



Memorandum

Date: July 1, 2009

To: Menasha Common Council

From: Tim Jacobson, Public Works Superintendent TJS

RE: Single Stream Recycling

Several years ago the Tri – County Consortium (Brown, Outagamie & Winnebago) developed a plan to construct a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to accept recyclables in a form known as Single Stream.

Since 1997, communities separated recyclable containers and recyclable paper products at the curb and delivered these products to the MRF in this form. Single stream recycling will allow residents to place all recyclables in one container for collection with separation occurring at the MRF. Having implemented automated refuse collection during 1994-1995 puts the City of Menasha in a unique position to make the transition to single stream recycling relatively simple.

The DPW currently collects (tips) approximately 330,876 carts on an annual basis. The recommendation to collect recyclables in a single stream fashion will simply be a duplication of a service already established for refuse collection. The financing of the additional carts is a concern. Once the purchase of carts is established, the Department of Public Works will expedite the procurement of another automated collection vehicle to accommodate the operations.

The Department of Public Works recommends issuing each serviceable dwelling a 96-gallon cart for single stream recycling. It is estimated that roughly 6,363 carts are currently being serviced on a weekly basis for refuse collection. The Department also recommends the purchase of an additional 137 carts for a total of 6,500 to account for missed dwellings, growth inventory and replacements.

The Department of Public Works has received a qualifying proposal from Cascade Engineering to provide 6,500 carts for a total cost of \$277,745.00. This cost includes the following:

1. 6,500 96-gallon carts
2. Hot stamp the City logo on the side
3. Hot stamp "recycle only" on the lid
4. Assembly and delivery to the individual dwellings

It is the contention of the DPW that hot stamping our logo will provide quick and easy identification if one of our carts mysteriously appears in another community. The City of Menasha will no longer be exclusive in the use of automated collection carts with the expansion of single stream recycling in the tri-county region. Cascade Engineering has

indicated that they will honor this price until after January 1st (fiscal period) as long as a purchase order is issued soon. This offer is being extended to the City of Menasha even though there have recently been two resin price increases.

Depending on the frequency of collection, installing single stream recycling collection does not guarantee cost savings. While the three counties are attempting to streamline the separation and marketing of recyclables, the DPW is attempting to utilize technology in the collection and compliance with delivery.

Since adopting our procedure, Menasha has collected recyclables by manually handling material at the collection point. This type of collection has limited our stops per day to roughly 450; basically the same as previous refuse collection done with a rear load collection truck. The change to automated refuse collection has increased each truck's stops per day to over 700 which allowed the elimination of one residential collection vehicle. By switching to an automated single stream collection method we anticipate the results to be similar. The DPW is also confident that the collection period of three weeks per month will be scaled back to two weeks per month, virtually duplicating the refuse routing and collection. This will afford us one more week of allowing an employee to complete tasks such as cart delivery and repairs, appliance collection, drop-off site maintenance and other odds and ends that normally get pushed to the back burner.

The automated single stream recycling collection method should motivate the City to collect recyclables on a bi-weekly basis (twice/month). This would add one week of collection compared to present operations. The stops per day should bear out the possibility of bi-weekly collection but, and this is a huge but, until the Department of Public Works can install a fifth (5) automated collection vehicle into the fleet, the strain on the equipment and personnel may prove to be too intense. Having just one spare collection vehicle supporting both refuse and recycling collection will make it difficult if not totally impossible to double collection on holiday schedules. While regular vehicle maintenance could be scheduled for a night shift, any unanticipated failures/breakdowns could result in one product or the other not being collected on its regularly scheduled day.

The final recommendations of the Department of Public Works include:

1. Aggressively pursue automated single stream recycling collection
2. Issue a purchase order for 6,500 96-gallon carts to Cascade Engineering
3. Pursue collection vehicle to accommodate automated single stream collection
4. Cautiously develop bi-weekly (twice/month) recycling collection