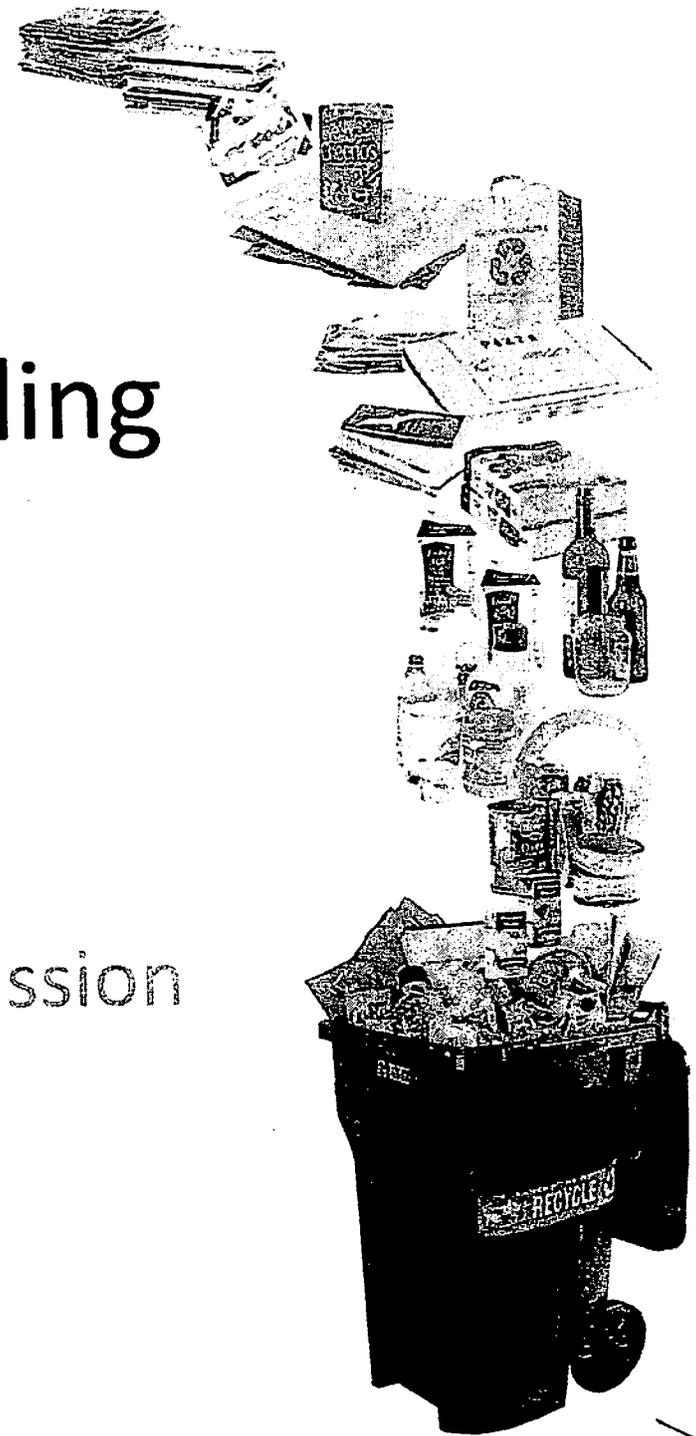


Single Stream Recycling in Cambridge

City Council Roundtable Discussion

May 17, 2010



A

Agenda

- History of Recycling in Cambridge
- Current Recycling Program
- What is Single Stream?
- Focus on High Quality
- Materials to Recycle
- New Trucks & Role of Supervisor
- Toters are Easy & Convenient
- Single Stream Makes Recycling Cleaner
- Recycling Rate
- Outreach Strategy for Single Stream

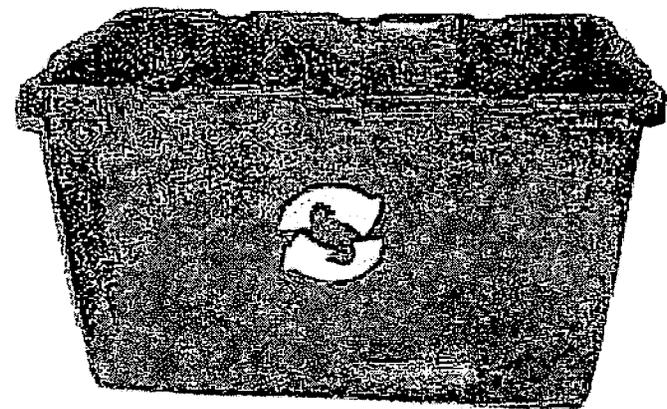
History of Curbside Recycling

1989

Citizen volunteers operated a monthly Recycling Drop-off Center

1991

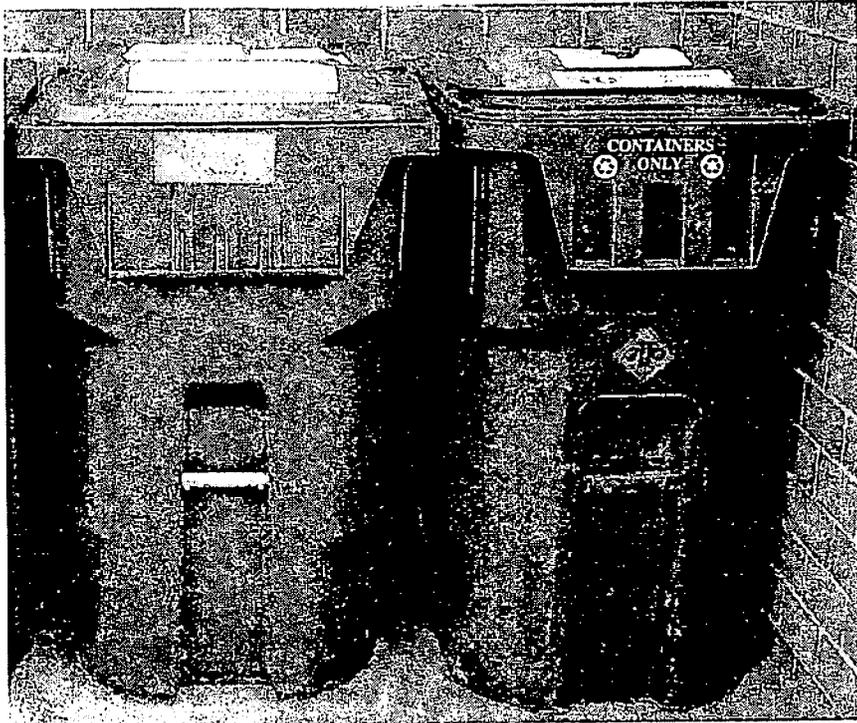
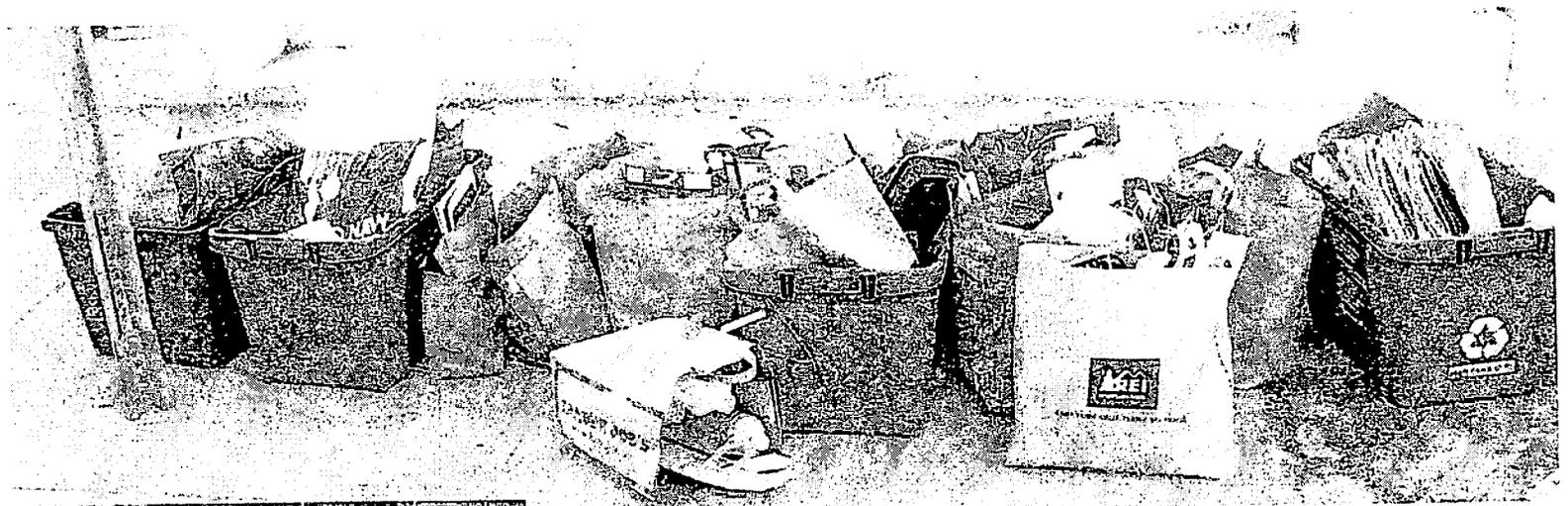
- Mandatory Recycling Ordinance
- City implements Curbside Recycling
- Permanent Recycling Drop-off Center
- Hired first Recycling Coordinator, Jan Aceti
- Materials include glass, metal and plastic containers (#1 & #2) and newspaper
- More materials added over time



Cambridge Recycling Program Today

18-gallon Bins

Residences
with less than
6 units



95 Gallon Toters

Residences with 6 units or more and City
buildings

65 Gallon Toters

Owner-occupied residences (most have 6
units or less)

Current Recycling Trucks



Non compacting trucks

2 compartments to keep
papers and containers
separate

Bins emptied into side bucket

Toters attached to bucket and
dumped overhead



**The City's processor,
Casella Recycling invested
8 million into cutting edge
sorting technology:**



- Goals: Safety, Quality, then Productivity
- Presort and quality control checks where employees remove unacceptable items
- Sorting technology removes glass at 5 different points
- Material is re-circulated continually to ensure a quality sort and maximum recovery

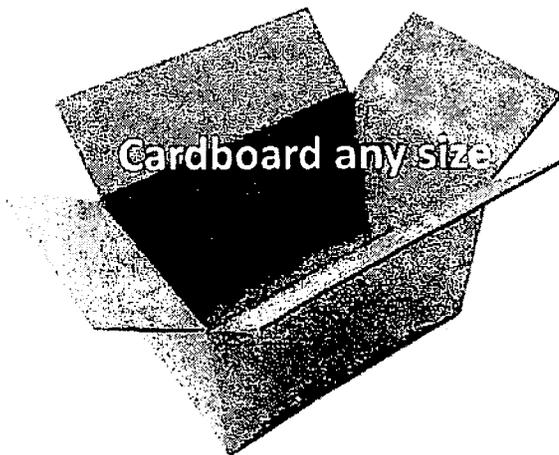
Papers to Recycle in the Current Program



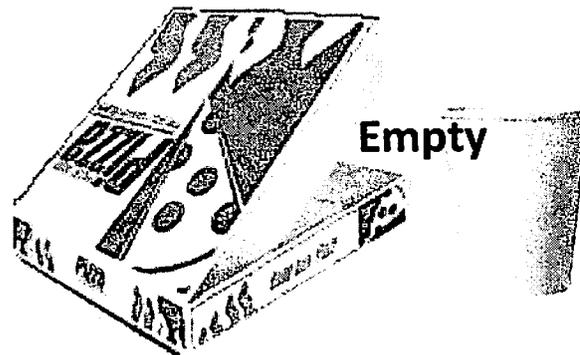
Paper & Cardboard

- **Cardboard**
(flat, no larger than 3'x3')
- **Magazines & Newspapers**
- **Phone Books & Junk Mail**
- **Cereal Boxes, Paper Towel Rolls**
- **Milk / Juice Cartons**
- **Soft Cover Books**
- **All Office Paper**
- **Shredded Paper**
(in a stapled & labeled paper bag)

New Materials Accepted in Single Stream!



Cardboard any size



Empty

- **Cardboard (any size)**
- **Pizza boxes (empty)**
- **Books (rip off hard covers)**
- **Frozen food boxes**
- **Spiral cans (potato chip, nut cans)**
- **Shredded Paper (in a plastic bag)**

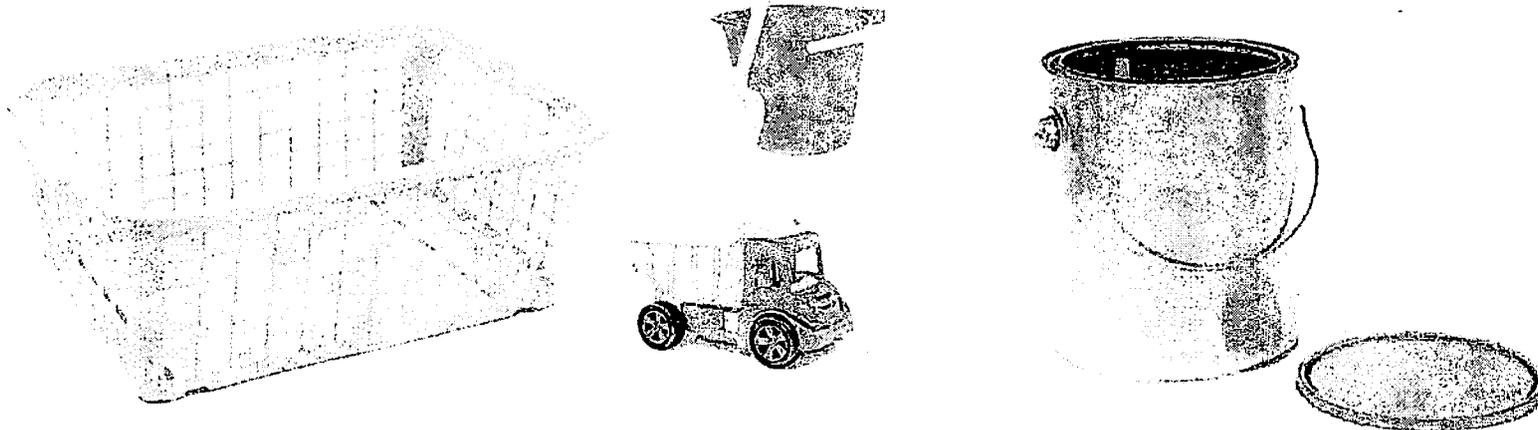
Containers to Recycle in the Current Program



Bottles & Cans

- Aluminum
(pie plates, trays & foil)
- Empty Aerosol Cans
(no spray paint or oil)
- Glass Bottles & Jars (any color)
- Metal Cans
(tin, steel & aluminum)
- Stiff Plastic Containers
(marked #1-7, plant pots OK)
- NO STYROFOAM
- NO PLASTIC BAGS

New Materials Accepted in Single Stream!



Toters Make Recycling Easy & Convenient



Residence	Toters City will Deliver
Single Family	1 Small
Two Family	2 Small
Triple Decker	2 Large
4 Unit Building	2 Large
5 Unit Building	2 Large

- No more sorting
- All in one bin
- Bigger container
- Less lifting
- Easy to move
- If space is a problem...

Single Stream Makes Recycling Cleaner

- Less litter!
 - Toters are covered
 - Less overflow because bigger container
 - No more over-the-top, rear & side load compaction
 - Less material affected on windy days
- Cleaner looking curbside
 - More uniform with toters
 - Less bin clutter on sidewalks



New and Improved Recycling Trucks

Compacting design holds more

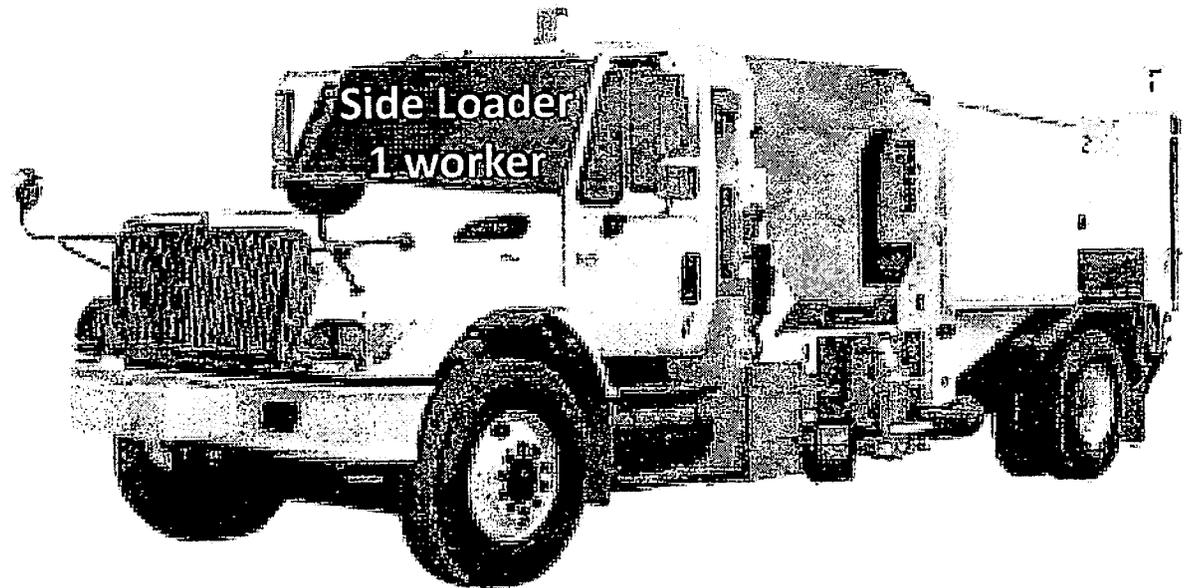
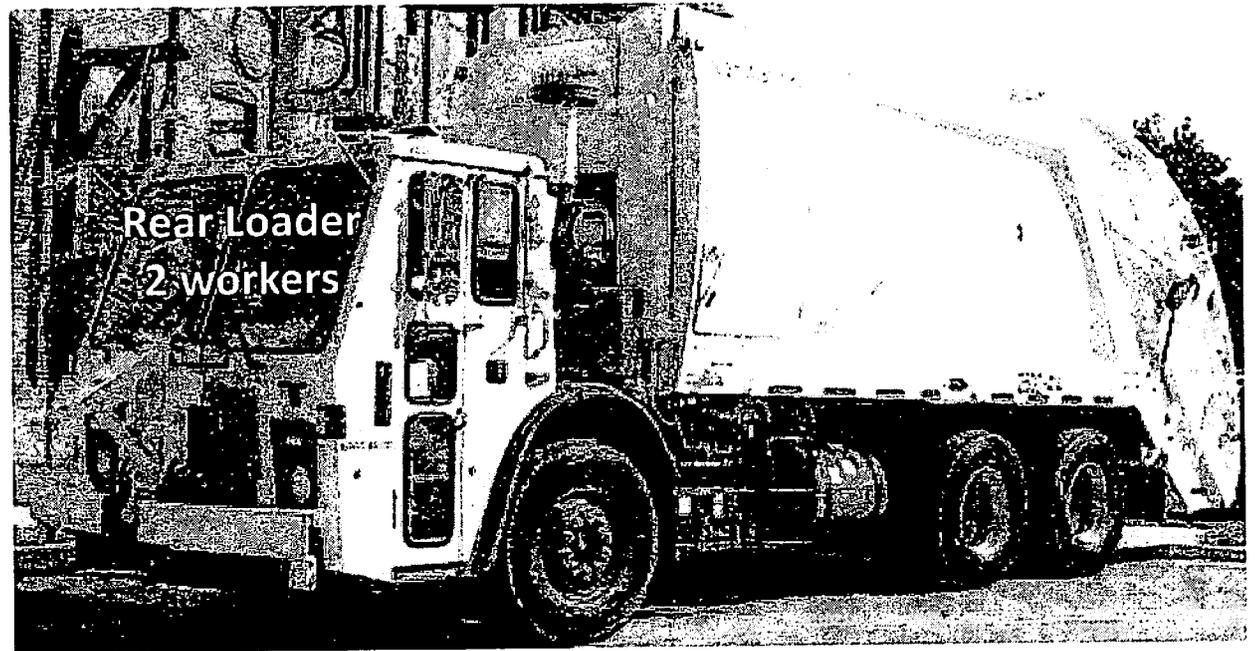
Reduces trips to facility

Safer because trucks tips toters at ground level

Same overhead clearance as trash trucks, no more

Cardboard, any size!

Safer: toters tipped at ground level & reduced worker injury



Recycling Field Supervisor

New contract requires supervisor to be in separate vehicle to ensure drivers maintain reliable performance by drivers:

- Safe driving
- Proper handling and replacement recycling containers
- Anything dropped is cleaned up
- Missed pickups reliably completed



Recycling Rate

$$\frac{\text{RECYCLING TONS}}{\text{TOTAL TRASH + RECYCLING + TONS}}$$

City has seen a steady rate around 35% for many years

With single stream City expects 10-25% increase in recycling tons

- Not a full year with 9/20/10 start date
- 800-2000 more curbside recycling tons
- With 800 tons more recycling, 40% rate

About the Recycling Rate...

- Includes residences and city buildings
- All curbside and drop-off recycling
- Add estimate tons for households with private trash service

Single Stream Outreach Strategy

Print Materials

- Postcard to 1-5 units regarding toter delivery (demo toters in City buildings)
- Postcard to all households regarding program start
- Full brochure to all households
- Poster for city buildings and community boards
- “Door hanger” to attach to toters during delivery

Community Outreach

- Presentations to neighborhood groups, houses of worship, schools, etc.
- Tabling at festivals
- Website, email newsletters, Cable, press releases
- And more!

