City of Newton, Department of Public Works
Division of Environmental Affairs
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Automated Trash and Automated Single Stream Recycling Coming the week of October 5, 2009!

A blue cart for trash; a green cart for single stream recycling

"It takes two...green and blue!"

Dear Newton Resident:

I am pleased to inform you of a new, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly solid waste system we will soon be implementing city-wide. **During the month of September 2009, one blue 64-gallon cart (pilot participants already have this cart) and one green 64-gallon cart will be delivered to your home.** The blue cart is to be used for your non-recyclable trash. The green is to be used for all your recyclables – including glass, cardboard, paper, plastics, and cans – with no sorting required. Your collection day will not change – these will be picked up on your normal collection day. **The new system will begin the week of October 5, 2009.**

This new system will feature **automated collection**. Trucks outfitted with automated "arms" will pick up your carts robotically, dump the contents into the truck, and set your cart back down. Automated collection is less expensive, cleaner, safer, and more convenient to residents. Also, with the **"Single Stream Recycling"** system, which is already in place city-wide, you can continue to save time by throwing all recyclable materials into your green cart. These two innovations – automated trash collection and automated single stream recycling – will save the City of Newton an estimated $7.5 million over the life of our 5-year solid waste contract, which is money we can use on public safety, infrastructure, education, and all other city programs and services.

In October 2008, the Newton DPW began a 6-month pilot program of these two systems in selected neighborhoods throughout the city. In February 2009, participating residents were given a survey about the pilot program. The results were overwhelmingly positive. With a return rate of 45%, residents rated their satisfaction of the automated collection program at 90%, and single stream recycling at 95%. In addition, residences who participated in the pilot program reduced their trash by 41%, and increased their recycling by 17.5%. With the positive response we received from the community, and the proven success of the latest trash collection technology, I recommended expanding the program city-wide. The Board of Aldermen approved it on April 6, 2009.

More detailed information will be delivered with your carts this September, including information about what accommodations will be made for elderly or disabled citizens, and for residents who request a smaller cart or wish to purchase additional carts to suit their needs.

Thank you in advance for making Newton a cleaner and greener community.

Very Truly Yours,

Mayor David B. Cohen

For more information:
Please call Environmental Affairs at 617.796.1471
or email us at recycling@NewtonMA.gov
or visit us on the web at
www.NewtonMA.gov/DPW/recycling