

## ✦ Pilot Curbside Recycling Project to Launch in Early May

Results of the 2013 Yakima Citizen Survey made it clear that people in Yakima are interested in curbside recycling, but are wary of how much it might cost. In response to that feedback, the City will launch a four-month pilot curbside recycling program in early May involving about 600 homes to test whether expanding the concept citywide would be cost effective and efficient.

The 2013 survey showed that 80% of people who responded would “strongly support” or “somewhat strongly support” a City-operated curbside recycling program if it were free. If the cost were \$2.50 a month, 69% were supportive. That number dropped to 37% if curbside recycling cost \$5.00 a month, and to just 24% if the cost were \$7.50 monthly.

“We know that people in Yakima want to recycle, but they are only interested in a curbside program if it can be provided at a reasonable cost,” said Yakima Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi. “The best way for us to figure out if that’s possible is to actually run a curbside recycling service on a small scale and for a short period of time.”

The pilot project will run from May 6<sup>th</sup> through August 29<sup>th</sup>. The project will be conducted in neighborhoods east and north of Kissel Park (3000 West Mead Avenue). Homes in the pilot project area will receive free curbside recycling during the test period.



*A 32-gallon garbage cart (left), a 96-gallon yard waste cart (center), and a 96-gallon recycling cart (right) will be provided to 600 pilot project homes.*

Each of the approximately 600 homes taking part in the pilot project will receive a 32-gallon garbage cart, a 96-gallon yard waste cart, and a 96-gallon recycling cart. Homeowners will be asked to put grass clippings, tree branches, garden rubbish, etc., in the yard waste cart. Plastic drink containers, cardboard, paper, metal cans, etc., will go in the recycling cart. Non recyclables, like glass containers, food residue, toy packaging, etc., are to be placed in the garbage cart.

The garbage, yard waste, and recycling carts will be delivered to the pilot project homes beginning April 21<sup>st</sup>. To help homeowners learn more about the project, the Yakima Solid Waste & Recycling Division will sponsor a **Community Cleanup and Recycling Information Day** event at Kissel Park on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

In addition to testing the curbside recycling concept, the pilot project will also help the City learn if a citywide program would help reduce the amount of garbage that is now taken to Yakima County’s Terrace Heights Landfill.

“The County predicts its Terrace Heights Landfill will be full in about 11 years,” said Zammarchi. “When that facility closes, the City will have to haul garbage much further and at a greater cost to the Cheyne Landfill in the Lower Valley. We need to figure out now how we can decrease the amount of garbage that goes to the landfill so we can be as responsible as possible not only because of the costs involved but also from an environmental standpoint,” said Zammarchi. “Recycling may be one way to get there.”

Once the pilot project has ended, homeowners who participated in it will be surveyed to find out how curbside recycling worked for them. Survey responses and other data gathered during the pilot project will then be included in a report that will be presented to the City Council in the fall of this year. From that point, the City Council will be asked to make a decision about whether to move forward with a citywide curbside recycling project or not.