



# Don't Trash it Recycle it!

## Recycling FAQs

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## **General Program Information**

### **What is the residential recycling program?**

All eligible households will receive a 96-gallon blue recycling cart for all of their recyclable materials at no cost. Collection will be once a week. The expectations of implementing the collection of recycling materials in blue bins is to recover more recycling materials, and to encourage more residents to recycle with the convenience of the roll out cart.

### **Who is eligible for this recycling service?**

City of Laredo residents living in single family home or building that is eligible. City representatives are available to help determine eligibility. Call 796-1098.

### **Will the program ever expand to residents who live in multi-family units/complexes?**

Multi-family units or complexes for the moment are not getting a recycling cart. Each complex or building will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine whether the program will work in these types of residences.

### **Who is collecting recycling with the new program?**

City of Laredo will continue collecting the recycling material. Automated trucks will be utilized for the collection.

### **When does recycling collection begin?**

The recycling collection service with blue carts will begin *October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013*.

### **What day will my recycling blue cart be emptied?**

Recycling Collection for zip codes 78041, 78045 and 78040 if you live North of Park will be every Thursday. Recycling Collection for zip codes 78046, 78043 and 78040 if you live South of Park will be every Friday.

### **How much does the recycling service cost?**

There are no additional costs to residents for the recycling service.

### **Where does recycling go after it is collected?**

Collected recyclables are delivered to the City of Laredo Material Recovery Facility (MRF), located in the City of Laredo Landfill in 6912 HWY 359. The materials are sorted and bundled using a series of specialized equipment. If you are interested, tours of the MRF are available. Please contact a city representative at 796-1098.

### **Is the Recycling Drop-off still available?**

Yes, the recycling drop-off locations remain available. The recycling drop-off box downtown is located in 219 Davis. The other recycling drop-off location is at 2200 McPherson Ave.

### **How does this affect my trash collection?**

Garbage collection will be collected only once a week! This is the concluding phase of a project that the City of Laredo initiated in 2004. The blue can complements with the green roll out cart. According to other cities using this system of one day collection for garbage and one for recycling, residents are

effectively limited in the amount of garbage that they can generate. If one garbage can is not enough for the amount of waste that a particular home generates they have the choice of recycling or requesting an additional garbage can at an extra fee. This sends out a clear message that disposing of garbage has a high cost not only monetarily, but environmentally since it permanently affects our environment by sitting in a landfill.

#### **How does this affect my yard waste collection?**

Yard waste collection will continue being collected every other week. Follow the schedule in our website.

#### **Why is the City of Laredo providing this service now when budgets are so tight?**

The new recycling service will not cost residents additional money. It is an investment that will ultimately help divert materials from the Landfill and ultimately extend the life of the City of Laredo Landfill. This means saving money for infrastructure for a new landfill and closing costs of the existing landfill. This new service demonstrates the City of Laredo's commitment to becoming a more sustainable, green city.

#### **What is the "Don't Trash it Recycle it", campaign? What does it mean?**

"Don't Trash it Recycle it" is the slogan of the residential recycling program. "Don't Trash it Recycle it" was chosen to engage residents to not throw their items into the garbage can instead enthusiastically embrace recycling the materials.

#### **Cart Information**

##### **How big are the carts? How much can they hold?**

The blue recycling containers hold up to 96 gallons of recyclables. A 96-gallon container has a weight capacity of 250 pounds. Blue bins provide more secure storage for recycling materials. The covered containers keep the material dry and safe from winds. The roll-out carts are easier for residents to place at the curb. It is an incentive for residents to continue recycling or begin recycling with the convenience of the blue bin. Recycling carts also have wheels to make it easy to move to the collection point, which is in the same area as your current trash collection.

##### **Where do I set out the cart for collection?**

Recycling will be collected in the same location your trash is collected. Place container at or near driveway about 4ft. away from any large objects. Have container ready by 7a.m., the day of your scheduled collection. Position container with wheels away from the street and don't place too far from edge.

##### **Why is the recycling cart so large?**

The cart holds 96 gallons in order to offer enough space for the recyclables. Research has shown that households that use the 96-gallon cart recycle more pounds on average than those that use smaller bins.

##### **Can I request a smaller or larger recycling container?**

The recycling trucks use an automated collection process. In order for recycling collection to be handled in an efficient manner, containers must be of a uniform size. The City of Laredo at the moment is only providing residents with a 96 gallon recycling cart.

##### **Can I request an additional recycling cart?**

Only one recycling cart will be provided per household at no cost. At the moment the City of Laredo is not providing additional recycling carts.

**What do I do with the cart if I move?**

If you move, the blue cart should be left behind for the new residents. Carts are tied to the household address.

**How can I return the cart if I don't want it?**

We ask that you please use the cart to recycle for 60 days before deciding whether or not to return it. We hope that after you experience how easy it is to recycle using the 96-gallon cart, you will continue to use it for your recyclables. If after 60 days you still wish to return the cart, please call 796-1098 or 3-1-1 Call Center and the city will collect it.

**What if the cart is damaged or stolen?**

If your recycling cart is damaged please call 3-1-1 or 796-1098 so a report can be done to repair or replace the cart. If your cart is stolen call 795-2800 to get a police report and the case number, and then call 3-1-1 or 796-1098 and with the case number the cart could be replaced.

**Recycling Basics**

**What do I recycle?**

A list of what can and cannot be recycled is stamped into the lid of the blue recycling cart. You can recycle the following:

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Plastic</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Cartons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Newspapers</li> <li>● Magazines</li> <li>● Catalogs and phone books</li> <li>● Junk mail</li> <li>● Computer paper</li> <li>● Cardboard boxes (flattened), including pizza boxes if they are free of food &amp; grease</li> <li>● Other paperboard boxes, such as cereal and dry food boxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plastic bottles and jugs</li> <li>● Beverage containers, such as water soda bottles</li> <li>● Milk and juice jugs</li> <li>● Laundry and liquid dish soap bottles</li> <li>● Shampoo bottles</li> <li>● Caps and lids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aluminum cans</li> <li>● Steel cans</li> <li>● Empty aerosol cans (non-hazardous)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food and beverage cartons like milk cartons, chicken broth, wine boxes, juice cartons and other boxes</li> </ul>

You cannot recycle the following:

Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Heavily soiled cardboard, paper plates or cups</li> <li>● Textbooks</li> <li>● Facial tissue &amp; paper towels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plastic bags</li> <li>● Yogurt cups</li> <li>● Plastic plates, food trays, cups &amp; utensils</li> <li>● Film containers</li> <li>● Buckets</li> <li>● Butter tubs</li> <li>● Hazardous material containers (anti-freeze, cleaners, pesticides, motor oil, paint)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Light bulbs</li> <li>● Mirrors</li> <li>● Windows</li> <li>● Ceramics, dishes or drinking glasses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paint cans</li> <li>● Foil juice pouches</li> <li>● Pots &amp; pans</li> <li>● Scrap metals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food</li> <li>● Syringes/ needles</li> <li>● Electronics or batteries</li> <li>● Trash or yard waste</li> <li>● Styrofoam</li> <li>● Medical Waste</li> </ul>

**Will other recycling material be collected if outside the can?**

Only what is inside the recycling cart will be collected. If you have extra cardboard or recycling material that does not fit inside the cart then you would need to make arrangements for collection at 3-1-1 call center or 796-1098.

**Can I recycle lids and caps?**

You can keep lids, caps and labels on the recyclables; no need to remove them before placing in the blue cart.

**Is it necessary to rinse recyclables that contained food or liquid?**

Yes, food and liquid residue contaminates the stream and makes recyclables difficult to process or unusable. Please rinse any containers that are easily washable and do not recycle materials that are heavily soiled with food or liquid residue, such as used pizza boxes.

**Are plastic bags recyclable?**

No, plastic bags are not recyclable through the city’s program, because they are not able to be processed by the machinery in the recycling facility. Plastic bags get caught in the mechanisms and cause the machinery to shut down. We encourage residents to recycle their plastic bags at their local grocery or drug store, as most have a separate collection point for these inside their buildings.

**Should I bag my recyclables like I do my trash?**

No, recyclables can go directly into the blue cart without using any bags to hold them. This makes them easier to sort and process once they reach the recycling facility.

**What is single stream recycling?**

Single stream recycling is the process used by the City of Laredo. It means that residents do not have to sort any of their recyclables. All sorting is done at the material recovery facility or MRF.

**Why don't I have to sort my recyclables?**

The City of Laredo material recovery facility utilizes technology that sorts all the recyclable materials making it easier for residents to recycle.

**Benefits of recycling**

**Why should I recycle?**

- Reduces the quantity of waste disposed of;
- Extends the life of the landfill;
- Reduces pollution of the manufacture of new products;
- Reuses the materials you collected into the same or different products;
- Encourages the public to view materials as "resources" rather than "waste",
- Reduces the potential for hazardous waste to harm the health of our community;
- Help save the earth's resources for future generations.

**What will happen if I don't recycle?**

Recycling is not mandatory in the City of Laredo but we hope that all residents take advantage of the program. City of Laredo residents asked for this new service and consider recycling to be a basic city service. The city has delivered, making recycling convenient and at no additional cost to residents.