



Water and Waste Department • Service des eaux et des déchets

## Recycling Program Study

### Introduction

We are looking at options for collecting recyclables from your home:

- continuing with the current program (weekly manual collection with blue boxes)
- weekly automated collection using 240 litre carts
- bi-weekly automated collection using 240 or 360 litre carts

We will recommend the type of service to City Council in January 2010. We would like your comments first.

### About automated recycling collection

#### What areas of the city would use these carts?

The contract would include all single-family dwellings (about 185,000) in the city currently on blue box collection.

#### Why are recycling carts being considered now?

The current seven-year blue box recycling contract expires September 15, 2010. As recycling and garbage contracts expire, we evaluate the best way to provide the service.

#### Why consider automated recycling collection?

The industry trend is moving towards automated collection for the following reasons:

- Less litter because the carts have lids.
- Cost savings in the long term because automated collection is more efficient.
- Carts are convenient, easy to roll, and extremely durable.
- Since the carts are larger, there is an opportunity to recycle more materials.

#### Would the driver get out of the vehicle to service the cart?

No. From inside the vehicle, the driver activates a mechanical arm on the collection truck to pick up, empty and return the cart to its location.

#### Would I have to pay for the cart?

We would supply one cart free of charge to each property address.

#### Do other Canadian cities have automated recycling collection?

Yes, many other cities currently use carts – Brandon, Calgary, Toronto, and several cities in British Columbia.

## **About the carts**

### **How big are the carts compared to the standard size blue box?**

The 240 litre cart holds the contents of 3 to 4 blue boxes and the 360 litre cart holds the contents of 5 to 6 blue boxes.

### **Who would own the cart?**

The cart would belong to the property address. If you move, you must leave the cart for the next resident to use.

### **Where would I store my cart?**

You could store your cart where you now store your blue boxes or garbage container (e.g., carport, garage, at the side of your house). The base size of the cart is similar to that of an average-size garbage container.

### **Who would be responsible for maintaining the cart?**

The carts would be just like your blue boxes. As property owners, you would be responsible for:

- keeping the cart clean and in good repair,
- removing the cart from the street or lane after collection,
- storing the cart in a safe place, and
- replacing the cart if it is stolen or damaged.

### **How would you know which cart belongs to each address?**

Every cart would be numbered and electronically tagged, so carts could be traced to each address.

## **Carts on collection day**

### **What kind of recyclables could I put in the cart?**

You could place all the items we accept in our recycling program inside the cart.

### **Where would I place my cart on collection day?**

You would leave the cart out at the front or back, wherever you place your garbage containers now.

### **What would I do if I have too many recyclables to fit in my cart?**

You would save any recyclables that don't fit in your cart until the next collection day or take them to a recycling depot. Only recyclables inside the cart would be collected.

### **What would you do for residents that can't get their cart to the curb or lane?**

Residents with health limitations that prevent them from getting their cart to the curb or lane could apply for our walk-up service.

### **If my cart goes missing, what would I do?**

- We would do our best to try to find it using the electronic tag and the number.
- If we can't find your cart, we would deliver a new cart to you. There would be a charge for the replacement cart.