



Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

Should I expect a change in my service.

City staff will continue to collect the materials from the blue recycling cart until further notice. All materials in both carts will be collected as garbage.

How can I help?

Residents should put as much material in the brown garbage cart as they can and only use the blue recycling cart if necessary.

What should I do with my blue recycling cart if I'm not using it?

Please store the container until further notice. The City hopes to reinstate a recycling program soon.

Will my garbage bill decrease?

Not at this time. Historically the City obtained revenue for recyclables and avoiding tipping fees for the processing of recyclables. Due to China's global import ban coupled with the ongoing decline in value of recyclable materials, there is now a cost to process these materials and the City receives no revenue. In light of this and to control costs, The City opted to temporarily halt its recycling program due to rising costs. There is still the cost to collect and dispose of the materials and those costs have escalated as well. Should the City reinstate its recycling programs, then costs will increase. Should the City choose to keep its recycling collection suspended there would be some operational savings due to the running of less routes. Those savings will not be fully understood until the changes of the collection program have been fully implemented. The monthly solid waste bill covers the collection of all materials and disposal. Those costs have increased and continue to do so. Additionally, there has not been a solid waste rate increase since 2008 and in 2015 there was a slight decrease. In light of this and the aforementioned rising costs stated above, the City will be evaluating its collection rates and will most likely have to adjust rates to ensure its operations can remain sustainable.

Is there anywhere else that I can take my recycling?

The City's Drop-Off Center will continue to accept clean cardboard, metal, styrofoam and paper shredding. Single stream recyclables will no longer be accepted.

Can I make changes in my service to accommodate my extra garbage?

Yes, there are several changes you can make to your service. You can call the Department of Sustainable Management to make any changes in your service.

- **Upgrade small garbage cart (35 gallons) to large garbage cart (65 gallons)**
One-time \$25 service charge
- **Single extra pick-up of garbage cart**
One-time \$15 service charge
- **Additional cart permanently at your home**
Re-curing monthly \$14 charge

Will recycling services ever be restored?

The City will continue to explore both short-term and long-term recycling options.

What recycling options do commercial and multi-family properties have?

The first option is to eliminate recycling services. Additionally, commercial and multi-family properties may contract with a registered hauler for recycling services. For a list of registered haulers, please contact the Department of Sustainable Management at (954) 480-4391. Our staff will be reaching out to multi-family and commercial properties to review options.

Why have recycling services in Deerfield Beach been suspended?

Historically, China has been the U.S.'s main importer of recyclable materials. However, late last year China imposed a ban on materials that do not meet stringent contamination standards. Additionally, over the past several years, the overall value of recyclables has steadily declined.

Due to these challenges, the cost of running a recycling program has increased exponentially. The City has temporarily suspended the recycling program while it searches for a recyclables processor whose costs are something the City's program can sustain. It is the City's hope that once a vendor is identified and a contractor is approved, the City will develop a new recycling program that will be more sustainable and beneficial to Deerfield Beach.

Doesn't the City get paid to recycle?

Over the last several years the value of the recyclable commodities has steadily declined and continues to do so. As of last month, the City is now only receiving around \$3.00 per ton for the share of the sale of its recyclables. At one point during the height of recyclable commodity revenue sales several years ago the City was receiving in upwards of \$50.00 per ton. Based on current trends, the City anticipates a continued decline in revenue to the point that revenue would no longer be received for these materials. The costs to operate a recycling collection route may also outweigh any revenue received from recycling. Under new contracts the City would not anticipate receiving any revenue unless there is a significant rebound in the value of the commodities. Additionally, now the City is going to have to pay to process its recyclable materials.

Why wasn't the City more prepared?

The City manages the collection of recyclables, but does not own any transfer stations or disposal facilities and as such has to contract with private entities for the final disposal and or processing of the materials the City collects. The most recent contract for recycling processing ended on July 2nd. Over the past year, the City has been proactively searching for another disposal vendor in North Broward and Palm Beach counties. Last fall, the City issued a bid for these services and while the City secured the lowest rate for municipal solid waste disposal in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, there were not any companies interested in the bid for recyclable processing. Other communities also issued bids and received no responses. Due to the rising costs for recyclable processing, high contamination and low global demand for materials, the only contract that was available to the City was the WM agreement whose facilities are located within Deerfield Beach. Due to the significant increases in costs for recycling and terms significantly less favorable than the City's now expired contract, the City opted to not accept the agreement as it is currently proposed.

What is recycling contamination and why does it matter?

Recycling contamination is when incorrect materials are recycled. Some of the most common contaminants are plastic bags and materials with food residue like pizza boxes. With the advent of single stream recycling and "wish-cycling," (where people hope something is recyclable and throw it in) recycling contamination has increased significantly. Contamination causes an increase in the cost of processing recyclables and decreases the value of the material, which ultimately makes it more costly to recycle. Current estimates indicate up to 30% of the materials in Broward County's recycling stream is unusable due to contamination.