

City of Menasha Public Works Facility

Date: July 14, 2010

To: Mark Radtke, Director of Public Works
Common Council

From: Jeff Nieland, Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Re: July 2010 Automated Single Stream Recycling Collection

This report is to update you on how the recycling collection in the City of Menasha has progressed. Automated collection began the first week in January and we reported after that first collection month. This is a review of the six (6) month collection January-June.

The major change for our residents to understand continues to be that the use of plastic bags in the recycling stream is no longer allowed and following the recycling collection schedule/calendar. Information on the new collection changes have been available to our residents beginning the last 6 months of 2009, on our website, in annual handout, and newsletters.

During the first 6 months of collection in 2010 violations (using plastic bags or incorrect cart) by our residents continued to be quite limited. As a courtesy we continue to empty the recycling cart, note the address, and mail recycling information in a letter to each address and property owner reviewing the changes.

Having residents recycle more material continues to be our goal. This has been achieved during the January-June collection period.

RECYCLING COLLECTION STATS

2009 January-June

- Six (6) month curbside recycling collection
435.83 tons
- Average per month 72.64 tons
- Daily average of 7.26 tons each day of collection
- Household average 2.28 pounds per day

2010 January-June

- Six (6) month curbside recycling collection
579.23 tons
- Average per month 96.54 tons
- Daily average of 9.65 tons each day of collection
- Household average 3.03 pounds per day

These comparisons represent continued increases in the material our residents are recycling:

- Increase of 143.40 tons of recycling in the first six (6) months of 2010 versus the same 2009 time period.
- An increase of 23.90 tons collected per month
- An increase in household recycling of 7.51 pounds monthly.

The 96-gallon cart is functioning like we anticipated; the volume of the cart seems to be adequate for most households. Residents who have contacted our office regarding cart size being too small have been asked to use our recycling facility, put out an additional container, and to re-visit how they are utilizing the cart volume. A few calls were received regarding the cart being too large for the volume of recycling generated and for storage.

- Each route continues to have a number of stops with additional containers of recycling out for collection that require the operator to collect by hand.
- Maximum filled carts are common and pose other collection issues such as material falling from cart to ground that requires the operator to collect by hand and clean-up any mess.
- There has been a reduction in the volume of recyclable items received at the recycling center.
- For the residents who require more frequent collection we are continuing to look into a more frequent collection schedule or another recycling cart purchase option.

July 2010 Automated Single Stream Recycling Collection – continued

PLASTIC BAG UPDATE

- Recycling routes average 700 stops per day. We service 6363 carts during the monthly 2 week collection period.
- There were 258 violations in January for having plastic bags in the recycling cart.
- From February through June there were 360 plastic bag violations. Each address is mailed a letter regarding the elimination of plastic bags in the recycling stream. This has cut the number of addresses with repeat violation.
- Our goal is to have no plastic bags in the recycling carts.
- In January, we had 2 residents using the incorrect cart, using the larger brown recycling cart for refuse. This problem has continued into February through June. We mail information to the address where the error has occurred with hope the error will be corrected.

VEHICLE UPDATE

The collection process with our truck did come with some problems that have been addressed with the manufacture. The truck will meet our goals once these small issues are corrected.

- Slow operation of dumping mechanism
- Hydraulic leaks
- Programming problems

REFUSE COLLECTION UPDATE

2009 January-June

- Six (6) month automated refuse collection
2109.70 tons
- Average per month 351.62 tons
- Daily average of 16.35 tons each day of collection
- Household average is 5.14 pounds of refuse per collection day

2010 January-June

- Six (6) month curbside recycling collection
2098.57 tons
- Average per month 349.76 tons
- Daily average of 16.27 tons each day of collection
- Household average is 5.11 pounds of refuse per collection day

These comparisons represent continued decreases in the refuse generated by our residents:

- A decrease of 11.13 tons of refuse in the first six (6) months of 2010 versus the same 2009 time period.
- A decrease of 1.86 tons collected per month (2009 versus 2010).
- A decrease in household refuse of 0.58 pounds monthly.