

## **FARGO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING**

Each day, the City of Fargo Department of Solid Waste picks up about 100 tons of garbage from the curbsides of single family homes and takes it to the City landfill. It's a big task, but the job is carried out quickly and efficiently using an automated, volume based collection system. Each residential household is provided with a garbage cart which can be picked up and dumped into a garbage truck using an automated arm. Enterprise director Bruce Grubb says the City chose to use the automated volume based system after receiving requests from residents.

***GRUBB:** We think that it makes the level of service being provided and the compensation for that service equitable for everybody. It isn't a perfect system but it does move us quite a bit closer to a user fee based system, in other words, you pay for the amount of service you require and we think certainly from a fairness perspective this is the fairest approach that we could find.*

The automated system also helps enhance safety for City garbage collectors who pick up trash at an average of 350 homes a day. In the past, garbage collectors picked up the bags manually. In some, cases he would pick up several bags at one home.

***GRAHAM:** It'll definitely affect me; it will be a lot easier on the body. We're not going to have to manually lift everything in the truck; it's going to be easier all around. It's going to look cleaner for the City; a lot less injuries are going to happen on the job, so.*

As residents, there are a few things you'll need to know about before you take your trash to the curb.

### **GRAPHIC: Waste Collection**

Each household is provided with a garbage cart, free of charge, which must be used in order for automated trucks to pick them up. There are three sizes you may choose from and each has a different price:

#### **GRAPHIC:**

The small 48 gallon cart costs \$6.00 a month.

The medium 64 gallon cart is \$9.00 a month.

And, the large 96 gallon costs \$14.00 a month.

A standard kitchen garbage bag is 13 gallons, so if you generate four of those or less each week you would want to choose the small cart. If you generate 5 or 6 bags a week you would choose a medium cart and 7 or more bags a week would need the large cart.

***GRUBB:** The pricing structure that we set up now, since average person in Fargo, on a*

*weekly basis, puts out 60 gallons of garbage; we have decided that falls in line with the medium sized can.*

You will need to contact the Solid Waste Division at 241-1449 to schedule a special pickup for any extra items left outside of the cart. If you produce more garbage than fits in your cart on a *regular basis* you are encouraged to re-evaluate your cart size. It will likely save you money to move to a larger cart. If you have questions call the garbage and recycling hotline at 476-4087.

If your cart gets damaged, the City will either repair it or issue a new one. It is your responsibility to keep your cart clean and in good condition. To clean the cart, simply rinse it with a garden hose.

When placing your cart on the boulevard you'll need to pay close attention to the direction it's facing and what's around it in order for the automated arm to be able to reach it.

- Place the cart in your driveway or on your boulevard no more than two feet from the curb or end of the driveway.
- Make sure the arrow on the top of the receptacle is facing the street.
- You'll also need to keep your cart clear of any obstructions such as trees, mailboxes, signs or fire hydrants.

Please, place your garbage on the boulevard by 8 a.m. on your regular garbage day.

Details on hazardous waste, large items and yard waste as well as which day collection takes place in your neighborhood can be found on our website [www.fargogarbage.com](http://www.fargogarbage.com).

### **GRAPHIC: Recycling**

Each residential household will also be provided, free of charge, with a blue City of Fargo recycle bin which will be picked up every other week on your garbage day. This bin will allow you to reduce the amount of garbage that goes into our City landfill and may also make it possible for you to use a smaller garbage cart.

### **GRAPHIC:**

**Newspapers and magazines**

**Aluminum and Tin Cans**

**#1 and #2 Plastic bottles with a neck**

**Glass and**

**Corrugated Cardboard**

The Fargo curbside recycling program is able to accept a variety of recyclables:

### **GRAPHIC: Newspapers and Magazines**

Newspapers and Magazines. Acceptable materials include newspapers or anything delivered *in* the newspaper including flyers and inserts. Magazines and catalogs with glossy pages are also accepted. Please do not place large glue bound catalogs or office paper in your bin.

**GRAPHIC: Aluminum and Tin Cans**

Aluminum and Tin Cans. Beverage, soup, canned food, and coffee cans all fall into this category. However, items such as scrap metal, razor blades, tin foil, nails, aerosol cans, and rusty cans cannot be accepted. Please rinse the cans and place or bend the lids inside the can.

**GRAPHIC: Plastics**

Plastic containers with recycling symbols one and two may be recycled. This includes most soda, milk, detergent and shampoo containers. Motor oil, vegetable oil, antifreeze, yogurt, cottage cheese containers, margarine tubs, and ice cream containers cannot be recycled. Plastic bags and any container numbered 3 through 7 also may *not* be recycled. Please rinse all bottles and remove caps and lids.

**GRAPHIC: Glass**

Glass. Clear, brown and green glass bottles and jars are acceptable for recycling. Ceramic or Pyrex containers or light bulbs will not be accepted. Please rinse bottles and jars and remove lids and corks. Labels do not need to be removed.

**GRAPHIC: Cardboard**

Cardboard. All corrugated cardboard may go into your recycle bin. Corrugated means there is visible wavy material between the two pieces of cardboard. Boxboard like cereal boxes or pop cases cannot be recycled. Please be sure to flatten your boxes before putting them out.

**GRAPHIC: Preparing Your Recycling**

When place your recyclables on the curb, please separate them into categories. Household Hazardous Waste Safety Technician Brady Brunsvold says layering and using paper bags will help keep them organized.

***BRUNSVOLD: COVER WITH GFX AFTER 1<sup>ST</sup> SENTENCE***

*“The City of Fargo recommends utilizing your blue bins along with brown paper grocery bags. In the 1<sup>st</sup> bag you’d place aluminum and tin cans, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag you’d place green, brown, clear glass, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> bag place plastics numbers one and 2 with necks. Underneath that, in bottom of the bin, you’d place news papers as well as magazines. Then on the ground underneath your bin you would place your flattened corrugated cardboard.”*

This is an example of what your separate recycling will look like when you're finished. Flat items should be on the bottom and containers should be separated into paper bags.

If you live in an apartment or have a dumpster for garbage disposal, curbside pick-up is *not available*, but you are encouraged to take your recycling to any of the 27 recycling drop-off locations throughout the city.

The City of Fargo and the Solid Waste Department would like to thank you for following these simple steps to help maintain a safe and efficient garbage and recycling system.

If you have question about your cart, collection date or recycling, visit us online at [www.fargogarbage.com](http://www.fargogarbage.com) or call the garbage and recycling hotline at 476-4087.