing systems are designed to handle this fully commingled mixture of recyclable items making recycling easier on residents and the City recycling process.

In May, 2010, the City’s recycling participation rate is 18.%, up over 100% from the prior fiscal year, but we’re still far short of our goal: I would like to exceed a 50% recycling participation rate in Stamford by the end of the 2011 fiscal year. There are two significant reasons for Stamford residents to participate in Stamford’s single-stream recycle program:

- Recycling significantly reduces the amount of fuel needed and fuel burned to haul waste; it reduces carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste material in our landfills. Collectively, this reduces our overall carbon footprint which helps preserve our most precious resources: our earth, air and our water.
- Recycling saves the City a lot of money by reducing the amount of waste we haul and process. Recycling also enables the City to earn income from recycled materials, and ultimately, that translates into savings for you and the City.

As of March 30, 2010 the City of Stamford earned over \$48,000 in revenue from the sale of recyclable materials. The City could save an additional \$60,000 in hauling fees alone, just by recycling just half of the garbage our Stamford schools throw out and pay to have hauled away every day; \$60,000 is a lot of money in any economy, let alone the worst economy in the past 50 years.

We have a good start on recycling but we have a long way to go. To date, the City has delivered over 17,000 single-stream recycling wheel-away totes to replace the blue and grey bins from our original recycling program. The beauty of the single-stream recycling program is how easy it is to use: you simply throw all recyclables into one recycle tote bin. That’s it! The City will deliver the recycle bin to your door free! What could be easier? Whether you live in a single home or multi-family building, just call Dan Colleluori at 203.977.4117 to make arrangements for a free tote to be delivered to you.

To add to the benefits of recycling, single-stream recycling collection costs are lower because single-compartment trucks are cheaper to purchase and operate, collection can be automated and collection routes can be serviced more efficiently. Since all recyclables go into one bin, you’ll spend less time and effort to recycle, and you’ll be able to put your junk mail, newspapers, printer paper, light cardboard, packaging, plastics, glass and even old telephone books back to good use.

Here is a more complete list of what you can put in your single-stream recycle bin:

- Plastic containers numbered 1 through 7
- Plastic grocery bags
- Milk, juice, and yogurt cartons
- Paperboard, including boxes such as cereal and facial tissue boxes

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- Newspapers and mixed paper
- Cans
- Aluminum foil (without grease or food debris)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Wire hangers

It's easy to recycle, it's important to our environment and to the future of our children. It's more than an option, it's our obligation as a City and our responsibility as individuals. I urge you to join me by pitching in today. If you haven't ordered your free recycle bin, please call 203.977.4117 today or visit www.cityofstamford.org to find out more. It's in your best interest and the City's best interest to recycle and it's a lot easier than you might think.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Everyday.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Pavia,
Mayor of Stamford

City Promoting Recycling at Beaches, Parks, Ball Fields and in Schools

In an all out effort to improve recycling participation in Stamford, the City sent letters to school PTOs, Little League organizers and recreation services representatives to let people know that the new single-stream recycling totes are available at all recreational facilities. The totes are already in place at all of the City's 56 parks and fields.

The *One Bin, All In* campaign the City launched last July reminds people that recycling is easier than ever. In addition to newspapers, magazine, cardboard, plastic containers and bottles and cans, the list of recyclable materials now includes all waste items except those contaminated by food waste. All items can go in one bin, with no separating required and these bins are now available at all Stamford beaches, parks and ball fields.

According to Dan Colleluori, Stamford's supervisor of solid waste and recycling, "Recycling isn't just something we can do at home. People walking at Cove Island or playing or watching ballgames at any City park can all do their part to help preserve the environment and save the City hauling fees simply by dropping their waste into a recycle bin." In addition to saving on hauling fees, the City earns revenue from the recyclable material and that translates into saving all residents tax dollars. "Over the first six months the single-stream recycling effort was in operation, the City saved nearly \$285,000 in waste-related

fees," Colleluori said.

For more information or to receive your free single-stream tote at home, call the City's Solid Waste & Recycling Office at 203.977.4117 or 203.977.4140 or visit www.stamfordrecycles.org

Some good reasons to recycle:

1. Reduces the amount of waste that must be incinerated or buried in landfills.
2. Cuts the time and money spent on complex waste management processes.
3. Prevents or reduces air and water pollution and improves our health. In 2007, Americans recycled or composted 85 million tons of waste, with a benefit equal to removing the emissions from 35 million passenger cars.
4. Conserves precious natural resources, since fewer raw materials need to be extracted and processed.
5. Saves energy. The nation's total recycling and composting in 2007 saved us the equivalent of 10.7 billion gallons of gasoline.
6. Makes us more sustainable because we are borrowing less materials and energy from our children's future.

Remember, if you are not buying recycled — you're not really recycling! Check package and product labels to see if they are made with recycled or recyclable materials.