



## Memorandum

DATE: May 28, 2009

TO: Menasha Common Council

FROM: Mark Radtke, Director of Public Works *MR*

RE: Status of Single Stream Recycling

The City of Menasha currently collects recyclables by requiring separation of containers (glass, plastic, metal) from paper products (newspaper, magazines, corrugated, office paper, etc.). This is referred to as a dual stream recycling process because there are two separate streams of recyclables that are processed separately at the recycling facility.

Winnebago County, along with Brown and Outagamie counties, has made the commitment to offer single stream recycling to its member communities as a cost savings measure. With single stream recycling, all recyclables may be collected together in one container and transported to the processing facility where highly automated operations will separate the materials into the most marketable category of product. In order to most effectively accomplish this result, Winnebago County has voted to discontinue the acceptance of plastic bags as containers for recyclables, effective January 1, 2010.

The City of Menasha currently allows the use of clear plastic bags as containers for recyclables so we will need to revise our rules prior to 2010 to disallow the use of bags. We have been exploring several available options for our recycling collection program, among which include:

1. Requiring residents to use their own containers for recyclables and continue with monthly curbside collection,
2. Requiring residents to purchase carts that accommodate automated curbside collection (similar to our automated refuse collection program) which would allow biweekly curbside recyclable collection,
3. City purchase of these carts for automated collection, or
4. A combination of options 2 and 3 above.

City staff has recently been in contact with Winnebago County staff regarding the possibility of a loan to the City as an incentive to share in a consolidated bulk purchase of automated carts at the bid price received by the County. That price offers considerable cost savings over what we as a smaller community could achieve.

The County has preliminarily offered to loan funds to the City with a 4% interest rate and a three year term. We estimate the total cart purchase to be \$273,000 (6,500 carts @ \$42 each). Obviously, that is a considerable sum given the City's current financial status; however, that does allow us to proceed with single stream collection on a biweekly basis in a cost effective manner of collection.

We are not making any recommendation at this time. The purpose of this report is to apprise the Council of the need to eliminate the use of plastic bags in our recycling program starting in 2010 and to inform the Council that staff will be returning with a more detailed report and recommendation at a future meeting.

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## Winnebago County

### Solid Waste Management Board

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SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING  
TRANSFER STATION  
(920) 232-1850  
FOX CITIES  
(920) 727-2896  
FAX (920) 424-4955

LANDFILL GAS FACILITY  
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FAX (920) 424-7761

**DATE:** May 7, 2009  
**TO:** Contracted Responsible Units  
**FROM:** Jennifer Semrau - Recycling Specialist  
**RE:** April 2009 Scale Tickets & Tonnage Report

Enclosed are your recycling scale tickets for the month of April 2009. Check your tickets carefully for any errors and omissions. ***We need to be notified immediately of errors found or missing tickets so that we can correct the records.***

Your tonnage report is also enclosed. Review your ratios, pounds per person and how you compare to other units of similar size.

### **Solid Waste Management Board Votes to Discontinue Acceptance of Blue Bags Effective Jan. 1**

On Wednesday, 5/6 the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board voted to discontinue the acceptance of 'blue bags' for commingled recyclables effective 1/1/10. While the term 'blue bags' has often been used, whether bags are blue, clear, black or any other color, they will not be accepted. The Board's action will not impact the majority of our communities as plans were already in place to eliminate the use of bags or bags are not being used now. However for those communities still using bags without a plan for discontinuance, I am very happy to work with you and assist in the transition. This action will allow Winnebago County to eliminate the debugging operation at the Transfer Station. This means reduced expenses in the forms of inmate labor, personal protective equipment, conveyor line maintenance, time/expense to transport/landfill the bags, etc. These cost savings will be passed onto you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (920) 232-1853 or [jsemrau@co.winnebago.wi.us](mailto:jsemrau@co.winnebago.wi.us).

### **Oshkosh Medication Collection Program Results**

The spring medication collection held at the Oshkosh Senior Center on 4/30 was a tremendous success! Residents were able to bring in expired or unwanted human and pet medications in the forms of pills, capsules, ointments, liquids, sprays, drops, creams, inhalers, or any other drug no longer needed for its intended purpose. Both prescription and over-the-counter medications were accepted. A total of 455 residents brought in material during the four hour event, bringing in 588 pounds of non-controlled medications and 24 pounds of controlled medications. On 5/11, Neenah will host a medication collection at City Hall from 9:00-1:00. If you have any questions about the events, please feel free to contact me.

**Reminder: Please Return Surplus Commodity Revenue Ballots by June 15**

**For your information, I will be out of the office on vacation May 14-21.**